



HOPKINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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JOHN E. PHELAN, JR., ED.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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March 31, 2011

Ms. Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director
Massachusetts School Building Authority
40 Broad Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Ms. Craven:

The Town of Hopkinton is committed to quality education and improving the educational learning environment for its elementary students. To this end, the Hopkinton Elementary School Building Committee (HESBC), the Hopkinton School Committee, and the Board of Selectmen have partnered with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on the Center School Project. As a result of this collaboration, the MSBA's Board of Directors voted at its February 9, 2011 meeting to replace the existing K-1 Center Elementary School with a new PK-5 facility at Fruit Street.

The discussion around the new school has energized our community. Residents were presented with an opportunity to vote for the new PK-5 school at Fruit Street. While the school project was endorsed by the School Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the HESBC, the Appropriation Committee, and the Capital Improvements Committee, the initiative did not pass at a Special Town Meeting (STM) on March 21, 2011 and a subsequent Special Town Election (STE) on March 28, 2011. The results of the STM and STE are as follows:

Special Town Meeting	
Yes	418
No	517
Total	935


Special Town Election	
Yes	895
No	2,302
Total	3,197

It is our belief that a combination of at least three factors contributed to the project not passing at this point in time: 1) a change in the grade configuration from grade level schools to K-5 neighborhood schools; 2) the location of the school at Fruit Street; and 3) the economics of the project.

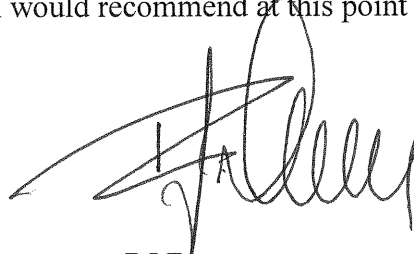
While the residents did not approve the project, the level of engagement in the community has been incredible. We intend to capitalize on the community's interest in facility improvements by conducting public forums, surveys, and listening sessions to better understand the community's priorities specific to a project addressing the needs at Center School. From the information collected, we will develop a more detailed timeline and process for building consensus during the next six months. Within the next two months, we will provide the MSBA with an update on our progress. Our ultimate goal is to remain in your capital pipeline and to continue our work with the MSBA.

We value the partnership that we have developed with the MSBA over the last few years while working on the Center School Project. Both the MSBA and the Town have invested considerable time and resources in this project. Data gathered during the Feasibility Study will serve as the basis for the community's discussions moving forward. If there are additional steps that the MSBA would recommend at this point in time, we would appreciate your thoughts.

Sincerely,



John E. Phelan, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



RJ Dourney
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

cc. Senator Karen E. Spilka
Representative Carolyn Dykema
Mary Pichetti, Director of Capital Planning
Rebecca Robak, Chair, Hopkinton School Committee
Diane Sullivan, Senior Capital Project Manager
Paul Fowkes, MSBA Project Manager