

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET - WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
March 16, 2015 AT 7:00PM
REVISED**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 1) February 24, 2015 [Spring Annual Town Meeting] 2) March 2, 2015 [Executive Session]

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. APPOINTMENTS

B. By the Board of Selectmen:

- 1) Annual Reappointment: Mary Contino, Board of Registrars [Democratic Designee]

C. By the Town Manager:

- 1) Rochelle Thompson, Inspector of Animals/Vote to nominate: *Note: Appointment is subject to certification by the State*
2) George Hamm, Special Police Officer/Vote to affirm
3) AnnMarie Cleary/Interim Veteran's Services Director/Vote to affirm
4) Phil Cyr/Interim Veteran's Services Clerk/Vote to affirm

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. DECISIONS

- D. National Grid /Request to work on State Holidays: Patriots Day, Columbus Day & Veterans Day

- E. Veterans Services

- F. Tri-Valley Front Runners, Inc. [Michael Nixon]/Request permission to hold "Road Race" on Saturday, April 4, 2015 @ 10 AM, subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department.

VI. DISCUSSIONS

- G. 1) School Department [Paul Halacy]/Vote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest to the Mass. School Building Authority for W. Edward Balmer School [Please read statement]
2) School Department [Paul Halacy]/Vote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest to the Mass. School Building Authority for Northbridge Elementary School [Please read statement]
3) School Department [Paul Halacy]/Vote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest to the Mass. School Building Authority for Northbridge Middle School [Please read statement]
H. Good Energy, L.P. [Stefano Loretto]/Aggregation Program

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- I. 1) Legislative Breakfast
2) WGM Fabricators TIF Agreement Hearing
3) South Middlesex Opportunity Council [SMOC] Open House
4) Sutton Sewer Expansion to Walmart
5) Economic Development Strategies Meeting

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

X. CORRESPONDENCE

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

February 24, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairman Ampagoomian, Northbridge Middle School Auditorium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Melia and Nolan. Selectman Athanas was not present at this time. Selectman Marzec was not present and it is duly recorded.

Also Present: Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager and Sharon Susienka, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager.

Town Meeting Business. There was no town meeting business before the Board so they continued with the rest of the meeting agenda.

National Grid Transmission Line/Vote to approve early operating hours for emergency snow removal operations through April 15, 2015 as follows: Monday through Friday, 7AM to 8PM; Saturdays and Sundays, 7AM to 5PM. Town Manager Kozak informed the Board that he received a request from National Grid for earlier operating hours on a temporary basis so they can perform emergency snow removal operations. He also stated that Mr. Michael Peterson from National Grid advised him that he spoke to both abutters and they indicated they had no issue with the schedule listed above. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve National Grid's request to operate as follows until April 15, 2015 for the purpose of emergency snow removal operations: Monday through Friday, 7AM to 8PM; Saturdays and Sundays, 7AM to 5PM. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, and Ampagoomian.

Selectman Athanas arrived at 6:35 PM.

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition/Vote to sign letter of support. The Town Manager advised the Board that signing this letter of support will help the Town. A motion/ Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to sign the letter of support. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Athanas and Ampagoomian.

Personnel Vacancy. Mr. Kozak advised the Board that Ronald Tetreau, Veterans Services Director, has resigned from his job and that the job will be posted on the MMA's website, in the Beacon, and in the Telegram & Gazette. The Town Manager also advised them that he had a meeting with Mr. Tetreau and Ms. Cleary, the part time Veterans Clerk, and was told that the Town of Uxbridge wants to leave the district and go on their own for Veterans Services. The Town of Uxbridge also indicated that they would like to move the Veterans Office to Uxbridge by July 1st or they will leave the district. Mr. Kozak was told that the Town of Uxbridge has asked Ms. Cleary to be their full-time Veterans Agent if they go on their own. Ms. Cleary told Mr. Kozak that she doesn't like the idea of being alone in the current location [875 Hill Street]. Board members expressed to the Town Manager that they would like to see what the other two towns in the district [Sutton and Douglas] think of Uxbridge's proposal. If the office does move

to Uxbridge, the Town Manager suggested giving the building to the Veterans Council.

On a different matter, Mr. Kozak notified the Select Board that a hearing was held on Friday, February 20th, concerning the extended absence of the Treasurer/Collector and that there is still no determination of when she will be able to return to work. Selectman Nolan asked if she had representation at the hearing and the Town Manager responded no. The Town Manager said he would make a decision concerning her employment based on the information received at the hearing.

Selectman Melia inquired about whether the Town Manager's Office received a letter from a Detective Sergeant concerning municipal fraud. Mr. Kozak responded he did not.

Selectman Athanas asked about the snow/ice deficit and bussing fees and whether the School has made a decision about charging bussing fees. The Town Manager responded that he didn't know.

There being no further business before the Board at this time, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Athanas, to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting at the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting this evening. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Melia, Nolan, and Athanas.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Athanas, Clerk

s/

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING – OPEN SESSION

February 24, 2015

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

DECISIONS

A. Town Meeting Business/No documentation

B. National Grid Transmission Line/Vote to approve early operating hours for emergency snow removal operations through April 15, 2015 as follows: Monday through Friday, 7AM to 8PM; Saturdays and Sundays, 7AM to 5PM/No documentation

**C. Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition/Vote to sign letter of support
-Copy of the letter of support**

DISCUSSIONS

D. Personnel vacancy/No documentation

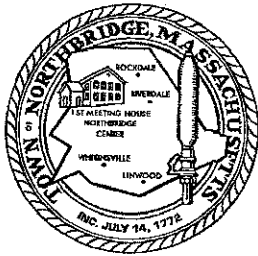
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None



B.

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
Phone- (508) 234-2095 Fax- (508) 234-7640
www.northbridgemass.org

Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager
March 9, 2015

Ms. Mary Contino
920 Hill Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Dear Mary:

The Board of Selectmen and I are in the process of considering appointments to various Town Boards and Commissions who, under the Town Charter, fall under our appointive authority. Your term of office on the Board of Registrars expires April 1, 2015, and this letter seeks your decision on continuing to serve the Town of Northbridge in this endeavor.

Please complete and return the form below and submit it to my office at your earliest convenience, advising us whether you are or you are not interested in serving another term.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to the Town of Northbridge. Your efforts are very much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Sincerely,

Theodore D. Kozak/sls
Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager

TDK/sls

Please fill out this section and return this form to:

Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager
Northbridge Town Hall
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Please check one:

- ☐ YES, I AM seeking reappointment to the Board of Registrars for a 3-yr. Term to expire 3/31/2018
- ☐ NO, I AM NOT seeking reappointment

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

3/6/15 {C: Bott ✓
C 1.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



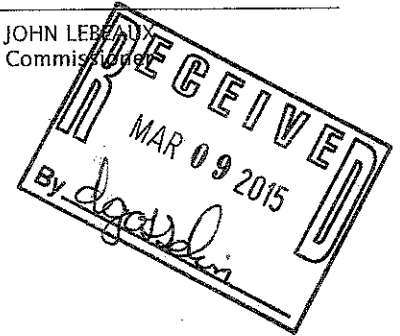
CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

JOHN LEBLANC
Commissioner

March 6, 2015



RE: NOMINATION OF INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Nominating Authority:

Enclosed is the nomination form for the Inspector of Animals for your city or town. **This form is due back to the Division of Animal Health by April 1, 2015.** The appointment will run from May 1, 2015 until April 30, 2016. If more than one inspector was appointed for your city or town, there is a separate form provided for each. If you are nominating the same inspector(s) this year, **be sure that all of the contact information is complete and still correct.** Any corrections should be made in the space provided on the right. If you will be nominating a new inspector, that person's information should be entered in the space provided on the right. Submit a separate form for each inspector nominated. Also, be sure that all of your (nominating authority) information is complete and correct. Any changes to your information should be made in the space provided to the right.

Once all of the contact information is confirmed to be correct, all that is needed is to **have the nominee sign the form**, accepting the nomination and swearing to faithfully perform the duties of that office. **The nominee's signature must be notarized.** In many cases the city or town clerk is a notary.

After the nominee's signature has been notarized, simply **return the form to the Division of Animal Health at the address listed at the top of the form.** The Division of Animal Health will send back confirmation of the inspector's appointment. **Please note that regardless of when the most recent appointment was made, it is only valid through April 30, 2015.** This nomination will cover the year starting May 1, 2015 and run until April 30, 2016.

If you have any questions, please call Elsie Colon at (617) 626-1810

Thank you,

Michael Cahill, Director
Division of Animal Health



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Agricultural Resources

Division of Animal Health

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114-2151

Nomination of Inspector of Animals

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 129, sections 15 and 16, nominating authorities of each city and town are required to nominate one or more inspectors of animals by April 1, 2015. Please complete or make necessary changes and return this form to the above address. The Director will review your nomination and, assuming appointment is confirmed, will return to you a Certificate of Appointment. Please submit one form for each person nominated. Any city or town not in compliance is subject to a penalty of \$500.

City or Town of Northbridge

3/6/2015

To the Director, Division of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources

In accordance with the provisions of section 15 of Chapter 129, General Laws, as amended, the following nomination of inspector of animals for the year ending April 30, 2015 is sent for your approval:

Inspector of Animals

Name: Rochelle Thomson

Mail Address: 7 Main St - Northbridge Board of Health

Whitinsville, MA - 01588

Phone: (508) 234-3272 Fax: (508) 234-0821

Email: milfordaco@yahoo.com

Nominating Authority

Contact: Theodore O. Kozak

Office: Town Manager's Office

Mail: 7 Main St.

Whitinsville, MA - 01588

P: (508) 234-2095 F: (508) 234-7640

Email: tkozak@northbridgemass.org

Inspector: (Note all changes here)

Name: _____

Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Nominating Authority: (Note all changes here)

Contact: _____

Office: _____

Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Acceptance of Nomination of Inspector of Animals (must be notarized)

I hereby accept my nomination as Inspector of Animals for the City or Town of Northbridge, and if and when I am appointed, I solemnly swear to faithfully perform the duties of that office, all of which are listed in General Laws Chapter 129, and Massachusetts Regulations 330 CMR 10.00-10.10 (rabies regulations).

Name (print) _____

Signed _____

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester, ss

Date: _____

Then personally appeared the above-named _____ and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his or her free act and deed, before me.

Notary Public

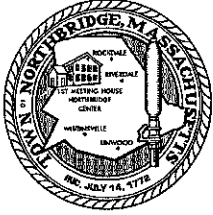
My commission Expires: _____

Appointment of Inspector of Animals (Division of Animal Health use only)

Notice is hereby given that I, Michael Cahill acting under authority of sections 15 and 16 of Chapter 129 of the General Laws, as amended, hereby approve the nomination of _____ as Inspector of Animals for the City or Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts.

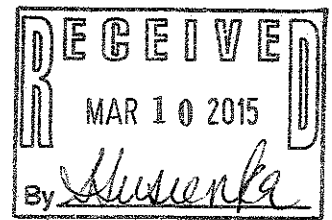
Date Approved: _____

Director, Division of Animal Health



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH

Aldrich School Town Hall Annex - 14 Hill Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Phone# (508) 234-3272 Fax# (508) 234-0821



MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2015

To: Theodore Kozak, Town Manager

From: Jeanne M. Gniadek, Board of Health Administrator *jmg*

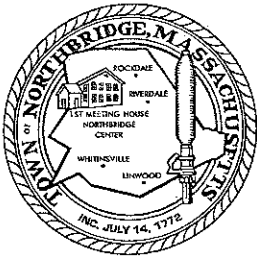
Subject: Appointment of Inspector of Animals – **Rochelle Thomson**

Please allow this memorandum to serve as the recommendation of this office that Ms. Rochelle Thomson be re-appointed as Inspector Animals for the Town of Northbridge.

Ms. Thomson has held this position since April 30, 2013 and has proven herself to be an asset to this department. She is extremely knowledgeable in both quarantine requirements and the care and handling of livestock and domestic animals. I look forward to working with Ms. Thomson through the upcoming appointment period.

If you should have any questions regarding this recommendation to you as the appointing authority for this position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

/jmg



Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588
Phone- (508) 234-2095 Fax- (508) 234-7640
www.northbridgemass.org

C.3.

March 10, 2015

Ms. Annmarie Cleary
111 Chestnut Hill Road
Millville, MA 01529

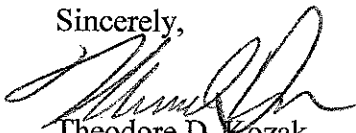
Dear Annmarie:

This letter is to formally advise you that you have been selected for appointment to the position of Interim Veterans Services Director for the Towns of Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas and Sutton, effective Monday, March 16, 2015.

This is a full-time temporary position (35 hours per week), Grade 7, Step 5, with a salary of \$27.64 per hour and is subject to the personnel rules and regulations of the Town of Northbridge. Because this is a temporary position, there are no benefits associated with this position.

On behalf of the Towns of Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas and Sutton, I wish you much success in your new position.

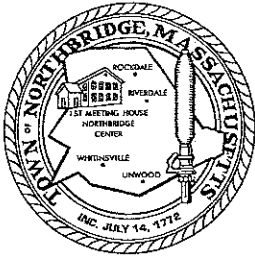
Sincerely,



Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager

TDK/sls

c: Board of Selectmen



C. 4.

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Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager

March 10, 2015

Mr. Philip R. Cyr
285 Rumonoski Drive
Northbridge, MA 01534


Dear Philip:

This letter is to formally advise you that you have been selected for appointment to the position of Interim Veterans Services Clerk for the Towns of Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas and Sutton, effective Monday, March 16, 2015.

This is a part-time temporary position (16-20 hours per week), Grade 3, Step 2, with a salary of \$17.98 per hour and is subject to the personnel rules and regulations of the Town of Northbridge. Because this is a temporary position, there are no benefits associated with this position.

On behalf of the Towns of Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas and Sutton, I wish you much success in your new position.

Sincerely



Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager

TDK/sls

c: Board of Selectmen

Donna Gosselin

D.

From: Ted Kozak <tkozak@northbridgemass.org>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 4:54 PM
To: dgosselin@northbridgemass.org
Subject: FW: NGrid Interstate Reliability Project Transmission line

Put on agenda under decisions

Theodore D. Kozak
Town Manager
P: 508-234-2095
F: 508-234-7640
tkozak@northbridgemass.org

From: Peterson, Michael D. [mailto:Michael.Peterson@nationalgrid.com]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 3:48 PM
To: tkozak@northbridgemass.org
Subject: NGrid Interstate Reliability Project Transmission line

The NGrid permit from the MA Energy Siting Board, for the construction of our new Transmission line in the Blackstone Valley, requires us to receive permission from each of our Towns if we wish to do construction work on State holidays.

Please consider this email our request to work on the following 2015 holidays:

Patriots Day, April 20

Columbus Day, October 12

Veterans Day, November 11

Our work schedule would be the same as normal weekdays, starting at 7 am and finishing at 5 pm.

This request is only for the NGrid Interstate Reliability Project/Transmission line project.

If this is acceptable, please respond accordingly. If you have any questions, or comments, please give me a call or email.

Thanks Michael Peterson
Stakeholders Relations Team
NGrid IRP Transmission Line Project
cell 508-922-7433

This e-mail, and any attachments are strictly confidential and intended for the addressee(s) only. The content may also contain legal, professional or other privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and then delete the e-mail and any attachments. You should not disclose, copy or take any action in reliance on this transmission.

You may report the matter by contacting us via our [UK Contacts Page](#) or our [US Contacts Page](#) (accessed by clicking on the appropriate link)

F.

Sharon Susienka

To: Sharon Susienka, Exec. Asst. to TMgr
Subject: RE: Frank Nealon Memorial Boston Tune Up 15k

From: Walter J. Warchol [mailto:wwarchol@northbridgemass.org]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:26 AM
To: tlabrie@northbridgemass.org; 'Michael Nixon'
Cc: ssusienka@northbridgemass.org
Subject: RE: Frank Nealon Memorial Boston Tune Up 15k

This race has been going forward for several years and doesn't impact Northbridge in any significant way.

Chief

Sharon Susienka

From: Timothy Labrie <tlabrie@northbridgemass.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:21 AM
To: 'Michael Nixon'
Cc: ssusienka@northbridgemass.org; wwarchol@northbridgemass.org
Subject: RE: Frank Nealon Memorial Boston Tune Up 15k

Thanks Michael and I will forward to the Town Mgr.'s office.

Chief & Sharon,

I spoke with this gentleman on 3/12/15 and he wanted to touch base with us. As you can see it has been going on for 35 years and really does not impact Northbridge. They are only in our town for a very short distance and we have never provided them coverage in the past. Upton PD has handled it for them over the years. He just wanted to touch base as he just took over some of the planning and wanted to make sure we knew about this event.

Thanks
Tim

From: Michael Nixon [mailto:mike.a.nixon@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 2:49 PM
To: tlabrie@northbridgemass.org
Subject: Fwd: Frank Nealon Memorial Boston Tune Up 15k

Lt. Labrie,

Please find attached the requested information. I apologize for the short notice, but I am new to organizing these logistics and I was unaware that we crossed into Northbridge. I have forwarded the race details that I have discussed with Chief Bradley of the Upton Police, who has historically provided the race detail. We have all the approvals required with the Town of Upton. Race details are:

Date: April 4, 2015
Start Time: 10:00 am
Finish Time: 12:00 pm
Start/End location: NIPMUC Regional High School
Approx. number of runners: 400
Course: See attached map
Main Beneficiary: The Jimmy Fund
Host Organization: Tri-Valley Front Runners, Inc (a 501c3 charity organization operating out of Milford, MA)

This race has been going on for roughly 35 years without incident with the Upton Police providing race detail support in this area. The section of the course that runs through Northbridge is Oak St to Mendon Rd to Moonhill Rd (W. River St). It is approximately a 1 mile stretch.

The club does have an liability insurance certificate (attached) and I will have one issued naming the town of Northbridge. If you need our IRS exemption letter for our 501c3 status, I have attached them to this e-mail. I apologize that I don't believe consent was previously sought. Again, I am not sure that we knew the race actually ventured into Northbridge.

I have made sure in the future race logistics will obtain approval at the same time we request approval from the Town of Upton. I apologize for the short notice. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

Regards,
Mike Nixon
Treasurer, Tri-Valley Front Runners, Inc.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <michael.bradley@uptonpolice.org>
Date: Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 4:57 PM
Subject: RE: Frank Nealon Memorial Boston Tune Up 15k
To: Michael Nixon <mike.a.nixon@gmail.com>

Mike,

I would reach out to Northbridge PD to advise them of the race details. Generally the runners are spread out by the time they get to Northbridge so it usually is not a problem.

Regards,

Chief Michael J. Bradley, Jr.

Upton Police Department

30 School Street

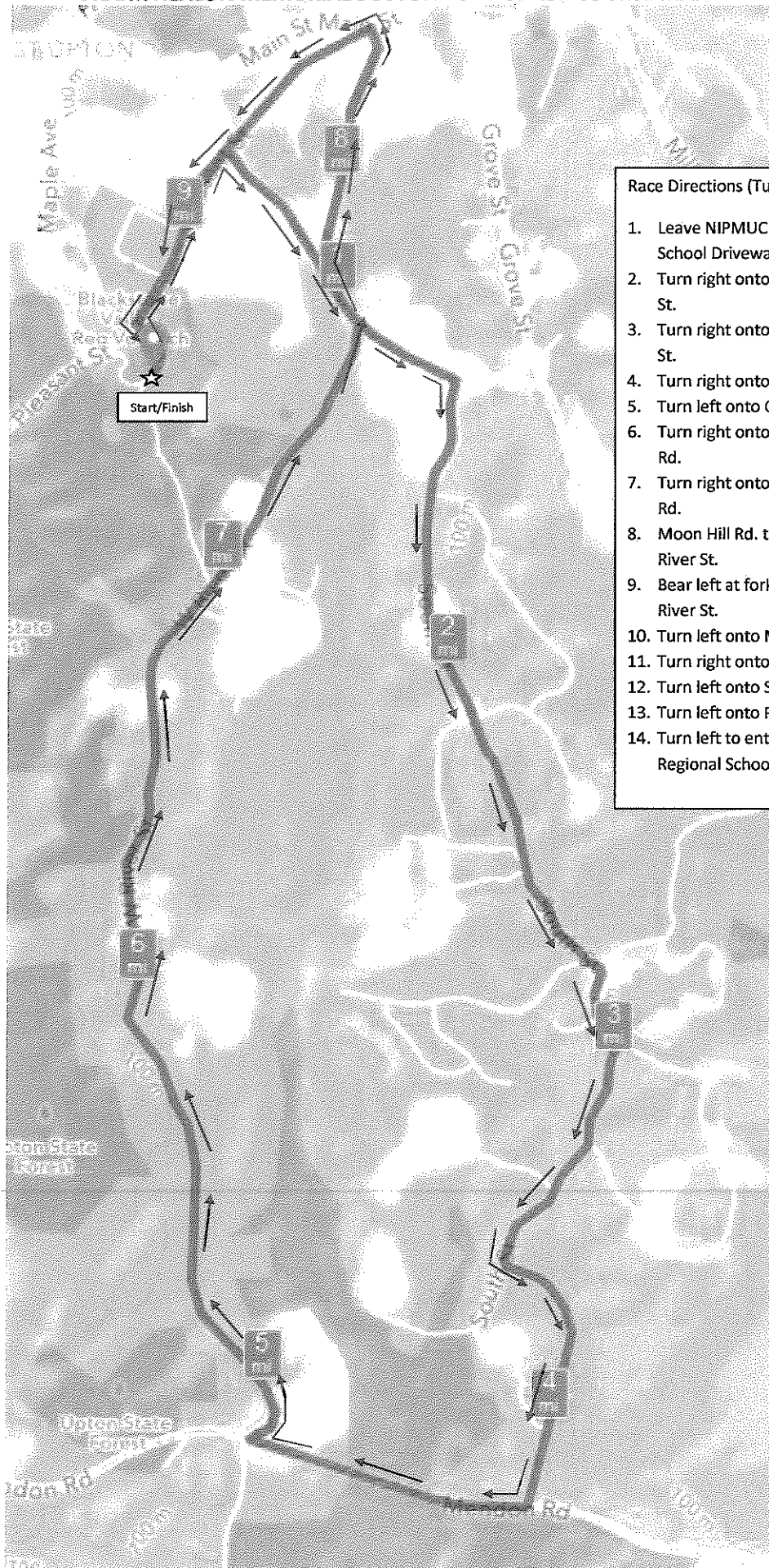
Upton, MA 01568

(508)529-3200

This electronic message is confidential and intended for the named recipient only. Any dissemination, disclosure or distribution of the contents of this communication is unlawful and prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please contact by return email or telephone 508.529.3200 and delete the copy you received. Thank you.

From: Michael Nixon [<mailto:mike.a.nixon@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:42 AM

FRANK NEALON MEMORIAL BOSTON TUNE UP 15K COURSE MAP



Race Directions (Turn-by-turn)

1. Leave NIPMUC Regional School Driveway.
2. Turn right onto Pleasant St.
3. Turn right onto Mendon St.
4. Turn right onto South St.
5. Turn left onto Oak Dr.
6. Turn right onto Mendon Rd.
7. Turn right onto Moon Hill Rd.
8. Moon Hill Rd. turns to W. River St.
9. Bear left at fork on W. River St.
10. Turn left onto Mendon St.
11. Turn right onto Plain St.
12. Turn left onto Station St.
13. Turn left onto Pleasant St.
14. Turn left to enter NIPMUC Regional School Driveway.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy

TEL (508) 234-9440

Submission Date 3/9/2015

Closed Schools Information

Closed Schools

Question 1: Has the district sold, closed, or otherwise removed from service a school in the last 10 years?

Yes

School Name: Aldrich School

14 Hill Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Which of the following apply to the school?

Turned back over to the Town of Northbridge

Please provide the year the school was sold, closed, or otherwise removed from service.

2007

Please provide the year the school was originally opened.

1890

Please provide the age of the school when it was sold, closed, or otherwise removed from service.

117

Please provide a history of the use of the school, including grades served, any educational programs at the school, and any major renovation, addition, and/or repair projects at the school.

Most recent, up until the time of closing the 5 classrooms in this building were used for our Pre-K program. The only major renovation projects this building had were a roof replacement and new boiler installation.

Please provide the reason for selling, closing or otherwise removing the school from service. Please be as specific as possible and provide as much detail as you are able as to the reason(s) for the district's decision.

The age of this building dictated a lot of repairs and upgrades as well as extensive ADA upgrades. The second floor of this building was not accessible. The District at the time of closure felt that it would be more educationally sound to move the Pre-K program into our 2 elementary schools.

Please provide a detailed description about the placement of students, programs, teachers, and administrative staff that were served by the school which was sold, closed, or otherwise removed from service. For example, were the students moved to another school(s), were the programs moved to another school(s) or were they eliminated, were the teachers moved to other school(s) or were the teaching positions eliminated?

All students and staff from this program were incorporated into our 2 elementary schools. No staff were eliminated.

Please provide the district's understanding of any school building grant money that the district received from the

state for the school that was sold, closed, or otherwise removed from service. Please provide as much detail as possible.

We do not believe any State Building Funds were received for this building at any time.

Question 2: Does the district have any plans to sell, close, or otherwise remove from service a school in the next 10 years?

No

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this Closed Schools formation are true and accurate and that this Closed Schools Information has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Closed Schools Information to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Closed Schools Information that may be required by the Authority.

Chief Executive Officer *

Theodore Kozak

Town Manager

School Committee Chair

Michael LeBrasseur

Superintendent of Schools

Catherine Stickney

(signature)

Date

(signature)

Date

(signature)

Date

* Local Chief Executive Officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School Northbridge Elementary

Submission Date 3/9/2015

SOI CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), a district must certify the following:

- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing municipally-owned or regionally-owned public school facility in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public PreK-12 students and that the facility for which the SOI is being submitted does not serve a solely early childhood or Pre-K student population.
- ☒ After the district completes and submits this SOI electronically, the district must sign the required certifications and submit one signed original hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA, with all of the required documentation described under the "Vote" tab, on or before the deadline.
- ☒ The district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the hard copy of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ On or before the SOI deadline, the district will submit the minutes of the meeting at which the School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The District will use the MSBA's vote template and the vote will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted. The minutes will be signed by the School Committee Chair. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ The district has arranged with the City/Town Clerk to certify the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and submit the full text of this vote, which will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted, to the MSBA on or before the SOI deadline. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be complete until the MSBA has received all of the required vote documentation and certification signatures in a format acceptable to the MSBA. If Priority 1 is selected, your Statement of Interest will not be considered complete unless and until you provide the required engineering (or other) report, a professional opinion regarding the problem, and photographs of the problematic area or system.

Chief Executive Officer *

Theodore Kozak

Town Manager

School Committee Chair

Michael LeBrasseur

Superintendent of Schools

Catherine Stickney

(signature)

Date

(signature)

Date

(signature)

Date

* Local chief executive officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School Northbridge Elementary

Submission Date 3/9/2015

Note

The following Priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

1. ☐ Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. ☐ Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. ☐ Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
4. ☐ Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
5. ☒ Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
6. ☐ Short term enrollment growth.
7. ☐ Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
8. ☐ Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

SOI Vote Requirement

☒ I acknowledge that I have reviewed the MSBA's vote requirements for submitting an SOI which are set forth in the Vote Tab of this SOI. I understand that the MSBA requires votes from specific parties/governing bodies, in a specific format using the language provided by the MSBA. Further, I understand that the MSBA requires certified and signed vote documentation to be submitted with the SOI. I acknowledge that my SOI will not be considered complete and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the MSBA unless the required accompanying vote documentation is submitted to the satisfaction of the MSBA.

Potential Project Scope: Potential New School

Is this SOI the District Priority SOI? NO

School name of the District Priority SOI: 2015 W Edward Balmer

Is this part of a larger facilities plan? NO

If "YES", please provide the following:

Facilities Plan Date:

Planning Firm:

Please provide an overview of the plan including as much detail as necessary to describe the plan, its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan:

Please provide the current student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 22 students per teacher

Please provide the originally planned student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 20 students per teacher

Does the District have a Master Educational Plan that includes facility goals for this building and all school buildings in District? NO

Does the District have related report(s)/document(s) that detail its facilities, student configurations at each facility, and District operational budget information, both current and proposed? NO

If "NO", please note that:

If, based on the SOI review process, a facility rises to the level of need and urgency and is invited into the Eligibility Period, the District will need to provide to the MSBA a detailed Educational Plan for not only that facility, but all facilities in the District in order to move forward in the MSBA's school building construction process.

Is there overcrowding at the school facility? YES

If "YES", please describe in detail, including specific examples of the overcrowding.

The overcrowding in this school has resulted in the current use of six modular classrooms for everyday classes. The school's one and only computer lab is also housed in the library. We have also converted several closets into OT and PT spaces for special needs students. The art and music rooms are located on the second and third floors of the building and are not accessible to handicap students.

Has the district had any recent teacher layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many teaching positions were affected? 2

At which schools in the district? Northbridge Elementary School

Please describe the types of teacher positions that were eliminated (e.g., art, math, science, physical education, etc.).

2 Kindergarten Special needs specialist were eliminated at the Northbridge Elementary school.

Has the district had any recent staff layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many staff positions were affected? 1

At which schools in the district? Northbridge Elementary School

Please describe the types of staff positions that were eliminated (e.g., guidance, administrative, maintenance, etc.).

Eliminating a part time support secretary has resulted in an increase in work-load for the remaining secretary and building principal to maintain effective operations and safety for our students.

Please provide a description of the program modifications as a consequence of these teacher and/or staff reductions, including the impact on district class sizes and curriculum.

By not funding the Kindergarten special education positions that were in the budget, we have not been able to provide individualized special education services in a most effective manner. Our general education teachers who have special ed certification provide instruction to all students, which means that this instructional time would be more effective if a co-taught model was implemented. Teachers are challenged to divide themselves to meet the needs of all students which means general education and special education programs are functioning to fullest capacity. To strengthen kindergarten instruction, curriculum planning, and student progress, we need to provide the same support for inclusion classrooms as we do in grades 1-4. Adding 2 special ed teachers will allow for stronger support for students who require individualized educational plans and support students who require tier 2 and 3 instruction. In losing the team leader positions, we are experiencing a lack of communication.

Please provide a detailed description of your most recent budget approval process including a description of any

budget reductions and the impact of those reductions on the district's school facilities, class sizes, and educational program.

Building a budget for the Northbridge Public Schools is a true collaborative effort. The budget is built by site based managers with input from staff and compiled by the Business Manager. Each line item is detailed in a budget binder. Multiple meetings are held with the budget subcommittee and the budget is adjusted by site managers as needed. The budget is presented to the full School Committee, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the public, and ultimately voted on at the Spring Town Meeting. The FY16 budget process is underway. After a failed override and cutting 1.1 million dollars from the budget last year, the outlook for the FY16 budget was bleak as there was not a large increase in revenue expected for FY16. The Chapter 70 funding for Northbridge for FY16 only increased by \$48,700. After cutting over \$200,000 in transportation expenses, the District still needed an additional \$488,000 to provide level services budget. Despite the town increasing the School Department's appropriation by \$500,000, the net increase in revenue to the department was only \$188,000 after reductions were made to grants and other funding accounts. The school department will be increasing fees and making approximately \$200,000 in budget reductions to help close this budget gap. These reductions will impact stipends and professional development. Some staff reductions will be made, however, they will be made based upon a drop in enrollment, limiting impact on class size.

General Description

BRIEF BUILDING HISTORY: Please provide a detailed description of when the original building was built, and the date(s) and project scopes(s) of any additions and renovations (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Northbridge Elementary School was originally built by the Worcester Arch Diocese in 1952 and operated for many years as a Catholic Elementary School until being purchased by the Town of Northbridge and has been operating as public Elementary School since. In 1982 there was a major addition built on to the school adding classroom space as well as a gymnasium and cafeteria. In the year 2000, the district added six portable classrooms to accommodate the increasing student body. These portables remain in use today housing 6 classrooms.

TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: Please provide the original building square footage PLUS the square footage of any additions.

56478

SITE DESCRIPTION: Please provide a detailed description of the current site and any known existing conditions that would impact a potential project at the site. Please note whether there are any other buildings, public or private, that share this current site with the school facility. What is the use(s) of this building(s)? (maximum of 5000 characters).

The school is situated on 2.72 acres of land near the center of town adjacent to the district's School Administration building. The building is landlocked. It fronts onto Cross Street to the east, has church property to the west, commercial and residential to the north and the School Administration building to the south. The sight is mostly flat with a few trees. The property has some grass areas and a hard asphalt area for a play area. The only vehicular access to the sight is through an off-street loop at the front entrance of the school. The drive-through is used by buses and visitors alike. Staff and faculty park on Cross Street as well as adjacent church property. Visitors must also park on Cross Street. All pedestrian traffic moves from the Town sidewalk on Cross Street to the main entrance of the school. The only other pedestrian movement is from the building to the play area and from the building to the staff parking area on church property. The facility has very limited outdoor space available for recess or outdoor physical education classes. The amount of space is limited to a large asphalt play area at the southern end of the school with a play structure adjacent to that.

ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Please type address, including number, street name and city/town, if available, or describe the location of the site. (Maximum of 300 characters)

30 Cross Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

BUILDING ENVELOPE: Please provide a detailed description of the building envelope, types of construction materials used, and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

This school had new Sarnafil roofing material installed on the entire complex in 2000. The exterior walls on the original 1952 building and the 1982 building are brick. The exterior walls of the modular classroom addition are of Texture 111 Plywood. The windows are a mix of wood and aluminum single pane glazed non-insulated units and are in very poor condition with many that are very hard to open or do not open at all. All of the paint on the wood portions of these windows is chipping.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the EXTERIOR WALLS? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1952

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

none

Roof Section A**Is the District seeking replacement of the Roof Section?** YES**Area of Section (square feet)** 56478**Type of ROOF (e.g., PVC, EPDM, Shingle, Slate, Tar & Gravel, Other (please describe))**

PVC

Age of Section (number of years since the Roof was installed or replaced) 15**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

Material is becoming very brittle. We have had numerous leaks and it is getting very expensive

Window Section A**Is the District seeking replacement of the Windows Section?** YES**Windows in Section (count)** 30**Type of WINDOWS (e.g., Single Pane, Double Pane, Other (please describe))**

Single Pane

Age of Section (number of years since the Windows were installed or replaced) 63**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

We have multiple windows that no longer open. These windows are also very hard for the teachers to pull open. We have actually had panes fall out during the day.

MECHANICAL and ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical and electrical systems and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The heating plant consists of two individual boilers. One boiler generates approximately 7 psi of steam to the original building. The second boiler provides heated water to the newer section of the building. Both boilers are fitted with dual fuel burners giving us the option on which to use depending on the cost. The automatic temperature controls are of pneumatic design. There is a single air storage tank with two compressors and motors. The system provided dual pressures which account for day/night operation. Heating of the various related support spaces throughout both buildings is provided by a series of cast iron radiators, fin tube radiation, and cabinet unit heaters. The classrooms of both the old and new building are provided with unit ventilators which utilize an exterior wall louver for the introduction of ventilation air. The unit ventilators are the original units installed at the year of construction and are antiquated. The electrical supply is fed underground via a utility street pole. The primary drops underground and runs to a transformer which is located in front of the school. The main service panel is rated at 800amps 120/280 volt 3 phase, 4wire. There is no emergency generator at this building and the emergency exit lights are run by battery. The exterior lighting of this building is also deficient. The majority of rooms have manual switches for lighting control. The original 1952 building does not have up to date circuit type breakers and is still functioning with glass type fuses. There is still knob and tooth wiring in that space being used today. There is also quite a shortage of electrical outlets which results in extension cords being used extensively throughout the building. The building's electrical demand sometimes exceeds its capabilities and either a fuse blows or breakers trip. The lighting in general gives poor lighting levels and the gymnasium lights should be replaced with super T-5 type lighting with occupancy sensors.

Boiler Section 1**Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler?** YES**Is there more than one boiler room in the School?** NO**What percentage of the School is heated by the Boiler?** 75**Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)**

We have dual fuel capabilities, at present time we use natural gas as our primary fuel.

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced) 30**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

Replacement of various control module's as well as damper controls and several tubes have been welded to repair leaks.

Boiler Section 2

Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler? NO

Is there more than one boiler room in the School? NO

What percentage of the School is heated by the Boiler? 25

Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)

we have dual fuel capabilities, at this time we are burning natural gas as our primary fuel.

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced) 14

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

Various control modulus as well as other minor issues, nothing major

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the HVAC SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1952

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

none

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1952

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

none

BUILDING INTERIOR: Please provide a detailed description of the current building interior including a description of the flooring systems, finishes, ceilings, lighting, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

The floor finishes are VCT in all areas except the gym which has a poured rubber floor. There are some repairs needed on the VCT. The gymnasium floor is in poor condition with many areas peeling. The walls in the original building are plaster with some wood wainscoting. The finishes are in fair condition and have been recently painted. The walls in the addition are painted concrete masonry units(CMU)and are in good condition. The walls in the modular sections are of gypsum board covered in vinyl wallpaper. The ceilings in the original building are plaster and in the addition and modular sections they are 2X4 ceiling tiles. The stairs in the original section were refurbished this year with new treads. The ramp in the addition lobby is unacceptable as it continues to slope at a change of direction where there must be a 5'X5' minimum horizontal landing of direction change. Accessibility in the original building requires the installation of an elevator and door hardware needs to be upgraded with new ADA standards. In both the original and addition, the toilet facilities are out of code.

PROGRAMS and OPERATIONS: Please provide a detailed description of the current programs offered and grades served, and indicate whether there are program components that cannot be offered due to facility constraints, operational constraints, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

Programs in Pre-K, K, and Grade 1 consist of the following : Students participate daily in learning activities in the areas of math,language arts, and science in a full inclusion setting. Also, during the week students participate in physical education, library, computers, art and music. Students with severe disabilities receive their academic and behavioral services in a an isolated setting called the New Horizons Program. Northbridge Elementary School offers an after school program. This program is offered to all Northbridge Elementary students. Students participate in such activities as homework sessions, computer enrichment and organized gym activities.

CORE EDUCATIONAL SPACES: Please provide a detailed description of the Core Educational Spaces within the facility, a description of the number and sizes (in square feet) of classrooms, a description of science rooms/labs including ages and most recent updates, a description of the cafeteria, gym and/or auditorium and a description of the media center/library (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Northbridge Elementary School consists of 28 classrooms all of which are occupied. The average square footage of the core educational spaces is 800 square feet. Some of the classrooms have chalk boards but most have white boards installed over them. 12 classrooms have smart boards installed in them. Only about half of the classrooms have sinks in them. There are no science labs in this building and the only computer lab is located in the Library. The most recent

updates included some Asbestos floor tiles being abated and new vinyl floor tile being installed in its place. This project was limited to the existing 1952 building. 27 year old carpet was removed from 2 classrooms and replaced it with VCT. In 2009 the District replaced the original stair treads in the original 1952 building.

CAPACITY and UTILIZATION: Please provide a detailed description of the current capacity and utilization of the school facility. If the school is overcrowded, please describe steps taken by the administration to address capacity issues. Please also describe in detail any spaces that have been converted from their intended use to be used as classroom space (maximum of 5000 characters).

The capacity in accordance with our yearly inspection certificates issued by our Building Inspector is 705 at any given time. At present time we have 512 students enrolled at this building. We are currently using every available room for teaching space. We have converted closets and other areas originally designed for storage into OT/PT spaces as well as other special needs instruction, and also Title One.

MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL REPAIR: Please provide a detailed description of the district's current maintenance practices, its capital repair program, and the maintenance program in place at the facility that is the subject of this SOI. Please include specific examples of capital repair projects undertaken in the past, including any override or debt exclusion votes that were necessary (maximum of 5000 characters).

All of our preventive maintenance as well as our work orders used to be entered into a data base. Due to manpower constraints at this time, the data entry portion of this system is not up to date. A five year Capital Repair Project list is updated and submitted to the Town through the School Committee yearly. At this time we are working with the Town Manager and Finance Committee on pursuing avenues to fund future capital projects in town. The boilers are cleaned and serviced and tested yearly. We have all of our makeup water for the boilers treated by an outside company to help prevent corrosion and extend the life of our heating plant. All of our pumps and uni-vents are serviced quarterly and any malfunctions are fixed immediately. Any roof leaks are repaired by a certified vendor when they are discovered. All floors are stripped and waxed annually.

Priority 5

Question 1: Please provide a detailed description of the issues surrounding the school facility systems (e.g., roof, windows, boilers, HVAC system, and/or electrical service and distribution system) that you are indicating require repair or replacement. Please describe all deficiencies to all systems in sufficient detail to explain the problem.

Currently there is no insulation in the exterior wall cavities of this entire building. By installing insulation in the exterior wall cavities and the areas around the uni-vents we would realize a substantial savings from heat no longer being lost to the exterior. The current windows are original and hold no insulating factors at all. By installing double insulated windows we would save substantially on heat escaping the building through these old windows as well as keeping the rooms warmer during the colder months. The heating system is not very efficient with some areas of the building overheating while other areas are cold. The uni-vents are the original equipment and do not run very efficiently with dampers not sealing tight in the colder months to ones that do not open in the warmer months. New dampers would go a long way in controlling proper temperatures and preventing freeze ups and overheating. The radiators are the building's original and most run uncontrolled resulting in overheating most spaces in the original building making it not a very comfortable learning environment for the students and staff. Fuel is being wasted on the overheating of these spaces. The current pneumatic controls should be replaced with direct digital controls and a building management system installed to better monitor and control the building climate, thereby saving the district money by equally and efficiently heating and cooling all spaces.

Priority 5

Question 2: Please describe the measures the district has already taken to mitigate the problem/issues described in Question 1 above.

We have replaced the heating system circulating pump motors with new energy efficient models as well as any electric motors that are in that building. The weather stripping on the doors and windows is replaced as needed. When the roof was replaced in 2000, Maim R rated insulation was installed. When plumbing fixtures are replaced, they are replaced with new energy efficient models. All exit lights have been retrofitted with LED lamps. All room thermostats are locked at 68 degrees. The whole building has a night time set back on the heating system .The district partnered with National Grid for an energy audit and took advantage of the 70% National Grid incentive to move forward with updating lighting and installing occupancy sensors in the 2011 school year.

Priority 5

Question 3: Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem/issues described in Question 1 above on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

We are not able to provide a comfortable space for the children to learn in, whether it's from the poor lighting conditions or the unbalanced climate from the heating system throughout the building. The children deserve a more comfortable space to learn in. Rooms with better lighting or day lighting installed will also save on energy consumption. The heating system disrupts the school day by the spaces being too hot in the winter months. The windows are inadequate and some do not even open so rooms become very warm during the summer months making it very uncomfortable for students and staff. The art and music classes must move to an alternate ground floor space when students with walking disabilities are present in class, this is due to the fact that there is not an elevator to get them to the 2nd and 3rd floor classrooms where these programs are housed. Students must also attend classes in portable modular classrooms due to the lack of space. Occupational therapy and physical therapy services are being conducted in closets limiting the space and effectiveness of these services.

Priority 5

Question 4: Please describe how addressing the school facility systems you identified in Question 1 above will extend the useful life of the facility that is the subject of this SOI and how it will improve your district's educational program.

By replacing and or upgrading this building you will be providing a healthier and more inviting learning environment for the students and staff of this building. Also with the replacement or upgrade of this building the town will realize a large savings in energy costs. That savings can then be put towards programs that would benefit the student population of this school.

Please also provide the following:

Have the systems identified above been examined by an engineer or other trained building professional?:

YES

If "YES", please provide the name of the individual and his/her professional affiliation (maximum of 250 characters):

Garcia and Galuska Consulting Engineers

The date of the inspection: 12/12/1996

A summary of the findings (maximum of 5000 characters):

Generally speaking the heating system is in relatively good working condition with the exception that a large majority of the 1952 building has reoccurring events of overheating. The electrical distribution system is in satisfactory condition, with only minor alterations required. The emergency lighting system is very minimal with only battery operated emergency light packs, it is recommended that an emergency generator be installed. At present time this school is not in compliance with all life safety codes and standards that are recommended for school buildings. The exterior lighting is minimal and needs to be improved. The fire alarm system should be rehabilitated with smoke detectors in corridors and other public places and spaces. New ADA audio visual signals need to be placed in areas not now having same, such as toilets, and where spacing exceeds code. Limited video surveillance system has been added to the school but is not integrated as part of the I.T. system. The general power system should be upgraded so an adequate quantity of receptacles will be available for electronic teaching devices.

Statement of Interest

Having convened in an open meeting on March 16, 2015 the **Board of Selectman** of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated March 9, 2015 for the **Northbridge Elementary School** located at 30 Cross Street, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

Chief Executive Officer *	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
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Theodore Kozak

Michael LeBrasseur

Catherine Stickney

Town Manager

(signature)

(signature)

(signature)

Date

Date

Date

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Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School Northbridge Middle

Submission Date 3/9/2015

SOI CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), a district must certify the following:

- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing municipally-owned or regionally-owned public school facility in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public PreK-12 students and that the facility for which the SOI is being submitted does not serve a solely early childhood or Pre-K student population.
- ☒ After the district completes and submits this SOI electronically, the district must sign the required certifications and submit one signed original hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA, with all of the required documentation described under the "Vote" tab, on or before the deadline.
- ☒ The district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the hard copy of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ On or before the SOI deadline, the district will submit the minutes of the meeting at which the School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The District will use the MSBA's vote template and the vote will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted. The minutes will be signed by the School Committee Chair. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ The district has arranged with the City/Town Clerk to certify the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and submit the full text of this vote, which will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted, to the MSBA on or before the SOI deadline. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be complete until the MSBA has received all of the required vote documentation and certification signatures in a format acceptable to the MSBA. If Priority 1 is selected, your Statement of Interest will not be considered complete unless and until you provide the required engineering (or other) report, a professional opinion regarding the problem, and photographs of the problematic area or system.

Chief Executive Officer *	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
Theodore Kozak	Michael LeBrasseur	Catherine Stickney
Town Manager		
(signature)	(signature)	(signature)
Date	Date	Date

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Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School Northbridge Middle

Submission Date 3/9/2015

Note

The following Priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

1. ☐ Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. ☐ Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. ☐ Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
4. ☐ Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
5. ☒ Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
6. ☐ Short term enrollment growth.
7. ☐ Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
8. ☐ Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

SOI Vote Requirement

☒ I acknowledge that I have reviewed the MSBA's vote requirements for submitting an SOI which are set forth in the Vote Tab of this SOI. I understand that the MSBA requires votes from specific parties/governing bodies, in a specific format using the language provided by the MSBA. Further, I understand that the MSBA requires certified and signed vote documentation to be submitted with the SOI. I acknowledge that my SOI will not be considered complete and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the MSBA unless the required accompanying vote documentation is submitted to the satisfaction of the MSBA.

Potential Project Scope: Potential New School

Is this SOI the District Priority SOI? NO

School name of the District Priority SOI: 2015 W Edward Balmer

Is this part of a larger facilities plan? NO

If "YES", please provide the following:

Facilities Plan Date:

Planning Firm:

Please provide an overview of the plan including as much detail as necessary to describe the plan, its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan:

Please provide the current student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 26 students per teacher

Please provide the originally planned student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 22 students per teacher

Does the District have a Master Educational Plan that includes facility goals for this building and all school buildings in District? NO

Does the District have related report(s)/document(s) that detail its facilities, student configurations at each facility, and District operational budget information, both current and proposed? NO

If "NO", please note that:

If, based on the SOI review process, a facility rises to the level of need and urgency and is invited into the Eligibility Period, the District will need to provide to the MSBA a detailed Educational Plan for not only that facility, but all facilities in the District in order to move forward in the MSBA's school building construction process.

Is there overcrowding at the school facility? NO

If "YES", please describe in detail, including specific examples of the overcrowding.

Has the district had any recent teacher layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many teaching positions were affected? 2

At which schools in the district? Northbridge Middle School

Please describe the types of teacher positions that were eliminated (e.g., art, math, science, physical education, etc.).

2 Spanishish Teachers

Has the district had any recent staff layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many staff positions were affected? 7

At which schools in the district? Northbridge Middle School

Please describe the types of staff positions that were eliminated (e.g., guidance, administrative, maintenance, etc.).

1 Librarian, Literacy Coach, and 5 Inclusion Instructional Assistants.

Please provide a description of the program modifications as a consequence of these teacher and/or staff reductions, including the impact on district class sizes and curriculum.

The recent teacher and staff layoffs have resulted in no world language classes for grades 7 and 8. No longer able to offer a library elective which did cover research, website evaluations, searches etc. the elimination of a full time literacy coach has resulted in students not being provided direct services. the loss of five inclusion instructional assistants has resulted in more special needs students per inclusion classes. The elimination of club advisers has resulted in fewer extracurricular activities being offered.

Please provide a detailed description of your most recent budget approval process including a description of any budget reductions and the impact of those reductions on the district's school facilities, class sizes, and educational program.

Building a budget for the Northbridge Public Schools is a true collaborative effort. The budget is built by site based managers with input from staff and compiled by the Business Manager. Each line item is detailed in a budget binder. Multiple meetings are held with the budget subcommittee and the budget is adjusted by site managers as needed. The budget is presented to the full School Committee, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the public, and ultimately voted on at the Spring Town Meeting. The FY16 budget process is underway. After a failed override and cutting 1.1 million dollars from the budget last year, the outlook for the FY16 budget was bleak as there was not a large increase in revenue expected for FY16. The Chapter 70 funding for Northbridge for FY16 only increased by \$48,700. After cutting over \$200,000 in

transportation expenses, the District still needed an additional \$488,000 to provide level services budget. Despite the town increasing the School Department's appropriation by \$500,000, the net increase in revenue to the department was only \$188,000 after reductions were made to grants and other funding accounts. The school department will be increasing fees and making approximately \$200,000 in budget reductions to help close this budget gap. These reductions will impact stipends and professional development. Some staff reductions will be made, however, they will be made based upon a drop in enrollment, limiting impact on class size.

General Description

BRIEF BUILDING HISTORY: Please provide a detailed description of when the original building was built, and the date(s) and project scopes(s) of any additions and renovations (maximum of 5000 characters).

The original building was constructed in 1905 on 15.6 acres of land. There have been multiple additions constructed since (1927, 1955, 1986) and 4 modular classrooms were added in 2000. These additions consisted of adding additional core learning spaces as well as new kitchen and cafeteria as well as new gym and auditorium.

TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: Please provide the original building square footage PLUS the square footage of any additions.

176924

SITE DESCRIPTION: Please provide a detailed description of the current site and any known existing conditions that would impact a potential project at the site. Please note whether there are any other buildings, public or private, that share this current site with the school facility. What is the use(s) of this building(s)? (maximum of 5000 characters).

The school is located on 15.6 acres of land near the center of town. The site is flat and is land locked. It is centered between a cemetery to the south and east, and residential and public roadways in the other directions. The site also consists of the main athletic fields for the district. The main entrance to the building for students as well as visitors is through a main entrance at the southwest side of the building on Linwood Avenue. The student drop off area is on the opposite side of Linwood Avenue which is a major safety concern with the children having to cross the busy roadway. In the past this has resulted in minor pedestrian accidents. Parking for staff and visitors is also located on the opposite side of Linwood Avenue, with additional parking for staff provided off of Pleasant Street on the Southeast side of the building. School buses drop off and pick up the students in an existing driveway that runs from Linwood Avenue around the buildings onto Pleasant Street. The limited acreage has forced some athletics to be relocated to fields further down Linwood Avenue at our High School.

ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Please type address, including number, street name and city/town, if available, or describe the location of the site. (Maximum of 300 characters)

171 Linwood Avenue
Whitinsville, MA 01588

BUILDING ENVELOPE: Please provide a detailed description of the building envelope, types of construction materials used, and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The school consists of multiple additions (1927, 1955, 1986, 2000) to the original (1905) load bearing brick masonry wall structure with a sloped slate shingle roof. Sections added to the original school building are of typical brick masonry cavity wall construction with low sloped roof systems and varies from one-story to three stories in height evaluation. The roof was completely replaced in 2007. Windows are original and are a mix of aluminum insulated units, aluminum non insulated units, and non insulated wood units. All windows except the insulated units should be replaced to increase energy efficiency and operational comfort.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the EXTERIOR WALLS? YES

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1986

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Minor repairs have been done over the years. Additions have also been constructed over a period of time since the original building opened in 1905 with the latest being constructed in 1986.

Roof Section A**Is the District seeking replacement of the Roof Section?** NO**Area of Section (square feet)** 100000**Type of ROOF (e.g., PVC, EPDM, Shingle, Slate, Tar & Gravel, Other (please describe))**

PVC

Age of Section (number of years since the Roof was installed or replaced) 10**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

Minor leaks.

Roof Section B**Is the District seeking replacement of the Roof Section?** NO**Area of Section (square feet)** 77000**Type of ROOF (e.g., PVC, EPDM, Shingle, Slate, Tar & Gravel, Other (please describe))**

Slate

Age of Section (number of years since the Roof was installed or replaced) 10**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

Some of the slate has fallen off over the years.

Window Section A**Is the District seeking replacement of the Windows Section?** YES**Windows in Section (count)** 48**Type of WINDOWS (e.g., Single Pane, Double Pane, Other (please describe))**

Single pane

Age of Section (number of years since the Windows were installed or replaced) 110**Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:**

Repairs to window weights, as well as some broken panes repaired.

MECHANICAL and ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical and electrical systems and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The mechanical and electrical systems were updated with the 1986 addition and renovations. The 2 steam boilers are 54 year old Fitzgibbons Scotch Marine fire tube boilers. Each boiler generates low pressure steam by utilizing dual fuel burners. Each boiler is provided with natural gas and No.2 fuel oil. All boilers are cleaned and serviced yearly and repairs made as needed. Feed water is chemically treated which has extended the life of these boilers. The boilers are inspected by state boiler inspectors yearly. These boilers are beyond their life expectancy and should be replaced with more energy efficient models. Generally speaking these boilers generate steam which is then condensed back to condensate and then distributed into the heating system. This process uses a lot of unnecessary energy. The heating units throughout the building are original and repairs are constantly needed and parts are becoming very hard to find. The school's climate is not balanced which has created areas that are cold and others that are warm. There is no air conditioning in this school with the exception of the auditorium which has a rooftop fixed unit and the main office areas which have window units. The computer labs are not air conditioned and should be. Overheating of the spaces has resulted in computer failures as well as student and staff discomfort. The hot water supply pipes for the buildings heating system are in constant need of repair due to leaks caused by the overall age of the piping. The automatic temperature is of the pneumatic design. The system is antiquated and should be replaced with a Direct Digitally Controlled system. This would allow for more accurate control of the heating plant. The electrical system is fed via a utility street pole. The primary line drops underground and runs to a pad mounted transformer. The main service panel is rated at 3000 amps, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, 4 wire and is manufactured by the Square D company. The main service switch is located in the electrical room of the 1988 addition. The overall condition of the electrical system is satisfactory. The building is also supported by a gas fired 115 Kw emergency generator which was replaced in 2007.

Boiler Section 1**Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler?** YES

Is there more than one boiler room in the School? NO

What percentage of the School is heated by the Boiler? 100

Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)

Natural Gas or # 2 Oil

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced) 60

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

Broken tubes, broken controllers, blower motor replacements, and some safety devices failed and were replaced.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the HVAC SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1986

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Some of HVAC system was updated with the 1986 Addition and Renovation. Two new burners have been install on the existing boilers in the past two years. The system is repaired or replaced as needed.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1986

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Some of the Electrical System was updated with the 1986 Addition and Renovation. The system is repaired or replaced as needed.

BUILDING INTERIOR: Please provide a detailed description of the current building interior including a description of the flooring systems, finishes, ceilings, lighting, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

The buildings floors are of various materials and range from carpet, VCT, and original wood. Some of the tile floors were upgraded in the 1986 addition, but the original wood floors were not touched and need to be upgraded or replaced. The carpeted areas are being replaced with VCT as funds become available. The walls are plaster and Gypsum wall board throughout the buildings. The Gypsum wall board was installed in the 1986 addition. This material should either be reinforced or replaced. The plaster walls are in poor condition, require constant repair, and should be replaced. Ceilings are a mix of A.C.T. and plaster and are in need of repair or replacement. Stairs and ramps construction was part of the 1986 addition and renovation project. Ninety percent of the stairs and ramps require some minor repairs and painting. Some stairs require additional lighting installed. The building does have an elevator for access to all floors but exiting the building by handicapped individuals is very difficult. Bathroom facilities also need to be upgraded for handicapped persons.

PROGRAMS and OPERATIONS: Please provide a detailed description of the current programs offered and grades served, and indicate whether there are program components that cannot be offered due to facility constraints, operational constraints, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

Programs offered are in grades 5 through 8 and consist of the following: Students participate in daily learning activities in the areas of math, science, social studies language arts, and foreign languages in a full inclusion setting. During the week students participate in physical education, library, computers, art and music. Students with severe disabilities receive their academic and behavioral services in a separate setting.

CORE EDUCATIONAL SPACES: Please provide a detailed description of the Core Educational Spaces within the facility, a description of the number and sizes (in square feet) of classrooms, a description of science rooms/labs including ages and most recent updates, a description of the cafeteria, gym and/or auditorium and a description of the media center/library (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Middle School core educational spaces consist of 54 classrooms which average 910 sq.ft., a 3900 sq.ft. Media Center/Library, 4450 sq.ft. of Science Room/Labs, a 7200 sq.ft. 682 seat Auditorium, a 4300 sq.ft. cafeteria and an 11,000 sq.ft. Gymnasium. Some classrooms have had smart boards installed in them. White boards have been installed in some classrooms but most are still using chalk boards. Several of the science labs were updated in the 1986 renovation

project.

CAPACITY and UTILIZATION: Please provide a detailed description of the current capacity and utilization of the school facility. If the school is overcrowded, please describe steps taken by the administration to address capacity issues. Please also describe in detail any spaces that have been converted from their intended use to be used as classroom space (maximum of 5000 characters).

The current student enrollment is 722. The capacity for the building is 875.

MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL REPAIR: Please provide a detailed description of the district's current maintenance practices, its capital repair program, and the maintenance program in place at the facility that is the subject of this SOI. Please include specific examples of capital repair projects undertaken in the past, including any override or debt exclusion votes that were necessary (maximum of 5000 characters).

All of our preventive maintenance as well as work orders used to be entered into a data base. Due to manpower constraints at this time the data entry portion of this system is not up to date. A five year Capital Repair Project list is updated and submitted to the Town through the School Committee yearly. At this time we are working together with the Town Manager and Finance Committee, exploring funding avenues to complete future capital projects in town. This year with funds approved at Town Meeting, we completed several capital security projects, including additional security cameras, the installation of "safe school door locks" on all classroom doors, key card entry systems, and the installation of window security film. We have all of our feed water to our boilers treated by an outside vendor to help prevent corrosion in the boilers and thereby extending their life. We have the boilers cleaned, serviced and tested on a yearly basis. All pumps and uni-vents are serviced quarterly and any malfunctions are corrected immediately. All floors are stripped and waxed annually. Gym floors are screened and re-coated on a yearly basis.

Priority 5

Question 1: Please provide a detailed description of the issues surrounding the school facility systems (e.g., roof, windows, boilers, HVAC system, and/or electrical service and distribution system) that you are indicating require repair or replacement. Please describe all deficiencies to all systems in sufficient detail to explain the problem.

Currently there is not any insulation in most of the exterior walls throughout building. By installing insulation in the exterior wall cavities and the areas around the uni-vents we would realize substantial savings from heat not being lost to the exterior. The original windows are from 1905 and are in very poor shape and hold no insulating factors at all. By installing double insulated windows we would realize substantial savings on heat costs and the classrooms would be a lot easier to keep warm. At this time the heating system is run through a pneumatic control system that is antiquated and not very efficient. The pneumatic system should be replaced entirely with a system that is Direct Digitally Controlled. This would enable the heating system to be monitored more closely and therefore improve the efficiency and climate control in the entire building. This should produce a large savings in heating costs to the District. When the roof was replaced in 2007 insulation was added to decking which has helped in preventing some heat loss.

Priority 5

Question 2: Please describe the measures the district has already taken to mitigate the problem/issues described in Question 1 above.

The Middle School went through an entire lighting retrofit in 2001. All existing lights and ballasts both interior and exterior were replaced with more energy efficient models. More efficient models of burners were installed in 2007. When the roof was replaced in 2007 insulation was installed on the decking. Exterior lights are controlled by time clocks and light sensors. Motors have been replaced with more energy efficient models. When plumbing fixtures are replaced we install more efficient models. All room thermostats are locked at 68 degrees. The whole building has a night time set back on the heating system. The District partnered with National Grid and the Department of Energy Resources to have a Whole Building Assessment completed. The District has worked to implement some low cost energy savings projects from this audit to improve the energy efficiency of the building and save the District in heating and electric bills. We continue to work hand in hand with National Grid and N-Star on any energy savings projects that may benefit the District.

Priority 5

Question 3: Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem/issues described in Question 1 above on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

The only impacts that are a direct result of these issues are that we are not able to provide a comfortable space for the children to learn in. The result of the many additions that have been added to this building over the years has resulted in the building being turned into a maze and is very difficult for the students to navigate. The heating system is very old and needs to be replaced. The climate throughout the building is not balanced and areas can be very cold while other areas are overheating creating an uncomfortable atmosphere for the students and staff alike.

Priority 5

Question 4: Please describe how addressing the school facility systems you identified in Question 1 above will extend the useful life of the facility that is the subject of this SOI and how it will improve your district's educational program.

By replacing and or renovating this building you will be providing a healthier and more inviting learning environment for the students and staff of this building. Again this building's original wing was first opened in 1905 and has several additions since. It is a very difficult building for the children to find their way around. With all the additions added over the years it is also very difficult to maintain the proper climate in this building. With the replacement or upgrade to this building the town should realize a significant savings in energy costs, which could be then put towards programs that would benefit the student population of Northbridge.

Please also provide the following:

Have the systems identified above been examined by an engineer or other trained building professional?:

YES

If "YES", please provide the name of the individual and his/her professional affiliation (maximum of 250 characters):

Garcia and Galuska Consulting Engineers

The date of the inspection: 12/2/1996

A summary of the findings (maximum of 5000 characters):

The electrical distribution system is satisfactory, but new distribution equipment should be installed to accommodate added computer loads in the instructional areas. The present emergency lighting system is adequate. However, it is recommended that the emergency system be updated for compliance with life safety codes and standards requiring 2 hour rated enclosures for equipment. The current fire alarm system should be retrofitted with new ADA approved devices. In addition new strobe horns should be installed in toilet rooms and classrooms. The master clock system is archaic and should be replaced. The intercom system should also be replaced throughout the entire structure. Additional security cameras should be added throughout the entire building as well as the exterior of the complex. This system should be tied into the district I.T. equipment for remote access capabilities.

Statement of Interest

Having convened in an open meeting on March 16, 2015 the **Board of Selectman** of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated March 9, 2015 for the **Northbridge Middle School** located at 171 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

Chief Executive Officer *

Theodore Kozak

School Committee Chair

Michael LeBrasseur

Superintendent of Schools

Catherine Stickney

Town Manager

(signature)

(signature)

(signature)

Date

Date

Date

* Local Chief Executive Officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School W Edward Balmer

Submission Date 3/9/2015

SOI CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), a district must certify the following:

- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing municipally-owned or regionally-owned public school facility in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public PreK-12 students and that the facility for which the SOI is being submitted does not serve a solely early childhood or Pre-K student population.
- ☒ After the district completes and submits this SOI electronically, the district must sign the required certifications and submit one signed original hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA, with all of the required documentation described under the "Vote" tab, on or before the deadline.
- ☒ The district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the hard copy of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ On or before the SOI deadline, the district will submit the minutes of the meeting at which the School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The District will use the MSBA's vote template and the vote will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted. The minutes will be signed by the School Committee Chair. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ The district has arranged with the City/Town Clerk to certify the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and submit the full text of this vote, which will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted, to the MSBA on or before the SOI deadline. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be complete until the MSBA has received all of the required vote documentation and certification signatures in a format acceptable to the MSBA. If Priority 1 is selected, your Statement of Interest will not be considered complete unless and until you provide the required engineering (or other) report, a professional opinion regarding the problem, and photographs of the problematic area or system.

Chief Executive Officer *	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
Theodore Kozak	Michael LeBrasseur	Catherine Stickney
Town Manager		
(signature)	(signature)	(signature)
Date	Date	Date

* Local chief executive officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Northbridge

District Contact Paul Halacy TEL: (508) 234-9440

Name of School W Edward Balmer

Submission Date 3/9/2015

Note

The following Priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

1. ☐ Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. ☐ Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. ☐ Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
4. ☐ Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
5. ☒ Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
6. ☐ Short term enrollment growth.
7. ☒ Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
8. ☐ Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

SOI Vote Requirement

☒ I acknowledge that I have reviewed the MSBA's vote requirements for submitting an SOI which are set forth in the Vote Tab of this SOI. I understand that the MSBA requires votes from specific parties/governing bodies, in a specific format using the language provided by the MSBA. Further, I understand that the MSBA requires certified and signed vote documentation to be submitted with the SOI. I acknowledge that my SOI will not be considered complete and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the MSBA unless the required accompanying vote documentation is submitted to the satisfaction of the MSBA.

Potential Project Scope: Potential New School

Is this SOI the District Priority SOI? YES

School name of the District Priority SOI: 2015 W Edward Balmer

Is this part of a larger facilities plan? NO

If "YES", please provide the following:

Facilities Plan Date:

Planning Firm:

Please provide an overview of the plan including as much detail as necessary to describe the plan, its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan:

Please provide the current student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 15 students per teacher

Please provide the originally planned student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 20 students per teacher

Does the District have a Master Educational Plan that includes facility goals for this building and all school buildings in District? NO

Does the District have related report(s)/document(s) that detail its facilities, student configurations at each facility, and District operational budget information, both current and proposed? NO

If "NO", please note that:

If, based on the SOI review process, a facility rises to the level of need and urgency and is invited into the Eligibility Period, the District will need to provide to the MSBA a detailed Educational Plan for not only that facility, but all facilities in the District in order to move forward in the MSBA's school building construction process.

Is there overcrowding at the school facility? YES

If "YES", please describe in detail, including specific examples of the overcrowding.

Balmer School has an intensive special needs program called New Horizons. This program addresses the unique needs of students with severe disabilities. The New Horizon's room is in an area of the building that is not in the mainstream of the school. The Northbridge Public Schools participated in a Coordinated Program Review conducted by the DESE. One of the recommendations was to move the New Horizons Room to a more central part of the building. We are unable to move the program due to a lack of appropriate open classrooms. Balmer School has 27 classrooms, ten grade 4 classrooms, nine grade 3 classrooms and eight grade 2 classrooms. Class sizes range from 20 to 25 students. This leaves us with very little room for expansion. Lastly Balmer School is a Title 1 school. We provide academic support in the areas of language arts and mathematics for students who qualify. We currently do not have space outside of the classroom for Title 1 tutors to provide small group instruction; therefore, closet/storage space has been cleared of its contents to accommodate the tutors and students. The Balmer School art room is also now being housed in an old locker room.

Has the district had any recent teacher layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many teaching positions were affected? 4

At which schools in the district? W.Edward Balmer School

Please describe the types of teacher positions that were eliminated (e.g., art, math, science, physical education, etc.).

4 Classroom teachers were laid off.

Has the district had any recent staff layoffs or reductions? YES

If "YES", how many staff positions were affected? 3

At which schools in the district? W.Edward Balmer School

Please describe the types of staff positions that were eliminated (e.g., guidance, administrative, maintenance, etc.).

3 Para Paraprofessionals were laid off.

Please provide a description of the program modifications as a consequence of these teacher and/or staff reductions, including the impact on district class sizes and curriculum.

The lay off of 4 classroom teachers resulted in increased class size by 3-4 students per class. The reduction of 3 para professionals has resulted in students with special need getting less support because staff needs to work in 4 classrooms vs 2 classrooms.

Please provide a detailed description of your most recent budget approval process including a description of any

budget reductions and the impact of those reductions on the district's school facilities, class sizes, and educational program.

Building a budget for the Northbridge Public Schools is a true collaborative effort. The budget is built by site based managers with input from staff and compiled by the Business Manager. Each line item is detailed in a budget binder. Multiple meetings are held with the budget subcommittee and the budget is adjusted by site managers as needed. The budget is presented to the full School Committee, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the public, and ultimately voted on at the Spring Town Meeting. The FY16 budget process is underway. After a failed override and cutting 1.1 million dollars from the budget last year, the outlook for the FY16 budget was bleak as there was not a large increase in revenue expected for FY16. The Chapter 70 funding for Northbridge for FY16 only increased by \$48,700. After cutting over \$200,000 in transportation expenses, the District still needed an additional \$488,000 to provide level services budget. Despite the town increasing the School Department's appropriation by \$500,000, the net increase in revenue to the department was only \$188,000 after reductions were made to grants and other funding accounts. The school department will be increasing fees and making approximately \$200,000 in budget reductions to help close this budget gap. These reductions will impact stipends and professional development. Some staff reductions will be made, however, they will be made based upon a drop in enrollment, limiting impact on class size.

General Description

BRIEF BUILDING HISTORY: Please provide a detailed description of when the original building was built, and the date(s) and project scopes(s) of any additions and renovations (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Balmer School was built in 1967 and opened in 1968. The only renovations that have occurred have been the replacement of some of the asbestos floor tile with new vinyl floor tile, the updating of some lighting and ceiling tiles, and some cosmetic painting. The intercom and clock systems were updated in 2007 to upgrade life safety standards.

TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: Please provide the original building square footage PLUS the square footage of any additions.

70857

SITE DESCRIPTION: Please provide a detailed description of the current site and any known existing conditions that would impact a potential project at the site. Please note whether there are any other buildings, public or private, that share this current site with the school facility. What is the use(s) of this building(s)? (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Balmer School is located on 30 acres of land in a neighborhood called the "New Village". The surrounding area of the school is residential. The land that the School is on contains an asphalt play area and a play scape as well as small soccer, baseball and softball fields that are shared with the Town. To the rear of the building has a wet land area situated about 1000 feet from the building. There is also an underground oil tank on the premises that prevents expansion over that area w/o removal.

ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Please type address, including number, street name and city/town, if available, or describe the location of the site. (Maximum of 300 characters)

21 Crescent Street
Whitinsville,MA.01588

BUILDING ENVELOPE: Please provide a detailed description of the building envelope, types of construction materials used, and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The building is of steel frame construction with CMU back-up and with a brick veneer finish. The roof is covered with Sarnafil roofing material which was replaced in 1994. It does have leaks from time to time, but are repaired when found. There is visible cracking occurring in various areas of the buildings CMU's. The exterior doors are worn and are not energy efficient. The rear exit doors are not handicap compliant and are also a safety issue for building evacuation.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the EXTERIOR WALLS? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1967

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:
none

Roof Section A

Is the District seeking replacement of the Roof Section? YES

Area of Section (square feet) 71000

Type of ROOF (e.g., PVC, EPDM, Shingle, Slate, Tar & Gravel, Other (please describe))
PVC

Age of Section (number of years since the Roof was installed or replaced) 20

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

We have repaired countless leaks and this is an ongoing issue that is getting worse with time.

Window Section A

Is the District seeking replacement of the Windows Section? YES

Windows in Section (count) 200

Type of WINDOWS (e.g., Single Pane, Double Pane, Other (please describe))

Single Pane

Age of Section (number of years since the Windows were installed or replaced) 49

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

Various hardware and hinge issues over the years.

MECHANICAL and ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical and electrical systems and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The heating system is controlled by pneumatics. There is no building management system installed to monitor and schedule this system. There is only a day and night setting available. We are constantly chasing air leaks in the pneumatic system, and there is little or no balance of climate throughout the building. The electrical is supplied to the building through a right of way at the northwest side of the building. We have constant issues with the supply causing a large amount of lighting ballast to burn out. There was a lighting upgrade in the early nineties that resulted in the upgrade of light fixtures with T-8 lamps. The building is equipped with the original 1968 gas fired emergency generator, which is serviced monthly and test runs are conducted weekly. There is a lot of original wiring that is beginning to wear and will need upgrading in the near future.

Boiler Section 1

Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler? YES

Is there more than one boiler room in the School? NO

What percentage of the School is heated by the Boiler? 100

Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)

Natural Gas or #2 Fuel oil

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced) 49

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

Numerous issues with controllers resulted in the replacement of them. Also fire brick inside boiler had to be repaired last year.

Boiler Section 2

Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler? YES

Is there more than one boiler room in the School? NO

What percentage of the School is heated by the Boiler? 100

Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)

Natural Gas or #2 Fuel Oil

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced) 49

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

We have had numerous failures on the boiler, some the result of failed main controllers which had to be replaced. The fire brick inside the boiler had to be repaired this past year as well.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the HVAC SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1967

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

none

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement:(YYYY) 1967

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

none

BUILDING INTERIOR: Please provide a detailed description of the current building interior including a description of the flooring systems, finishes, ceilings, lighting, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

The flooring system has been upgraded in some areas of the building where some of the asbestos containing floor tiles were failing and were replaced with new vinyl composite tile. There is still a large amount of asbestos tiles remaining and some of that is failing and will need to be replaced in the near future. The 2X4 ceiling tiles are in very poor condition with numerous holes and blemishes. The lighting system has numerous issues with ballasts needing to be changed before their lifespan has ended. The gym light fixtures were replaced with more energy efficient ones this past year. The interior walls are cinder block which are painted with various colors.

PROGRAMS and OPERATIONS: Please provide a detailed description of the current programs offered and grades served, and indicate whether there are program components that cannot be offered due to facility constraints, operational constraints, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

Programs in Grades 2,3 and 4 consist of the following: Students participate daily in learning activities in the areas of math, language arts, science and social studies in a full inclusion setting. Also, during the week students participate in physical education, library, computers, art and music. Students with severe disabilities receive their academic and behavioral services in a substantially separate setting called the New Horizons Program. Students with severe behavioral needs receive much of their academic and behavioral services in a substantially separate setting called the Pathways Program. However, they receive some direct instruction in the inclusion setting. Grade 4 students are eligible to participate in Chorus and Show Choir. They practice once per week from 7:30-8:15 AM and put on two performances during the school year. Balmer School offers an after school program called B.A.S.E. (Balmer After School Enrichment). This program is offered to all Balmer students. Students participate in such activities as homework session, computer enrichment and organized gym activities.

CORE EDUCATIONAL SPACES: Please provide a detailed description of the Core Educational Spaces within the facility, a description of the number and sizes (in square feet) of classrooms, a description of science rooms/labs including ages and most recent updates, a description of the cafeteria, gym and/or auditorium and a description of the media center/library (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Balmer School consists of 27 classrooms all of which are occupied. The average square footage of the core classrooms is 860 square feet. Some of the classrooms have chalkboards and some have white boards. Several classrooms have had smart boards installed over the past couple of years and we are in the process of installing 6 more at this time. Most of the classrooms have hand wash sinks in them. There are no science labs at all in this building. We are also using old locker room space for additional teaching space. There has been only minor updates performed to two classrooms where new vinyl floor tile was installed. We have also replaced the floor tiles in one corridor. We also updated the the lighting and ceiling in the main foyer area within the last two years.

CAPACITY and UTILIZATION: Please provide a detailed description of the current capacity and utilization of the school facility. If the school is overcrowded, please describe steps taken by the administration to address capacity issues. Please also describe in detail any spaces that have been converted from their intended use to be used as classroom space (maximum of 5000 characters).

The capacity in accordance with our yearly inspection certificates issued by our Building Inspector is 850 at any given time. At this time there are 629 students enrolled at Balmer. We are using every possible space available for teaching space. We have converted a locker room to a classroom by removing lockers and benches and replacing them with student desks. There are no chalk or white boards in this space for instructional use. The shower area has been converted to a classroom storage area. Another area off the gymnasium has been converted to an intensive special needs room. This room is located outside the main flow of the building. We are unable to move this space because every other classroom is now being used.

MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL REPAIR: Please provide a detailed description of the district's current maintenance practices, its capital repair program, and the maintenance program in place at the facility that is the subject of this SOI. Please include specific examples of capital repair projects undertaken in the past, including any override or debt exclusion votes that were necessary (maximum of 5000 characters).

All of our preventive maintenance as well as our work orders used to be entered into a data base. Due to manpower constraints at this time, the data entry of this system is not up to date. A five Year Capital Repair Project list is updated and submitted to the Town through the School Committee yearly. At this time we are working with the Town Manager and Finance Committee, seeking funding sources to complete future capital projects in town. This year with funds approved at Town Meeting we were able to complete several capital security projects including additional security cameras, the installation of "safe school door locks" on all classroom doors, key card access systems and the application of security window film. The boilers are cleaned and tested yearly. We have all of our feed water treated by an outside vendor to help prevent corrosion and extend the life of our heating plant. All pumps and uni-vents are serviced quarterly. Any malfunctions are fixed immediately. All floors are stripped and waxed yearly. Roof leaks are repaired as found.

Priority 5

Question 1: Please provide a detailed description of the issues surrounding the school facility systems (e.g., roof, windows, boilers, HVAC system, and/or electrical service and distribution system) that you are indicating require repair or replacement. Please describe all deficiencies to all systems in sufficient detail to explain the problem.

Currently there is no insulation in the exterior wall cavities. By installing insulation in the exterior walls and the areas around the uni-vents we would save substantially by preventing the heat from escaping through the walls. The current windows are the original ones which are of single pane. By installing double insulated panes we would save substantially on heat escaping the building as well as keeping the rooms a little cooler in the warmer months. The boilers are original and not very energy efficient. By installing new boilers from present day we could save a large amount of money spent on fuel as well as cutting down on our emissions. The uni-vents are original equipment with the exception of some motors that have been replaced from failure. The dampers do not operate properly resulting in cold air infiltration into the classrooms. The pneumatic system that now controls the heating system should be replaced with a direct digitally controlled system including a building management system to better maintain the correct temperature in all spaces. The underground oil storage tank is also the original and should be replaced at the time of building upgrades. New lighting in classrooms installed with day lighting controls could save the district a substantial amount of money. Some of the kitchen equipment needs to be updated with new energy star rated equipment. By instituting these many upgrades and replacements the district could save an estimated 40% on this school's electric and heat consumption.

Priority 5

Question 2: Please describe the measures the district has already taken to mitigate the problem/issues described in Question 1 above.

The district has installed a dual fuel burner on 1 of the boilers at this school. This enables us to burn whichever is the most cost effective fuel either #2 oil or natural gas. All light fixtures have been upgraded from T-12 lamps to a more energy efficient T-8 lamps. More energy efficient motors have been installed as replacements as needed. Lobby canister style light fixtures have been replaced with more efficient T-5 fixtures. The District partnered with National Grid for an energy audit and has taken advantage of the 70% National Grid incentive to move forward with updating lighting and installing occupancy sensors during 2012 school year. We have also replaced the high bay HID lamp fixtures in the gymnasium with more energy efficient super T5 units. We continue to work with National Grid and NStar Gas on any energy projects presented to us that would benefit the school system.

Priority 5

Question 3: Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem/issues described in Question 1 above on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

We are not able to provide a comfortable space for the children to learn in, whether it be from the poor lighting conditions or from the unbalanced heating of the building. The children need a more comfortable space with better lighting or day lighting in all the classrooms. A replacement heating system would allow more balance in temperatures. It is also noted that the circulation corridors throughout the building are not provided with any means of ventilation air. This condition is non-code compliant and does not provide a healthy environment for the students. We also have issues with air quality and life safety deficiencies in the closets that are now being used as teaching spaces.

Priority 5

Question 4: Please describe how addressing the school facility systems you identified in Question 1 above will extend the useful life of the facility that is the subject of this SOI and how it will improve your district's educational program.

By replacing or upgrading the equipment listed in this Statement of Interest you will be providing a healthier, safer, and more inviting learning environment for the students as well as the staff of this building. With the upgrades/replacements the town will realize a large savings in energy related costs. That savings can then be put towards programs that would benefit the student population.

Please also provide the following:

Have the systems identified above been examined by an engineer or other trained building professional?:

YES

If "YES", please provide the name of the individual and his/her professional affiliation (maximum of 250 characters):

Garcia and Galuska Consulting Engineers

The date of the inspection: 12/12/1996

A summary of the findings (maximum of 5000 characters):

The electrical distribution system has reached life expectancy. New distribution equipment should be installed to accommodate added computer loads in the instructional areas. The emergency lighting system should be updated for compliance with Life Safety codes and standards. The interior lighting system should be replaced with modern fixtures that will reduce glare and modernize the appearance of the interior spaces. The fire alarm system should be replaced entirely along new ADA approved devices. In addition new strobe lights should be installed in toilet rooms and classrooms. The recommended system would be of the addressable type where each device is identified at the control panel. The existing sound/intercommunication's system needs to be updated and expanded to include all spaces being used for teaching as well as all toilet rooms. The instructional and office portions of the school are using an extensive amount of extension cords. The use of these extension cords indicates inadequate quantities of convenience outlets. The general power system should be upgraded in all areas so adequate quantity of receptacles will be available for electronic teaching devices.

Priority 7

Question 1: Please provide a detailed description of the programs not currently available due to facility constraints, the state or local requirement for such programs, and the facility limitations precluding the programs from being offered.

At this time the Balmer School does not have any science labs. This precludes the students from learning the sciences by participating in live science experiments in a lab environment. The Balmer School does not have a full size functioning computer lab. The existing lab was a former teachers lounge and is very small in size with a total square footage of 320. Title 1 is forced to be held in corridors, and extended services are being held in spaces that were designed as closets because there are no proper classroom space left available. There are no changing areas for the gym students because the locker rooms also have been converted to classroom space.

Priority 7

Question 2: Please describe the measures the district has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

The Northbridge School Department had rough plans drawn up in August 2001 for the future upgrade and renovations of the Balmer school. Whether any of these plans would meet MSBA standards is unknown at this time.

Priority 7

Question 3: Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem described in this priority on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

By not having science labs the students can not do live lab experiments limiting them to book knowledge only and no hands on experience. The art room is also being held in a converted locker room with no sinks, and in very cramped quarters. Storage for the art room is in converted shower stalls. Not having the proper space to do a wide range of art projects is limiting the students quest to broaden their knowledge of art. One on One special needs services are being held in converted storage closets and offices. All of the existing closets in this building have been converted to teaching space, these spaces lack the proper ventilation and life safety devices that a normal teaching space would have.

Statement of Interest

Having convened in an open meeting on March 16, 2015, the **Board of Selectman** of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated March 9, 2015 for the **W. Edward Balmer School** located at 21 Crescent Street, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,

#7 Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

Chief Executive Officer *	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
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Theodore Kozak	Michael LeBrasseur	Catherine Stickney
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Town Manager		
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(signature)	(signature)	(signature)
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Date	Date	Date
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* Local Chief Executive Officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

OUTLINE OF THE AGGREGATION PROGRAM

(To be read at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen)

Municipalities are authorized by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164, Section 134(a) to aggregate the electric load of its residents and businesses.

At the Town Meeting on October 28, 2014, the residents voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to research, develop and implement an aggregation plan and enter into a contract with a competitive supplier of electricity.

The objectives of the aggregation plan are to:

- lower the cost of electricity;
- gain longer term price stability; and
- offer more renewable energy options.

The Board of Selectmen has selected an aggregation consultant, Good Energy, L.P., to:

- develop the aggregation plan;
- formulate and implement a public outreach and education program;
- guide the aggregation plan through a very strict and comprehensive review and approval process with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU);
- develop a Request for Proposals for a competitive electricity supplier;
- monitor and manage the aggregation plan during the term of the competitive supplier contract; and
- develop and submit all required reports to the Board of Selectmen and DOER.

An important element of the process leading to approval of the aggregation plan of a municipality by the DPU is to allow for review of the aggregation plan by its citizens. The aggregation plan is available for review in the Town Manager's Office and on the Town's website.

Citizens will have a two-week period to submit written comments and the public will be able to offer oral comments at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 6, 2015.

Comments by citizens will be taken into consideration before the aggregation plan is submitted to the DPU for their review and approval.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MARCH 16, 2015

- 1. Legislative Breakfast:** Attended the Mass. Municipal Association's Legislative Breakfast for Central Mass. communities. One of the discussions included the Governor's proposed budget and how it will affect our communities.
- 2. WGM Fabricators, LLC TIF Agreement Hearing:** We have been notified by the Mass. Office of Business Development that a hearing will be held on March 26, 2015, for WGM Fabricators, LLC's proposed TIF Agreement and other economic incentives by the State. I plan on attending.
- 3. South Middlesex Opportunity Council [SMOC] Open House:** Attended the SMOC Open House at 75 Church Avenue in Northbridge.
- 4. Sutton Sewer Expansion to Walmart:** Attended a meeting with Mark Kuras, Sewer Superintendent, and representatives from Sutton and Walmart on a proposed sewer line expansion for Walmart. The project will be heading into the engineering phase.
- 5. Economic Development Strategies Meeting:** Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, has organized a meeting with representatives from various businesses and land developers to discuss economic opportunities in the community and how the town can assist in this process.