



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways & Means
Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

April 20, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0463, message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) two Statements of Interest.

Docket #0464, message and order for your approval a revised order authorizing the City of Boston to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest for its Accelerated Repair Program for the following schools: Haley Pilot School, Curley K-8 School Lower Building, Burke High School, Henderson K-12 Inclusion School Upper Campus, Ohrenberger School, and English High School.

These matters were sponsored by the Administration. They were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on April 6, 2022.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0464 requests approval to submit Statements of Interest (SOI) for funding consideration from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) to address window, door, and boiler deficiencies at the following schools:

- Haley Pilot School, Roslindale – Boiler
- Curley K-8 Lower Building, Jamaica Plain – Boiler
- Burke High School, Dorchester – Boilers
- Henderson K-12 Upper Campus, Dorchester – Roof
- Ohrenberger, West Roxbury – Roof
- English High School, Jamaica Plain – Roof and Windows

Docket #0463 requests approval to submit to the MSBA SOIs for the Blackstone School and the Otis School. The SOIs describe and explain the deficiencies and the priority categories for which the City of Boston may be invited to apply to the MSBA in the future.

The SOI is the first step in a process to engage in discussion with the MSBA (the State authority that oversees construction for public schools throughout the Commonwealth and is funded by a

small portion of the State sales tax) for potential funding, which would reimburse the City for a percentage of the cost of certain repairs.

The SOIs under Docket #0464 are for the MSBA ARP, which covers projects involving repair or replacement of roofs, windows/doors, and boilers in otherwise structurally sound facilities. The proposed repairs will not only materially extend the useful life of the schools and preserve Boston Public Schools' assets, but provide a comfortable and pleasant environment more conducive to learning for the students, and also provide energy-efficient and cost saving upgrades, which will result in direct operational savings for the school district. The SOIs under Docket #0463 will be submitted for the MSBA Core Program, which supports facility projects covering extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a public hearing on Dockets #0463 #0464 on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. David Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer at Boston Public Schools (BPS), Indira Alvarez, Chief Operations Officer at BPS, Brian Forde, Director of Facilities at BPS, Kerrie Griffin, Director, Public Facilities Department (PFD), and Morgan McDaniel, Director of Strategic Capital Investments, testified on behalf of the Administration.

Mr. Bloom gave an overview of MSBA, stating that it is a state agency that provides additional funding to local districts to be able to conduct facility improvements and construct new school buildings. He stated that there are two main programs operated by the MSBA. The Core Program supports projects covering extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction. The Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) supports projects covering repair or replacement of roofs, windows/doors, and boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility. Mr. Bloom discussed the City's relationship with the MSBA programs, stating that BPS has been approved for approximately \$206 million reimbursements from the MSBA since 2015, which helped fund 31 school projects.

It was explained that the two dockets represent authorization to submit SOIs for two Core projects (Docket #0463) and a correction to the previously approved ARP SOIs for six schools (Docket #0464). Regarding next steps, the MSBA will review SOIs over summer and fall 2022, leading to decisions in late fall 2022/early winter 2023, following which BPS would return to the Council for funding authorizations.

Committee Chair Recommended Action:

The Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, to which the following were referred:

Docket #0463, message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) two Statements of Interest, and

Docket #0464, message and order for your approval a revised order authorizing the City of Boston to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest for its Accelerated Repair Program for the following schools: Haley Pilot School, Curley K-8 School Lower Building, Burke High School, Henderson K-12 Inclusion School Upper Campus, Ohrenberger School, and English High School,

submits a report recommending that these dockets **ought to pass**.

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Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means