



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 25, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #0458, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program for Madison Park Technical Vocational High School pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 5. The Statement of Interest describes and explains the deficiencies within the school facility that prevents Boston Public Schools (BPS) from delivering their desired educational program.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on February 12, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0458 requests approval to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) for funding consideration from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program to address deficiencies within Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (Madison Park) that prevent Boston Public Schools (BPS) from delivering their desired education program.

If accepted, the Madison Park Technical Vocational High School would be the seventh school to be part of the MSBA CORE program, after the Dearborn STEM Academy, the Boston Arts Academy, the Josiah Quincy Upper School, the Carter School, the Ruth Batson Academy, and the Shaw-Taylor Elementary School (the latter two being in the eligibility period and the feasibility study stages of the process, respectively).

Submitting this SOI (Docket #0458) in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Monday March 3, 2025 to discuss Dockets #0458-0459. Brian McLaughlin, Senior Project Manager, Boston Public Schools (BPS), Delavern Stanislaus, Chief of Capital Planning, BPS, Carleton Jones, Executive Director, Public Facilities Department, and Brian Forde, Chief Operating Officer, BPS testified on behalf of the Administration.

The BPS team provided a brief overview of MSBA, stating it is a State agency that provides additional funding to local districts to be able to conduct facility improvements and construct new school buildings. They stated that there are two main programs operated by the MSBA. The Core Program supports projects covering extensive repairs, renovations, additions, renovations and new school construction. The



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Accelerated Program (ARP) supports projects including replacement of roofs, windows, doors and boilers in structurally sound facilities.

Representatives provided an overview of the Madison Park Redesign Project Timeline, which is as follows:

- Programming and feasibility study, performed by Annum Architects (Sept, 2022 - Oct, 2023)
- Selection of Owner's Project Manager, LeftField (Nov, 2023)
- Programming and feasibility study for Adult Education and Re-Engagement Center (Nov, 2023 - Aug, 2024)
- Labor market analysis of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs (Jan, 2024 - May, 2024)
- Designer Selection Team, including Madison Park alumni, select design team (May, 2024 - July, 2024)
- Design team provided updated design concepts and cost estimates (Summer, 2024 - Fall, 2024)
- Deadline to submit SOI to the MSBA Core Program (April, 2025)

Representatives provided granular data on community engagement throughout the Madison Park Redesign project, and clarified the City's funding strategy for the school. They stated the City is committed to a full redesign of Madison Park, with no sacrifice of core academic elements to bring costs down. They stated this will be a legacy investment for BPS, and is expected to be the largest-ever capital project for both the school district and the City because of the facilities of vocational schools and the reality of construction costs nationally. Applying to the MSBA will make it possible for the City to fulfill its original commitments to Madison Park without capitulating on costs, but will extend the project timeline because of the nature of the MSBA Core Program. The steps of the MSBA Core Program are as follows: submit SOI, eligibility period, select project team, feasibility study, schematic design, project scope and budget (alongside Project Funding Agreements), design, bidding, construction, and project closeout.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Brian J. Worrell, Chair
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