



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Kenzie Bok, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

December 1, 2021

Dear Councilors:

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

Docket #1166, message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to appropriate the amount of One Million Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$1,212,000.00) for the purpose of paying the cost of a feasibility study and schematic design associated with the boiler and window and door replacement projects at certain Boston Public Schools, including the payments of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City of Boston may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Public Facilities Department on behalf of the Boston Public Schools.

This matter was sponsored by the Administration and was referred to the Committee on November 17, 2021.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1166 is an appropriation in the amount of \$1,212,000 for a feasibility study and schematic design work associated with projects at the following schools:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| ● Boston Day & Evening Academy (Wheatley Building) | Roxbury | Windows and Doors |
| ● Henderson Upper (Wilson Building) | Dorchester | Partial Boiler |
| ● Rafael Hernandez | Jamaica Plain | Windows and Doors |
| ● William E. Russell | Dorchester | Boiler |

These repairs will not only materially extend the useful life of the schools and preserve BPS 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.

These projects have been selected for feasibility studies and schematic design work through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program (ARP). The

MSBA is the State authority that oversees the funding of public school capital projects throughout the Commonwealth, and is funded by one penny of the State sales tax. The MSBA has two funding programs, the ARP, which covers projects involving minor upgrades of roofs, windows/doors, and boilers in otherwise structurally sound facilities; and the Core Program, which covers projects involving extensive repairs, renovations, additions, or new construction.

Information Received at Hearing

A public hearing was held on this docket on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Boston Public Schools (BPS) Deputy Chief Financial Officer David Bloom and City of Boston Public Facilities Department (PFD) Director Kerrie Griffin testified on behalf of the Administration.

Mr. Bloom explained that each year BPS and PFD collaborate on a series of projects to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program (ARP). He explained that Docket #1166 is an order to appropriate funds for feasibility studies and schematic design work related to projects at Boston Day and Evening Academy, Henderson Upper, Rafael Hernandez, and William E. Russell, for which the City submitted Statements of Interest to the MSBA in June 2021 and received approval in October 2021. It was explained that following approval of Docket #1166, the MSBA will assign a consultant team for the project, which will begin design in Spring 2022. Project construction would be anticipated to begin in Summer 2023 (following an MSBA full project approval and construction appropriation approval by the Council). It was explained that the four projects chosen for this ARP cycle were identified due to the age and typical life cycle of the assets involved: the boilers at the Henderson and Russell are 43 and 44 years old (with a typical asset useful life of 35); and the windows at Boston Day and Evening and the Hernandez are 32 and 33 years old.

The MSBA reimbursement rate for the aforementioned ARP projects for eligible costs is 60.42% this year.

Since 2015, 29 projects have been approved and received funding from the MSBA. Approved ARP projects from 2015-2020 cost an estimated \$71.6 million, of which the City is eligible for MSBA reimbursement of around \$41.4 million. Including Core Program projects, total reimbursement from the MSBA since 2015 is \$183 million. These projects are representative of a significant increase in the City's use of the MSBA programs over the past six years.

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 that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that the matter **OUGHT TO BE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ASSIGNED FOR FURTHER ACTION**.



Kenzie Bok, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means