



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means

Tania Fernandes Anderson, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 31, 2023

Dear Councilors:

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

Docket #0576, Message and order for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program for the P.A. Shaw Elementary School and the Charles H. Taylor Elementary School pursuant to M.G.L Chapter. 70B, Section 5. The Statement of Interest describes and explains the deficiencies within each of the school facilities that prevent them from delivering their desired educational program.

This matter was sponsored by the Administration, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on March 15, 2023.

Summary

Docket #0576 requests approval to submit Statements of Interest (SOI) for funding consideration from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program to address deficiencies at the following schools:

- P.A. Shaw Elementary School, 429 Norfolk Street, Dorchester, MA. 02124
- Charles H. Taylor Elementary School, 1060 Morton Street, Mattapan, MA. 02126

Both schools will be submitted for improvements with each of the school facilities that prevent them from delivering their desired education program. The SOI for the facilities listed above describe deficiencies submitted under Priority #4: Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; Priority #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; and Priority #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.

Information Received at Hearing

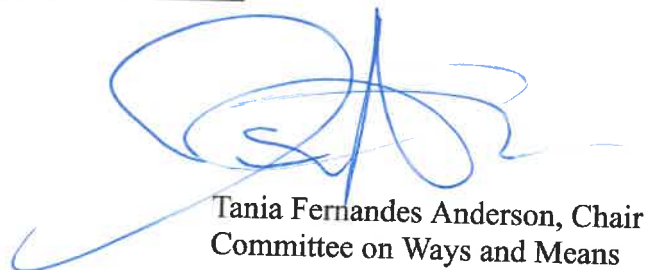
The Committee held a public hearing on Docket #0576 on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. Brien McLaughlin, Project Manager at Boston Public Schools (BPS), Rebecca Grainger, Senior Advisor for Youth and Schools at the Mayor's Office; Delavern Stanislaus, Chief of Capital Planning at BPS; and Carleton Jones, Assistant Director of Operations at the Public Facilities Department (PFD) testified on behalf of the Administration.

Chief Stanislaus provided a presentation and stated the MSBA is a state agency that offers competitive grants to municipalities to support school construction and renovation projects. She stated BPS has committed to constructing a new preK-6 elementary school in Dorchester and Mattapan. The 2017 enrollment and demographic analysis through BuildBPS showed that Dorchester and Mattapan are high-growth neighborhoods with a disproportionate number of Boston's school-aged children. Southern Dorchester (02124) and Mattapan (02126) have also seen disproportionately less investment. Out of 40 MSBA Accelerated Repair Program projects since 2015, only one has been in Mattapan, and four have been in Southern Dorchester. BPS plans to submit an SOI for the Shaw and Taylor Schools. If invited into the Core program, BPS would begin the process of building one new facility for the combined Shaw-Taylor school community.

The panelists provided a timeline of the project stating that they gave a presentation to the School Committee on March 15, 2023 in which the Committee gave their approval on March 22, 2023. The SOI is due to the MSBA on April 14, 2023 and BPS will receive notification from the MSBA by the end of 2023.

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 these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.



Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means