

District: Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District
School Names: Southwick-Tolland Regional High School
Powder Mill School
Woodland Elementary School
Date: March 21, 2012

Background:

On November 16, 2011, the MSBA Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to enter into a Project Scope and Budget Agreement and a Project Funding Agreement with the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District (“District”) for an addition and renovation project at the Southwick-Tolland Regional High School and for repair projects at the Powder Mill Middle School and the Woodland Elementary School.

The Towns of Granville, Southwick, and Tolland passed town meeting votes on January 9, 10, and 11, 2012, respectively, in preparation for an override vote scheduled for January 31, 2012. The override vote passed in the Towns of Granville and Tolland, but did not in the Town of Southwick.

The District notified the MSBA of its intent for a second attempt to seek authorization from the Town of Southwick. On March 10, 2012, after extensive local discussions, the District School Building Committee voted to accept and proceed with value engineering recommendations valued at approximately \$3 million, reducing the scope from what was approved by the MSBA Board of Directors on November 16, 2011.

On March 20, 2012, the District School Committee voted to borrow funds to pay for the revised project, thus initiating a 60-day period within which the Select Board of the Town of Southwick will consider the project, which is anticipated to occur in late March or early April. The District’s local counsel and bond counsel have advised that the approved votes in the Towns of Granville and Tolland remain valid and no additional action is required. The request for debt exclusion in the Town of Southwick will be added to the ballot scheduled for May 8, 2012.

Discussion:

For the Middle/High addition and renovation project, the District’s proposed scope reductions include elimination of an outdoor lunch area and reductions in furniture, equipment, and paving. For the elementary and middle school repair projects, the District’s proposed changes include eliminating the planned replacement of playground equipment and existing white boards, and renovating three existing PK classrooms instead of replacing them with two larger PK classrooms.

MSBA staff reviewed and discussed the updated project scope and the Superintendent’s confirmation that the proposed changes will not impair delivery of the District’s educational curriculum. Staff agrees and has recommended that the District continue its efforts to secure local authorization in the Town of Southwick. Staff supports an extension of 107 days beyond the initial 120-day deadline, to June 30, 2012, in furtherance of the District’s efforts to secure local authorization for the proposed project.