

District: City of Holyoke  
School Name: Lt. Elmer J. McMahon/H.B. Lawrence School  
Recommended Category: Feasibility Study - Feasibility Study Agreement Extension Request  
Date: May 3, 2017

### **Recommendation**

That the Executive Director be authorized to update and extend the Feasibility Study Agreement between the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) and the City of Holyoke (the “City”) as part of its Invitation to Feasibility Study for the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School in order to replace the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School SOI with the H.B. Lawrence School SOI, as its newly elected priority SOI, and to proceed with a Feasibility Study for the H.B. Lawrence School for the duration of 30 months.

### **Discussion**

In response to the critical need of the City of Holyoke (the “District”) and the Receiver, Dr. Stephen Zrike Jr., to properly target the expenditure of the District’s limited resources in the implementation of its Level 5 District Turnaround Plan for the Holyoke Public Schools, the Board voted on March 30, 2016 to allow the District to complete a Survey of the conditions at all of the District’s educational facilities as part of the Feasibility Study for the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School.

At the February 15, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, staff provided an update regarding the City’s desire to pursue a Feasibility Study for a potential project that would serve the City’s middle school population, which was based upon a review of its educational program and priorities. Staff also outlined subsequent action items for the City to complete locally and in collaboration with the MSBA.

The City has since completed conversations with local officials, school committee members, and community members to affirm local support. Subsequently, the City Council voted to remove the Statement of Interest (the “SOI”) for the proposed Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School project and voted to replace the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School SOI with the submission of the H.B. Lawrence School SOI, as its newly elected priority SOI. On March 21, 2017, the City Council authorized and approved the funding for the costs associated with the Feasibility Study and Schematic Design for the H.B. Lawrence School.

Therefore, staff is recommending that the City be authorized to replace the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School SOI with the submission of the H.B. Lawrence School SOI, as its newly elected priority SOI, and to proceed with a Feasibility Study for the H.B. Lawrence School for the duration of 30 months.