



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
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Mary L. Pichetti
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

February 25, 2025

Mr. Brad Morgan
Superintendent of School
North Middlesex Regional School District
66 Brookline Street
Townsend, MA 01469

Dear Superintendent Morgan,

Thank you for contacting the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") regarding the reported vote of the North Middlesex Regional School District ("District") School Committee to close the Ashby Elementary School. I am writing in response to the letter received dated February 14, 2025 addressing the MSBA project at the Ashby Elementary School and the possible impact if the school was closed and the letter received dated February 25, 2025 addressing the Spaulding Memorial School impact if that school was potentially closed.

The MSBA participated in a prior project, through the MSBA's Green Repair Program, at the Ashby Elementary School, for which the District received a grant of \$759,362 from the MSBA. This prior project has a substantial completion date of September 8, 2012.

The MSBA participated in a prior project, through the MSBA's Green Repair Program, at the Spaulding Memorial School, for which the District received a grant of \$513,373 from the MSBA. This prior project has a substantial completion date of July 23, 2012.

When a school district closes a school for which that district received a project grant from the MSBA, the MSBA may recapture a portion of the financial assistance that the district has received for such projects at that facility, based on the number of years the school has been in service since the project completion date.

The MSBA has reviewed the potential grant repayment in connection with the planned closure of the Ashby Elementary School and calculated an estimated recapture amount of \$273,370. This amount has been calculated with an assumed closure date of July 15, 2025, based on the information that has been provided that the building will no longer be used after the current school year. The stated amount is subject to change based on the actual closure date.

Cost Recovery associated with Prior Projects	
Prior Project ID Number:	201107350010G
Prior Project Total Grant:	\$759,362
Prior Project Substantial Completion:	9/18/2012
Identified School Closed:	7/15/2025
Unused Building as %:	100.00%
Beneficial use (years):	12.80
Unused Years	7.20
Unused Years as % of 20:	36.00%
Prior Project Cost Recovery:	\$273,370

The MSBA has reviewed the potential grant repayment in connection with the potential closure of the Spaulding Memorial School and calculated an estimated recapture amount of \$179,681. This amount has been calculated with an assumed closure date of July 15, 2025, based on the information that has been provided that the building will no longer be used after the current school year. The stated amount is subject to change based on the actual closure date.

Cost Recovery associated with Prior Projects	
Prior Project ID Number:	201107350005G
Prior Project Total Grant:	\$513,373
Prior Project Substantial Completion:	7/23/2012
Identified School Closed:	7/15/2025
Unused Building as %:	100.00%
Beneficial use (years):	13.00
Unused Years	7.00
Unused Years as % of 20:	35.00%
Prior Project Cost Recovery:	\$179,681

Additionally, the MSBA's enabling legislation, M.G.L. c. 70B, and the MSBA's regulations, 963 CMR 2.00 et seq., which specifically address the issue of school closures and set forth a number of requirements that a district must meet in connection with any such closure, including:

- If a school district submits a Statement of Interest to the MSBA and applies for a grant after having removed a school facility from service, the district will only be eligible for a grant if the MSBA determines that the grant is not for the purpose of replacing a school facility that

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was removed from service in the past ten years or that the need for the grant could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time of the removal from service.

- When reviewing grant requests for proposed projects, the MSBA looks at multiple options that may address the school building deficiency. Foreclosing potential options that could solve school building problems by removing a school facility from service will affect the MSBA's consideration of current and future Statements of Interest and proposed projects.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information contained in this letter.

Sincerely,



Michael McGurl

Director of Capital Planning

Cc. Legislative Delegation

Nancy Haines, Business Administrator, North Middlesex Regional School District

Lisa Martin, Chair, North Middlesex Regional School District School Committee

Mary Daughraty, Ashby Town Administrator

Dave Nadeau, Chair, Ashby Board of Selectmen

Andrew MacLean, Pepperell Town Administrator

Mark Matthews, Chair, Pepperell Board of Selectmen

Nelson Mui, Townsend Town Administrator

Lauren Shifrin, Chair, Townsend Board of Selectmen

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