

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Sutton

District Contact Cecilia M Di Bella TEL: (508) 581-1600

Name of School Sutton Middle School

Submission Date 7/31/2007

The following Priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
4. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse.
6. Short term enrollment growth.
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.
8. Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

Note

Priority 1

Please provide a detailed description of the perceived health and safety problems below. Attach copies of orders or citations from state and/or local building and/or health officials.

Existing conditions in Sutton Middle and High Schools presented in the enclosed Feasibility Study document a variety of health, safety, and security issues that are jeopardizing over nine hundred students and staff in these schools. There are eight major problem areas that demonstrate our concern.

1. Air quality: Due to the age of the HVAC system, temperature control and air circulation is very poor. Because of rampant outbreaks of colds and respiratory illnesses, the teacher's association has requested air quality testing in all classrooms and instructional areas.
2. Water Quality: The quality of the drinking water is another health concern. The district is required to contract for monthly water testing due to the quality of the well water used by the facility. Recent water tests indicate higher levels of minerals. As a result, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has issued a mandate requiring the district to install a filtration and treatment system by July 2008.
3. Building security: The district has developed an emergency response plan with the local police and fire departments. In spite of our many precautions and detailed plans, the layout of the middle and high school offices are not conducive to ensuring the security of the buildings. Neither office has a direct line of sight to the entrance. The high school office presents an additional problem because the entrance and office are on two different levels. Even with a video cam and buzzer system, anyone gaining entrance can disappear in the building.
4. Fire rated door assemblies: Egress doors in the High School at existing stairs do not meet current fire code.
5. Fire protection systems: No sprinklers in either the middle or high school. Also, fire extinguisher cabinets are insufficient.
6. Fire alarm system: Existing alarm system is not code compliant. Also does not meet handicap ADA requirements.
7. Accessibility: Facility does not meet current handicap code creating safety hazards for the disabled.
8. Exit signs: Existing exit signage is old and does not meet current code.

Priority 1

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

The Sutton Middle School includes grades 6, 7, and 8. Severe overcrowding has forced the district to relocate all sixth grade classes to the second floor of the elementary school. At the high school, program expansion in special education and needed new AP courses have been prohibited due to lack of space. Square footage for existing instructional programs at the middle and high school are far below current standards. In addition, shortages in classroom space have resulted in large class sizes at both the middle and high school.

At the middle school, classrooms average 850sf compared to the new MSBA standard of 950sf. At the high school, classroom sizes average 590sf to 740sf, which are well below the 950sf MSBA standard and result in overcrowded classrooms. Also, some of these classrooms are located in the basement with no views to the outside.

The total FTE number of students currently in the Sutton Middle School is 406, with 402 at the high school. Using the new MSBA standard of 190sf/student for middle schools and 205sf/student for high schools, the middle/high school with shared "core" facilities should be 159,550gsf. Currently, the Middle/high School has a total of 132,952gsf that results in a shortage of 26,598gsf. This shortage is the primary cause of the current space problems and increases to a bigger shortage with the 10-year enrollment projection.

Priority 2

Please describe the existing conditions that constitute severe overcrowding.

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Priority 2

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

An undesirable consequence of overcrowding is that the district has had to reduce "Special Subjects" to free up general classroom space, particularly at the middle school. At the high school in 2005, two larger classrooms were divided to create two additional classrooms. No other possibilities exist without expanding the size of the schools.

Priority 3

Please provide a detailed description of the "facility-related" issues that are threatening accreditation.

In October, 2004, NEASC placed Sutton High School in "Warning" status, due in large part to the following facility-related findings:

- (1) Provide an adequate number of additional classrooms for increasing enrollments.
- (2) Provide adequate science laboratories that have the necessary and modern equipment, facilities, and safety devices to conduct appropriate learning activities.
- (3) Provide appropriate space for the Media Production program.
- (4) Provide an appropriate band room.
- (5) Provide adequate space for all classrooms to allow for best instructional practices.
- (6) Provide increased space in the media center
- (7) Provide appropriate technology facilities for students.

Until space issues are addressed, the High School will remain in Warning Status or, if there is no progress overall, the High School could be placed on "Probation" by the NEASC.

Priority 3

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

1. Appropriation of \$65,000 for a school improvements feasibility study.
2. Science room renovations.

Priority 4

Please describe the conditions within the community and School District that are expected to result in increased enrollment.

The projected increasing enrollments over the next 10 years shows the middle school (grades 6-8) increasing from 406 to 438. This increase will require at least 1 more classroom plus other spaces. Two more classrooms will be required in 2013-14 when the total is projected to reach 461.

The high school 10 year projected enrollments (grades 9-12) are expected to increase from the current 402 to 517. This 28% increase will have a fairly significant impact on the space needs for classrooms and other High School spaces.

The current overcrowding and lack of space will be further impacted by this projected increase in students, particularly at the High School.

Priority 4

Please describe the measures the School District has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

(District made no comment in the space provided)

Priority 5

Please provide a detailed description of the energy conservation measures that are needed and include an estimation of resultant energy savings as compared to the historic consumption.

The steam heating system in the Sutton High School is fifty-seven years old. As a result, the system has numerous problems and should be replaced. There are old cast iron radiators, fin tube radiation, unit ventilators, exhaust fans, and old air handling units that are all antiquated and have reached the end of their useful life.

In the "core building," the HVAC systems are not as old as the 1949 High School systems, but there are still numerous problems with inadequate ventilation, poor temperature control, failed compressors, and air handling units that are not operating properly.

The 1955 middle school HVAC system has fifty-one year old unit ventilators in the classrooms, and an antiquated temperature control system, inadequate ventilation and air circulation systems, and roof exhaust fans that all should be replaced. This will improve code required ventilation and energy efficiency for the buildings.

Priority 5

Please describe the measures the School District has already taken to reduce energy consumption.

HVAC systems have been replaced and repaired when required, but none of this has fully addressed the antiquated systems in the High School and Middle School.

Priority 7

Please provide a detailed description of the programs not currently available due to facility constraints, the state or local requirement for such programs and the facility limitations precluding the programs from being offered.

The NEASC report and Flansburgh Feasibility study document program and instructional limitations that result in diminished and below standard educational offerings in science, music, video production, broadcasting, media center, and technology. Space restrictions also prevent expansion of in-district SPED programs, necessitating costly out-of-district placements. In addition, the Mass Department of Education's Coordinated Program Review, conducted in June 2006, cited the district for holding regular and SPED classes in Sub-basement rooms in violation of state standards. There is no space available to relocate these classes.

The following spaces and programs are lacking or are too small in the middle and high school using the 10-year enrollment projections.

Existing	Needs	Shortage
Classrooms (6-8) 12 @ 850sf	18 @ 950sf	6,900sf
Classrooms (9-12) 14 @ 760sf	20 @ 950sf	8,360sf
Music 1 @ 1,500sf	3 @ 1,700sf	3,600sf
Special Ed. 3 @ 760sf	7 @ 800sf	3,320sf
Media Center 1 @ 2,600sf	1 @ 6,500sf	3,900sf
Auditorium 1 @ 2,940sf	1 @ 10,000sf	7,060sf
Science 4 @ 1,300sf	6 @ 1,300sf	2,600sf

Priority 7

Please describe the measures the School District has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

The 6th grade has been temporarily moved into 6 classrooms in the Elementary School. Three of these 6 classrooms will be needed for SPED programs in the Elementary School and the other 3 will be needed for other Elementary grade classrooms as enrollments increase in K-5 over the next 10 years. This will force the 6th grade to return to the middle school where there is currently no more space.

Vote

Vote of Municipal Governing Body YES: 5 NO: 0 Date: Jul 26 2006

Vote of School Committee YES: 4 NO: 0 Date: Jun 26 2006

Vote of Regional School Committee YES: NO: Date:

Form of Vote

The following form of vote should be used by both the City Council/Board of Aldermen, Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body AND the School Committee in voting to approve this Statement of Interest.

If a regional school district, the regional school district should use the following form of vote.

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on _____, the _____ *[City Council/Board of Aldermen, Board of Selectmen/Equivalent Governing Body, School Committee]* of _____ *[City/Town/School District]*,

in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated _____ for the _____ *[Name of School]* located at

_____ *[Address]* which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which

_____ *[Name of City/Town/District]* may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

_____ *[Insert a description of the priority(s) checked off on the Statement of Interest and a brief description of the deficiency described therein for each priority];* and hereby further specifically

acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the

_____ *[Name of City/Town/District]* to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

**LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT/SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR
(E.g., Mayor, Town Manager, Board of Selectmen)**

Chief Executive Officer	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
_____	_____	_____
(print name)	(print name)	(print name)
_____	_____	_____
(signature)	(signature)	(signature)
_____	_____	_____
Date	Date	Date