



Massachusetts School Building Authority

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MSBA DESIGNER SELECTION PANEL RECOMMENDS DESIGN PARTNERSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE FOR BROOKLINE'S JOHN D. RUNKLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Panel Promotes High Quality School Design, Accountability and Oversight

BOSTON, MA- State Treasurer Tim Cahill, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") and Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director, announced today that the MSBA's Designer Selection Panel ("DSP") working with the Town of Brookline have recommended that a contract be awarded to Design Partnership of Cambridge, Inc for the design of the Runkle School project. The creation in 2006 of the Designer Selection Panel was a major reform of the school building construction process, aimed at selecting the highest quality design services for school districts. The selection of the design team for the Runkle School is a significant step towards the ultimate addition/renovation of the Runkle School that will result in a vastly improved educational environment for the students of Brookline.

Of the thirteen applicant firms, the three architectural firms interviewed by the DSP and recommended to the Town of Brookline were ranked as follows: 1. Design Partnership of Cambridge, Inc., 2. Flansburgh Associates, Inc., and 3. Miller Dyer Spears, Inc. Qualifications of the architecture firms, with particular emphasis on previous experience and current qualifications for the project, past performance, and current project workload were seriously considered in selecting the most qualified firms for the Runkle School project.

"The creation of this panel will ensure that Massachusetts' students and teachers are learning and working in the highest quality schools," said State Treasurer Tim Cahill, Chair of the MSBA. "Since creating the MSBA in 2004, we have been able to keep the costs of school construction under control, while implementing state of the art designs and green technology."

"Both the MSBA and the Town of Brookline were very satisfied with the outcome of this meeting. This is a major step forward in bringing a high quality learning environment to the schoolchildren of Brookline," stated Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director.

"We were very pleased with the process used to get to this point and thrilled to be able to move on to the next phase of the Runkle renovation," commented Dr. William Lupini, Superintendent of Brookline Public Schools.

The statute that created the MSBA places tremendous emphasis on planning, due diligence and prioritization of MSBA resources. The DSP is authorized to select designers, programmers and other entities providing feasibility studies in connection with public school construction projects seeking funding from the MSBA and whose construction cost will potentially be \$5M or greater. The DSP, which includes the participation of local officials associated with a project, plays a critical role in the selection and recommendation of the best available design firms for the modernization and construction of Massachusetts public school facilities so that precious state dollars are invested in better designed schools that are structurally safe and encourage student learning.

To date, the MSBA has made approximately \$5.8 billion in reimbursements to cities and towns for school construction projects inherited from the former program -- \$3.8 billion of which are accelerated "payments-in-full" to districts which had been waiting years for a partial payment from the state prior to the creation of the MSBA. Those payments have saved municipalities millions of dollars in interest costs and reinvigorated a system that once had \$11 billion in outstanding obligations. In its four-year history, the MSBA has successfully contained the Commonwealth's formerly rampant and unsustainable financial liability for the costs of 1,150 local school construction projects and in 2007 was able to reopen a sustainable, reformed grant program as a result of programmatic reforms and sound fiscal management.