



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Steven Grossman
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director

September 7, 2011

The Honorable James M. Ruberto
Mayor, City of Pittsfield
70 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Re: Taconic High School and Pittsfield High School

Dear Mayor Ruberto:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") has received the draft copies of educational plans for both Taconic High School ("THS") and Pittsfield High School ("PHS"), as well as the Preliminary Overview of the Pittsfield and Berkshire County Labor Market Study dated June 26, 2011. These documents were received by the MSBA on July 14, 2011.

The MSBA understands that the District has sent a copy of the above mentioned documents to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, with the expectation that DESE will review the City's proposed expansion and revision of Chapter 74 vocational programs in the Pittsfield District.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of your program review with DESE. Based on a preliminary review of the documents, MSBA does have some comments and questions that we would like to better understand **after** the District has had the opportunity to complete its review with DESE:

Education Plan

- The MSBA notes that the introduction to both education plans remarks that the documents have not been shared with the public or school staff. What is the District's plan and timetable for doing this?
- Stem Programs are suggested for THS but not described or tied to the program, or to the labor market analysis.
- The THS plan refers to Music / Performing Arts Programs at that facility, although it has been our understanding that all liberal arts programs will be relocated to PHS. Please comment on the District's intent to relocate Music / Performing Arts Programs to the PHS.
- There is no specific description of how electronic technology in the proposed facilities(s) will affect the program.



Labor Market Analysis

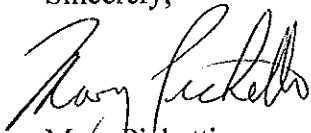
How is the number of students proposed for each program supported by the Labor Market Analysis? Please provide the following information:

1. Projected numbers of students in each program. Do the results of the labor market analysis support these programs or will the programs be adjusted?
2. Data regarding numbers of required classes, elective classes or vocational programs.
3. Describe how the student populations at both high schools will be divided (to what extent and based on what criteria).

Please let us know when you expect to have completed your review of these programs and the Labor Market Study with DESE so that we may schedule a meeting to review your findings.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Karl Brown (Karl.Brown@MassSchoolBuildings.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Senator Benjamin Downing
Representative Paul Mark
Representative William Smitty Pignatelli
Kevin Sherman, Councilor At Large, City Council, City of Pittsfield
Kristen Harrington, Deputy Purchasing Agent, City of Pittsfield
Kathleen Amuso, Chairman, School Committee, Pittsfield Public Schools
Dr. Howard J. Eberwein, Superintendent, Pittsfield Public Schools
Paul Kneedler, Owner's Project Manager, Skanska USA Building
Tricia Farley-Bouvier, School Building Needs Commission, City of Pittsfield
File: Letters 10.2 (Region 1)