



Massachusetts School Building Authority

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Chief Executive Officer

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Executive Director / Deputy CEO

March 9, 2021

Ms. Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent
Nashoba Regional School District
50 Mechanic Street
Bolton, MA 01740

Re: Nashoba Regional School District, Nashoba Regional High School

Dear Ms. Clenchy:

I would like to thank you and representatives of the Nashoba Regional School District (the “District”) for meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) staff on January 27, 2021 and for the additional materials received on February 1, 2021 and February 16, 2021 to review enrollment projections and methodologies for the Nashoba Regional High School project (the “Proposed Project”). As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on a design enrollment for the Nashoba Regional High School.

The MSBA works with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools across Massachusetts. A critical early component in achieving these objectives begins with an appropriate design enrollment that positions the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout potential future enrollment variations.

The MSBA uses a data driven enrollment projection methodology based on the widely accepted modified grade-to-grade cohort survival methodology (the “enrollment methodology”). The MSBA’s enrollment methodology generates a baseline enrollment projection as discussed during the January 27, 2021 enrollment meeting, and as further described on the MSBA’s website found under the ‘Building With Us’, ‘MSBA Enrollment Methodology’ section. For specifics on how the MSBA’s methodology impacts the Nashoba Regional High School project, please refer to the District’s Enrollment Projection package, provided to the District on January 26, 2021.

Based on information supplied by the District, data from sources such as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”) and Department of Public Health, and discussion with the District, the MSBA has been able to create an enrollment projection for the Nashoba Regional High School project, as follows.

The Nashoba Regional High School is a high school that presently serves the entire grade 9-12 enrollment for the Towns of Lancaster, Bolton, and Stow. The table below illustrates the District’s K-12 enrollment through the 2019-2020 school year, as reported by DESE.

Fiscal Year	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2011	1,567	832	986	3,385
2012	1,542	845	1,006	3,393
2013	1,453	832	1,005	3,290
2014	1,476	807	1,024	3,307
2015	1,465	807	1,063	3,335
2016	1,419	818	1,052	3,289
2017	1,453	811	998	3,262
2018	1,432	797	976	3,205
2019	1,398	769	971	3,138
2020	1,391	788	917	3,096

A version of the above table with more detail regarding the District’s historic enrollment may also be found on page 5 of the District’s Enrollment Projection package.

The total grade 9-12 enrollment in the Nashoba Regional School District as reported by DESE for the 2019-2020 school year is 917 students, which reflects a decrease of 146 students (-13.7%) from the grade 9-12 enrollment reported in the 2014-2015 school year, which was the maximum grade 9-12 enrollment reported in the preceding ten years. Additionally, the current year’s grade 9-12 enrollment reflects a decrease of 83 students (-8.3%) from the average grade 9-12 enrollment reported during the preceding ten-year period. The MSBA understands that the District is proposing a design enrollment to accommodate approximately 1,300 students in grades 9-12 at the Nashoba Regional High School.

With respect to future enrollments, the MSBA’s base enrollment projection indicates the District’s grade 9-12 enrollment will continue to experience an overall declining trend through the 2029-2030 school year, as illustrated on page 6 of the Enrollment Projection package. In accordance with the MSBA’s Enrollment Methodology, the baseline enrollment is calculated using the ten-year average of projected enrollments. As such, the average grade 9-12 base enrollment projection for the Nashoba Regional High School through the 2029-2030 school year is 895 students.

As a result of a sensitivity analysis performed by the MSBA on this base enrollment projection and further discussion with the District, the following adjustments have been made to the base enrollment projection:

- Out-of-District Enrollment
 - o In order to adjust for fluctuations to the out-of-district enrollment patterns of the District's residents over time, the MSBA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.
 - o In order to make this adjustment, the MSBA adjusted the grade-to-grade survival ratios for grades 9-12 by a total of 3.3% throughout a four-year period in the projection.
 - o This adjustment added 20 students to the average grade 9-12 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

- Development
 - o Based on the discussions between the District and the MSBA, and the anticipated development information provided by the District, the MSBA enrollment model has been adjusted to use the five-year 75th percentile cohort survival rate for 2023 rather than the five-year average, or 50th percentile, cohort survival rate, which is utilized throughout the base enrollment projection.
 - o This adjustment added ten students to the average total grade 9-12 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

As a result of analysis on the average base enrollment projection, the adjustments to the base projection described above, and based on the historical enrollment trends of the District, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 925 students for the Nashoba Regional High School project.

The MSBA believes that this design enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification within 14 calendar days to confirm agreement on this design enrollment. If the District feels that this design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Emma Parish and propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District can be available to discuss enrollment. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Emma Parish (Emma.Parish@massschoolbuildings.org) at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

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Nashoba Regional High School Enrollment Letter

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Kathy Codianne, Chair, Nashoba Regional School Committee
Elaine Sanfilippo, Vice-Chair, Nashoba Regional School Committee
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 2)