



# ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Massachusetts School Building  
Authority (MSBA) and Statement of  
Interest (SOI) Process

AB Regional School Committee Meeting  
March 17, 2016

## Overview

- The FY16 Budget funded an extensive study of the capital needs of the district's school buildings
- Dore & Whittier Architects presented findings in February, 2016, see <http://www.abschools.org/district/school-capital-and-space-planning>
- An extensive list of capital improvements that the District should consider regarding long-term maintenance and the operation of our buildings was provided
- Total identified improvements for all buildings combined is approximately \$120 million

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*Three of our schools need notable improvements:*

- The CT Douglas Elementary School  
(total approximately \$17 million)
- The Luther Conant Elementary School  
(total approximately \$17 million)
- The Paul Gates Elementary School  
(total approximately \$14 million)

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*As a result of these needs being identified,*

- Viable options for future financial assistance must be explored by the District.
- Exploring a potential partnership with the MSBA is one important option that could provide considerable grant funds to offset costs for any future renovation/repair project.

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## The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

The MSBA is a governmental authority that serves to work with local communities to assist in the process of funding capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth's public schools.

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*Currently, two MSBA programs accept invitations from local communities:*

- 1. Accelerated Repair Program** - specifically covers "envelope" type issues such as roofs, windows and boilers
- 2. Core Program** – specifically for projects that are beyond the scope of the Accelerated Repair Program and include extensive repairs, renovations, additions and new school construction

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*The District has partnered with the MSBA in the past for:*

- **Core Projects** - including the RJ Grey Junior High School (renovation and addition), the Parker Damon Building (new construction), the AB Regional High School (renovation and addition)
- **Accelerated Repair Projects** - including the Conant Elementary School (boiler and uninvent systems) and the Douglas Elementary School (roof replacement)

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### **Submitting a Statement of Interest (SOI)**

*“The Statement of Interest (SOI) is the first step for districts in expressing interest in the MSBA’s grant program for school construction, renovation, and repair projects. All districts are welcome to submit an SOI which identifies the perceived deficiencies in their school facilities.”*

Page 3, MSBA Statement of Interest User Guide

## The Process

- The MSBA is accepting applications for Core Program SOIs until *Friday, April 8, 2016*.
- The MSBA process does not cost anything for a district to submit an SOI.
- Application information would come from: Principals, Director of Facilities, Superintendent, AND Dore & Whittier's assessment resulting from the District's Existing Conditions Study (Phase I of the Capital Study).

## Recommendations of SOIs for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

As your Superintendent, it is my recommendation that the Committee authorize the submission of three (3) Core Program SOI's for:

- The C.T. Douglas Elementary School
- The Paul Gates Elementary School
- The Luther Conant Elementary School

in time to meet the deadline of April 8, 2016.

## Specific Rationale Categories for the SOIs

I propose that the following serve as the categories for all three of these school facilities:

1. *Elimination of existing severe overcrowding*
2. *Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility*
3. *Replacement of, or addition to, obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements*

## Statement of Interest Certification

According to the requirements set forth by the MSBA, the School Committee of a regional school district is required to vote to approve the submission of a Statement of Interest.

## Next Steps

### 1. Public Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.  
Douglas School Cafetorium

### 2. Special ABRSC Meeting to vote SOIs

Monday, April 4 at 6:15 p.m.  
High School Room XX  
*(This is prior to Acton Town Meeting)*

## Additional Resources

For extensive information on

- The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and their
- Statement of Interest Process (SOI)

[http://www.massschoolbuildings.org/building/2016\\_SOIs](http://www.massschoolbuildings.org/building/2016_SOIs)

For information provided by Dore & Whittier and/or at School Committee meetings, see: <http://www.abschools.org/district/school-capital-and-space-planning>