

October 24, 2018

Superintendent Andrew Hill
ahill@wadsworthschools.org
Wadsworth City School District
524 Broad Street
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

RE: Potential Segment Two for Classroom Facilities Assistance Program

Dear Superintendent Hill:

This letter is in regard to discussions held recently within your school district expressing a number of concerns regarding the funding of a potential Segment Two for the Wadsworth City School District's ("Wadsworth" or the "district") Classroom Facilities Assistance Program project. There appears to be some continuing misunderstanding as to the causes of the present circumstances.

As we pointed out during our discussion on October 29, 2009, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and Wadsworth entered into a Segment One Project Agreement ("Agreement") that outlined the scope and budget of the first segment of your district's segmented master facilities plan. That Agreement also described the process to determine the scope and budget for future segments. The Agreement further provided the district with assurance that regardless of the number of segments, the full scope of work necessary to provide facilities for the entire student population of your district will be performed.

Whether addressing a complete fix for a district or addressing a district's needs by segment(s), evaluating a school district's projected enrollment is a required approach. Evaluating enrollment makes certain that a school district has the requisite space necessary to provide its education program in support of the total number of students that would be in attendance at the school. An additional concern, of course, is that given the finite resources available, it is paramount that we do not overbuild a district – which both needlessly expends capital construction dollars and can leave a district with an additional and unnecessary drain on its operational budget.

Wadsworth is not the only district to experience this situation. Because of the overall general decline in public school population for the last two decades, we have had, on any number of occasions, to work with districts to adjust their master facilities plan due to enrollment decreases. The notification of the practice of updating enrollment figures has been included in our Project Agreements since segmenting started. You will find the wording in your Agreement at both the sixth (6th) Whereas and seventh (7th) Whereas:

- ***"WHEREAS, the School District Board hereby concurs and approves the use of the Enrollment Report dated March 4, 2009. The School District Board and the Commission acknowledge that actual enrollment status will be reviewed annually."***
- ***"WHEREAS, the School District Board and the Commission acknowledge that the scope and the budget of subsequent segment(s) will reflect updated enrollment, updated construction costs and updated assessment of existing facilities conditions and cost of renovation."***

Understanding that background, here are the enrollment figures for Wadsworth:

- a. The earlier enrollment projection placed Wadsworth's expected enrollment at approximately 5,800 students.
- b. The current enrollment for the district, as provided by the district, is 4,710 students (these numbers are slightly higher than shown by the Ohio Department of Education).
- c. This 1,100 student reduction in enrollment triggers use of OFCC Excess Square Footage Policy PL-07— in this case, excess area meaning there is more overall space than necessary, based on the formulas from the Ohio School Design Manual, for the student population to be served.
- d. Because of the difference between projected and actual student populations, it would be fiscally irresponsible to move forward with the original master facilities plan for 5,800 students which called for a total of eight (8) buildings: five (5) elementary, one (1) intermediate, one (1) middle, and one (1) high school. That plan needs updated for the district's current enrollment.

As a result, when the district re-enters the planning process for a subsequent segment, we will update the district's enrollment projection and building conditions so that we may make any necessary adjustments, per the policies and Agreement referenced above. This update will ensure that your district has an accurate and current plan that provides that level of students with state-of-the-art and quality educational facilities. Please be assured that the Commission will work with the district to ensure an acceptable final outcome while maintaining the standard of fiscal stewardship that the Commission is required by law to uphold.

Thank you for your time and attention. If I might be of any other service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Melanie E. Drerup
Chief of Planning

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