



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chairman, State Treasurer

James A. MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

John K. McCarthy
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

April 4, 2019

Mr. Thomas F. Aubin, Superintendent-Director
Greater Fall River Vocational School District
251 Stonehaven Road
Fall River, MA 02703

Re: Greater Fall River Vocational School District, Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School

Dear Superintendent Aubin:

I would like to thank you and representatives of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District (the "District") for meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") staff on October 23, 2018 to review enrollment projections and methodologies for the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School project (the "Proposed Project") and for the follow up call held on November 14, 2018 and for the additional information received on March 19, 2019. As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on a study enrollment for the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School offers 18 approved Career/Vocational Technical Education Chapter 74 Programs to 1,415 students in grades 9-12 from its member communities that include the City of Fall River and the Towns of Somerset, Swansea and Westport. The MSBA understands that the District would like to consider expanding the program capacity of its existing Chapter 74 offerings at the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, resulting in a potential new enrollment of 1,645 students. As a result, this analysis will include a focus on the forecasted grade 8 enrollment from the sending member communities.

The table below illustrates the District's 9-12 enrollment during the most recent ten-year period for the 2018-2019 as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("DESE"). The District's enrollment during the most recent five-year period has fluctuated within a range of between approximately 1,394-1,413 students. The average total 9-12 enrollment in the District during the most recent five-year period has been 1,403 students, while the most recent ten-year average is 1,388 students.



Year	9	10	11	12	Total
2009	363	337	339	313	1,352
2010	365	346	326	324	1,361
2011	366	343	324	317	1,350
2012	375	358	336	317	1,386
2013	365	361	351	330	1,407
2014	363	360	345	342	1,410
2015	365	353	350	339	1,407
2016	372	347	334	341	1,394
2017	375	361	333	328	1,397
2018	377	365	350	321	1,413

In addition to the historical enrollment trends of the District, the District submitted the following data for MSBA review:

- Historical application and acceptance data; and
- Chapter 74 program submission

The MSBA has conducted an analysis of the forecasted grade 8 enrollment of the District's four member communities. This analysis indicates an average projected grade 8 enrollment of approximately 1,242 students through the 2028-2029 school year. The historical application data for the four member communities indicates that the District annually receives, on average, 660 applications for grade 9 enrollment which represents a five-year average of approximately 52% of the grade 8 students in the member communities. Additionally, historical enrollment data provided by the District indicates that, on average, of the 660 applications received from the member communities, approximately 72% of the students filing applications are accepted, and approximately 56% of the students filing applications enroll for grade 9 the next school year.

A review of the enrollment information submitted by the District indicates that the current policy is to enroll approximately 370 grade 9 students annually. The MSBA also observed that the District's historical enrollment data for the last five years indicates that the District's retention rates result in an average net out migration of approximately (-11) students at the grades 9-10 transition, (-14) students at the grades 10-11 transition, and (-8) students at the grades 11-12 transition.

The District's enrollment data submission also indicates annual applications submitted for grade 9 acceptance may fluctuate with the specific enrollment trends of the member communities, however, the most recent five-year average indicates approximately 660 applications are submitted annually from which an average of 466 students are accepted into the District's grade 9 programs, of which 370 students enroll.

In order to arrive at the MSBA's enrollment recommendations, the MSBA applied the most recent five-year average of the grade-to-grade survival ratios to the average of 370 9th grade students enrolling and recommends a study enrollment of 1,400 students for the Diman Regional

Vocational Technical High School as currently configured. The study enrollment recommendation is based on current Chapter 74 program offerings and is intended to inform the evaluation of alternatives conducted as part of the feasibility study for the Proposed Project.

The MSBA understands that the District believes a number of current programs are under-subscribed due to limitations of the existing facility. Through consolidation and facility enhancements, the District is proposing that current and additional programming could accommodate a total of 1,645 students.

Current trends in historic application data indicate that, assuming student application rates remain unchanged at approximately 660 applications per year, 82% of the students (540 students) applying would need to be accepted and 430 students (65% of applicants) would need to be enrolled in order to support the District's desired enrollment of 1,645 students.

It is further understood that some of the existing Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School programs will also be offered at Durfee High School in Fall River, which is currently in the design development phase of the MSBA Grant Program pursuing an addition/renovation project. The overlapping programs include:

- Health Assisting - Current program enrollment at Durfee High School is 38 students expanding to 90 students.
- Culinary Arts - Current program enrollment at Durfee High School is 40 students expanding to 96 students.
- Graphic Communications - Current Design & Visual Communications program enrollment at Durfee High School is 23 students expanding to 60 students.

As a result of analysis of the District's historical enrollment patterns, application data, retention rates, and current and proposed Chapter 74 program data, the MSBA recommends study enrollments for the Proposed Project as follows:

- As currently configured: 1,400 students
- Proposed expansion of current Chapter 74 programming: 1,645 students
- A third student enrollment between 1,400 students and 1,645 students

Documentation will be required to substantiate that the proposed program adjustments were planned in consultation with the respective advisory committees based on adequate and timely information regarding student, workforce, and job development demands or job market trends. Documentation will also be required for programming that overlaps with Fall River's Durfee High School program offerings to acknowledge and consider the student enrollment expansion currently underway at that high school, as well as a summary of the conversations held with member communities reflecting acknowledgement and support of the proposed expanded programs. In addition, further analysis of the application/enrollment/student program choices data will be required to demonstrate that the program choices will be sufficient to fulfill the proposed program expansions.

April 4, 2019

Greater Fall River Vocational School District Enrollment Letter

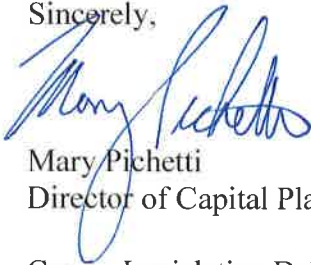
The above noted documentation to support the expansion of existing Chapter 74 programming must be submitted to the MSBA prior to submission of a Preliminary Design Program for the proposed project. The MSBA will forward the documentation to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”) for its review. Preliminary approval of the proposed program changes by the DESE will be required prior to the MSBA accepting a Preferred Schematic Report.

Please note the enrollment recommendations to be included in the feasibility study do not represent an affirmation by the MSBA for approval and/or funding of any options and is intended only to provide a framework to inform the feasibility study to be conducted as a means of determining the most cost effective and educationally sound solution to be agreed upon by the District and the MSBA. If expansion of Chapter 74 programs is included in a preferred solution, the District will be required to provide an expansion plan that details proposed staffing, proposed budgets and proposed phasing to realize full enrollment for each program as a result of this potential project, and that the preferred solution has been approved by the Regional School Committee and other necessary District officials. Further, the MSBA will require a written plan from the District describing the process for determining local support for the potential expansion of programs.

The MSBA believes that the enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification on or before April 26, 2019 to confirm agreement on this study enrollment. If the District feels that this study enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Jess Deleconio 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 Jess Deleconio (Jess.Deleconio@MassSchoolBuildings.org) at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Paul Jennings, Chair, Greater Fall River Vocational School Committee
Lucy Thompsen, Executive Assistant to Superintendent-Director, Greater Fall River Vocational School District
Donald DiBiasio, Chair, Greater Fall River Vocational School Building Committee
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 6)

**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY
 GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 DIMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
 STUDY ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION**

As a result of a collaborative analysis with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") of enrollment projections and space capacity needs for the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School (the "Proposed Project"), the Greater Fall River Vocational School District hereby acknowledges and agrees that the design of alternatives, which may be evaluated as a part of the feasibility study for the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, shall be based in accordance with the following:

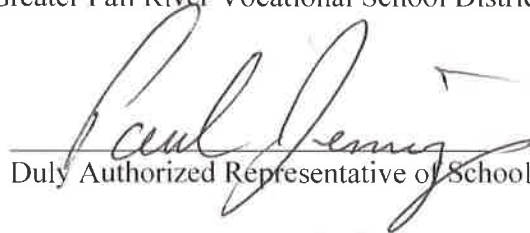
Enrollment for Grades 9-12 as Currently Configured	Enrollment for Grades 9-12 with Proposed Expansion of Chapter 74 Programming	Enrollment for Grades 9-12 with Expansion of Chapter 74 Programming
1,400 students	1,645 students	Between 1,400 - 1,645 students

The Greater Fall River Vocational School District further acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to 963 CMR 2.00 *et seq.*, the MSBA shall determine the square feet per student space allowance and total square footage according to the enrollments noted above. The Greater Fall River Vocational School District acknowledges and agrees that it has no right or entitlement to any particular design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, or total square footage and that it has no right or entitlement to a design enrollment any greater than any of the enrollments noted above, and further acknowledges and agrees that it shall not bring any claim or action, legal or equitable, against the MSBA, or any of its officers or employees, for the purpose of obtaining an increase in the design enrollment for the Proposed Project that it has acknowledged and agreed to herein. The Greater Fall River Vocational School District further acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, the design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, and total square footage of the Proposed Project shall be subject to the approval of the MSBA's Board and that the final approval of a Proposed Project shall be within the sole discretion of the MSBA's Board.

The undersigned, for themselves and the Greater Fall River Vocational School District, hereby certify that they have read and understand the contents of this study enrollment certification and that each of the above statements is true, complete and accurate. The undersigned hereby certify that they have been duly authorized by the appropriate governmental body to execute this Certification on behalf of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District and to bind the Greater Fall River Vocational School District to its terms.



 Chief Executive Officer




 Duly Authorized Representative of School Committee

4.11.19

 Date

4-11-19

 Date



 Superintendent of Schools

4.11.19

 Date