

MSBA Process Cheat Sheet

Winter Hill OR Winter Hill + Brown

1/22/2024

What is the scope of the current SPS MSBA Process?

- The current MSBA process has the potential to address the Winter Hill OR the Winter Hill and the Brown schools in combination.
- The MSBA process that we are in does not have the potential to address district-wide needs, including the potential for a middle school model.
- The current MSBA process will fund only one building. Funds in the current process cannot be used to address two separate buildings.
- In order to adjust the scope of the current MSBA process, such as addressing two separate buildings or building a middle school, we would need to withdraw our current application and begin this process again, resulting in a significant delay in the project and without a guarantee that we would again be invited into the MSBA's eligibility period or that we would progress beyond the current stage that we are in.

Who is the decision-maker in the MSBA Process?

- The School Building Committee (SBC) will be the formal voting authority for the MSBA process.
 - The SBC will decide things like school building design, location, and whether the Winter Hill and the Brown schools should combine or remain separate.
 - Under MSBA requirements, the School Building Committee for the current process must be formed and submitted to the MSBA for approval by May 3, 2024.
 - The MSBA provides minimum requirements for membership of the SBC. In addition to these members, the city may appoint additional members at their discretion. All members are subject to final approval by the MSBA.
 - The Mayor has the authority to appoint individual representatives to the school building committee so long as the appointees meet the requirements of the School Building Committee membership as prescribed by the MSBA.
 - While the Superintendent will be on the School Building Committee as prescribed by the MSBA, the Superintendent does not have the authority to appoint members to the School Building Committee.
- The Mayor has final decision making authority for many aspects of the project.
 - The Mayor has the authority to appoint individual representatives to the school building committee so long as the appointees meet the requirements of the School Building Committee membership as prescribed by the MSBA.
 - The Mayor and City Council submit final funding authorizations, as recommended by the SBC, prior to construction.

Who else has a formal say in the MSBA Process?

- The City Council must vote to appropriate funds for the feasibility study phase of the project and also separately for the construction of the project.
 - Because the cost of construction of the project will require that funds be borrowed, the City Council must vote to authorize the borrowing by a two-thirds vote of the City Council.
 - Due to the estimated cost of construction of the project, the City anticipates seeking a debt exclusion vote.
 - A two-thirds vote of the City Council is required to bring a debt exclusion vote.
 - The Mayor's approval is also required in order to bring a debt exclusion vote.
- Residents of the City of Somerville will vote in a local election to approve or deny a debt exclusion. If funds are borrowed for the feasibility study phase of the project as well as for actual construction, two debt exclusion votes, at separate times in the process, may be required.
- The Mayor and the City Council have the authority to make the final appropriation of the funds.

How is the School Committee Involved?

- The Chair of the SC will need to sign the initial certificate of compliance that is due to the MSBA to kick off the eligibility period in April
- The MSBA requires that the School Building Committee have at least one member of the School Committee
- At least one member of the SC must attend the MSBA's Pre-Study Review Meeting
- The Chair of the SC will need to sign the enrollment certification that is due to the MSBA by August of this year
- Once the Feasibility Study is completed, the MSBA will typically invite members of the School Committee to attend a conference regarding Project Scope and budget matters.

Timeline and Next Steps:

- Initial Compliance Certification by April 4 or within 30 days
- Formation of School Building Committee by May 4th or within 60 days
- Submit Educational Profile Questionnaire (EPQ) by June 4th, or within 90 days
- Online Enrollment Submissions in conjunction with the EPQ
- Agreement on enrollment certification by August or within 180 days
- Provide Maintenance and Capital Planning Information in conjunction with enrollment certification
- Local vote/Appropriation of funds - by November or within 270 days