

District: City of Brockton
School Name: Brockton High School
Recommended Category: Eligibility Period Extended Extension Request
Date: December 6, 2023

Recommendation

That the Executive Director be authorized to further extend the expiration date of the Eligibility Period for the City of Brockton (the “City”), from December 27, 2023, to June 5, 2024.

Discussion

The City received its invitation into the Eligibility Period for the Brockton High School Statement of Interest at the December 21, 2022, Board of Directors meeting. On March 1, 2023, the City’s 270-day Eligibility Period commenced with November 27, 2023, representing the end date of the Eligibility Period.

The executed Initial Compliance Certification, formation of the School Building Committee, submittal of the Educational Profile Questionnaire, submittal of the Online Enrollment Questionnaire, and the Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education Viability Documentation were received on time and the enrollment meeting was held within 180 days, and the signed Design Enrollment Certification is on file. The final item necessary to complete the requirements as outlined in the Eligibility Period is funding.

To allow time for additional discussion with the City, the Executive Director approved a 30-day extension¹ to the Eligibility Period extending the completion date from November 27, 2023 to December 27, 2023.

In a letter to the MSBA dated November 20, 2023, the City cited that in order to fulfill the local process associated with securing their Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funding authorization, a 120-day extension of time is needed. The City noted a Plan B form of government, with a two-year cycle of elections for Mayor, City Council Members, and School Committee Members. The City has proposed to seek approval for the Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funds from the new City Council members who will be sworn in on Monday, January 1, 2024. The timeline of local Feasibility Study/Schematic Design appropriation steps, as outlined in the City's letter, include:

- January 22, 2024: City Council's first reading of the appropriation vote
- February 5, 2024: Finance Subcommittee Meeting
- February 12, 2024: City Council's second reading of the appropriation vote
- February 14-27, 2024: Ten-day publication of appropriation vote in the local newspaper
- March 11, 2024: City Council's third reading and vote on the appropriation

¹ At the June 28, 2017, Board of Directors meeting, Eligibility Period administrative procedures were introduced, including the Executive Director’s ability to extend the 270-day period of time, up to an additional 30 days to accommodate confirmation between the MSBA and a district of the agreed upon enrollment and allow time for a district to finalize its feasibility study/schematic design funding.

In addition, the City had identified issues associated with a deficit in their FY 24 school budget. The City is currently working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Division of Local Services to review the FY 24 budget and implement financial controls. Recognizing the urgency and need to address issues at this high school that houses the largest Grade 9 to 12 student enrollment in the state and to ensure that the City has sufficient time to resolve the budget issues, staff are recommending an extension beyond the initial 30-day extension, up to 161 days beyond December 27, 2023, to June 5, 2024. With this extension, the MSBA requests that the City provide updates every other month starting at the end of January on the progress of the City Council meetings and votes and the progress on the financial systems and evaluation of FY 24 and 25 budgets.

Staff recommend that the Executive Director be authorized to extend the expiration date of the Eligibility Period for the Brockton High School Statement of Interest beyond the initial 30-day extension, up to 161 days from December 27, 2023, to June 5, 2024, for a total of 191 days in order to finalize actions related to the local Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funding authorization. Pending a successful vote by the Brockton City Council and the progress of the review of the FY 24 budget, the City would be positioned for an invitation into Feasibility Study at the MSBA June 26, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.