



# Massachusetts School Building Authority

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MSBA DESIGNER SELECTION PANEL RANKS TOP FIRMS FOR POTENTIAL CONTRACT FOR TEMPLETON CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

*Panel Promotes High Quality School Design, Accountability and Oversight*

**BOSTON, MA-** State Treasurer Tim Cahill, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”) and Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director, announced today that the MSBA’s Designer Selection Panel (“DSP”) has recommended that a contract be awarded to Symmes Maini & McKee Associates for the design of the Templeton Center Elementary School in the Narragansett Regional School District. The DSP, which included three representatives from Narragansett, carefully studied each applicant’s qualifications, experience and references and voted to rank the firms in the following order: (1) Symmes Maini & McKee Associates; (2) Lamoureux Pagano & Associates, Inc.; and (3) Mount Vernon Group Architects, Inc.

The creation of the Designer Selection Panel was a major reform of the school building construction process, aimed at selecting the highest quality design services for school districts. The selection of Symmes Maini & McKee Associates for the project is a significant step towards making the necessary improvements at Templeton Center Elementary School that will result in a vastly improved educational environment for the students of the Narragansett Regional School District.

“Our focus is to ensure that precious state dollars are invested in the best designed schools that are structurally safe and encourage student learning for Massachusetts children,” said Treasurer Cahill, Chair of the MSBA.

“This is a great milestone for both the MSBA and Narragansett,” stated Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director. “We look forward to continuing our work with the town in creating an improved learning environment for the schoolchildren in the Narragansett Regional School District.”

The statute that created the MSBA places tremendous emphasis on planning, due diligence and prioritization of MSBA resources. The DSP is authorized to select designers, programmers and other entities providing feasibility studies in connection with public school construction projects seeking funding from the MSBA and whose construction cost will potentially be \$5 million or more. The DSP, which includes the participation of local officials associated with a project, plays a critical role in the selection and recommendation of the best available design firms for the modernization and construction of Massachusetts public school facilities so that precious state dollars are invested in better designed schools that are structurally safe and encourage student learning.

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