

The Public Schools of
NORTHBOROUGH and SOUTHBOROUGH

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May 23, 2025

Maria Caprigno, MPA MEd
Project Coordinator
Massachusetts School Building Authority
40 Broad Street; Suite 500
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Maria,

On behalf of The Public Schools of Southborough, I thank the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) for its commitment and partnership to bring a school building project forward for approval by the Town of Southborough citizens.

Disappointingly, the project did not receive the required two-thirds vote at the Town of Southborough Special Town Meeting, which took place on Saturday, May 10, 2025. In addition, it did not receive the necessary support from a town-wide vote on a debt-exclusion on Tuesday, May 13, 2025: 681 voters voted yes and 1,334 voters voted no.

It is essential to highlight that the Town of Southborough Boards and Committees strongly endorsed the project: The School Committee (5-0), Advisory Committee (3-2-1), and Selectboard (4-1). While no official position was taken, the Town's Capital Planning and Improvement Committee was also involved with the planning for this proposed project. The Neary Building Committee (NBC) unanimously approved the schematic design based on its alignment with the educational plan, efficient use of space, and project cost. There were no questions about the educational plan or design at the May 10, 2025, Special Town Meeting.

A general theme that came through in the discussion from those who did not support the project was the broader economic uncertainty in the state and the country, and whether this is the right time. That discussion

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led to other questions about the proposed site, size of the project, and alternative proposals by citizens that were not vetted by educators, the Town's owner's project manager, or designer.

The Town of Southborough will use the remaining 120-day window to solicit feedback from citizens and decide whether or not to bring the article back to the citizens for reconsideration. It is our expectation that if the project is brought back for reconsideration that there will be a desire from the community to have a choice of what school project they want to support (e.g., renovation at another school, base repair of existing Neary, grade reconfiguration at other schools, etc). The Town understands and realizes that any project outside the one approved by the MSBA Board of Directors will not be subject to any potential grant funding by the MSBA. Bringing forward additional choices, though, will be an important acknowledgement of community feedback received during the Special Town Meeting debate.

Although disappointed by the outcome, the Town of Southborough continues to be grateful for the opportunity to partner with the MSBA. Over the remaining 120 days, the Town of Southborough will endeavor to communicate with MSBA about its next steps. Should you require updates at any point, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,


Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools