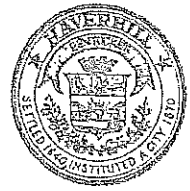


Haverhill Public Schools

Office of The Superintendent



August 6, 2012

Mr. Brian McLaughlin
Capital Program Manager
Massachusetts School Building Authority
40 Broad Street, 5th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

As a result of our conversation last Friday, August 3, 2012, I met with members of my staff to review the enrollment and capacity statistics relevant to a new school in the Bradford section of Haverhill.

Several factors need to be reinforced. The Hunking School has lost students over the past few years due to deteriorating facility conditions. As you are aware, in October 2011, half of the student body was removed from Hunking School and relocated for the remainder of the school year to the Bartlett School, a different neighborhood school in Haverhill. As a result of these circumstances, families have left the Haverhill Public Schools by exercising their school choice option as well as enrolling in private schools (see attached letter from Bradford principal dated January 25, 2012).

The Hunking and Greenleaf Schools, which were previously approved for the MSBA's Green School Repair Program, were withdrawn from the program at the request of the Mayor due to the extensive amount of repairs needed at both facilities. Additionally, even with the required repairs, the Greenleaf School would not be ADA compliant. Consequently, the City and School Department determined a new facility was urgently needed to replace both the Hunking and Greenleaf Schools.

In order to capture an accurate enrollment picture for the Bradford section of Haverhill, I submit the following information:

- Current enrollment for Hunking: 420
- Current enrollment for Greenleaf: 239
- Total enrollment: **659** *If we were to build a new Hunking School today, that would put the enrollment at 659 without any consideration of other factors we are challenged with.*

OTHER CRITICAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Current enrollment for Bradford Elementary: 577
- 119 children that live in Bradford are currently being educated at the Bartlett School due to a lack of space.
- Our Special Education population has risen from 17.1% in 2008 to 22% in 2012.
- 22% of the Bradford population is categorized as special needs, which requires the use of three classrooms originally designed as regular education classrooms. Additional rooms are used for sensory and therapy services. The children that use these rooms are autistic children that require the spaces that were originally designed for regular education purposes.
- New housing starts are estimated to add conservatively 92 new students over the next five years.
- Our English Language Learning program has increased from 5.9% into 2008 to 7.3% in 2012. Some of these students, according to the Office of Civil Rights, should be serviced in the Bradford section of the City and cannot because of lack of space.

As reported in the *Eagle Tribune*, House Ways and Means Chairman, Brian Dempsey, secured a Kindergarten Transition grant for Haverhill allowing this community to launch, for the first time, an all day kindergarten program. While we are excited by the benefits of this new initiative, the move to a full day doubles our needs for kindergarten space. Fortunately we are able to use the Bartlett School to house this overflow. Other schools such as Bradford Elementary have no room to accommodate the increase in kindergarten enrollment that historically increases by another 15% during the month of August. Please note the attached letter dated May 29, 2012, from Wendy Stanley, Principal of Bradford Elementary School, which clearly demonstrates the severe overcrowding conditions at Bradford.

The majority of our handicapped students are housed in a limited number of our buildings, such as Bradford Elementary, due to the fact that five of our school buildings were built in the 1800's and seven prior to the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a consequence of this limited accessibility, the Haverhill Public Schools is currently under scrutiny by the Office of Civil Rights. They have also cited the District for not providing appropriate space for our English Language Learner program, which continues to increase.

On June 26, 2012, all online enrollment data was submitted to MSBA. As part of our telephone conversation on Friday, August 3, 2012, it was indicated to me that the MSBA was recommending a school capacity of less than 900 students. As Superintendent, I must advocate for all children in the city, and I strongly urge you to reconsider and recommend a new school facility to accommodate not only our present demands, but also our future needs.

I realize your agency has all the data and you are trying to determine an enrollment number for a school for our City. The issues before you are complicated and the task with coming up with the proper enrollment number is a Herculean challenge. However, I hope you carefully consider and understand the physical constraints we are currently in. The space constraint

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MSBA
August 6, 2012

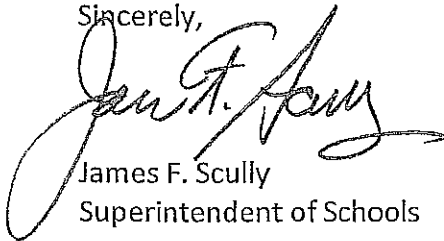
problem is not only relevant to the Bradford section of Haverhill, but for all of our schools. As I stated to you, the Office of Civil Rights has concerns about the limitations of our existing buildings, as there are five schools built in the 1800's, and seven built prior to the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I would respectfully suggest that you review all of the numbers and facts relevant to this issue, for the mistakes that were made in the past in Haverhill should not be repeated. This is not just my issue, but it is of grave concern to many parents that have met with me since the Hunking issue first surfaced in October of 2011.

Lastly, as I indicated last Tuesday morning in your office, I will be in the hospital for some medical screenings this Wednesday, and will possibly be undergoing surgery Friday morning, and therefore incapacitated for one week thereafter. I am available by phone on most days. You are most welcome to visit Haverhill to see the overcrowding issues, and to speak with the people involved.

Thank you again for your time, efforts, and understanding.

Sincerely,

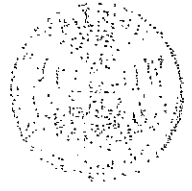


James F. Scully
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Diane Sullivan, MSBA
Mayor James Fiorentini

Attachments: W. Stanley letter dated 25 JAN, 2012
W. Stanley letter dated 29 MAY, 2012
Bradford – Floor Plan dated 6 AUG, 2012

Haverhill Public Schools



BRADFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wendy L. Stanley, *Principal*
John P. Clark, *Assistant Principal*

January 25, 2012

Dear Mr. Scully,

Recently, we have lost several top students at Bradford Elementary School to the Pentucket Regional School System through school choice. One family had a second grade student and a fifth grade student enrolled at Bradford and both siblings have left us for the Page School in West Newbury.

The parent writes in her note to the teacher that, "Our concerns about sending our daughter to Hunking Middle School in September drove this decision." She goes on to say that the family will miss Bradford Elementary and, "The decision was not made based upon current or past teachers as we have only wonderful things to say about all the teachers and staff." The parent explained that the family received an unexpected call from the Pentucket Regional School District offering spots for both children now.

Another family wrote to me stating that they also had received a call from the Pentucket Regional School District confirming their application for school choice to the Page School in West Newbury. This parent writes, "We thought it would be beneficial for our daughter to change schools sooner rather than later. Our daughter has loved her time at Bradford. She has loved every teacher she has had, and we have watched her bloom under their nurturing and instruction." The classroom teacher talked with the parent regarding how she would like the transfer situation handled in the classroom, and the parent requested the teacher allow the student to tell her classmates herself. The teacher reported that when the child was asked by a peer why she was leaving, she responded that her mother and father did not want her to go to Hunking School.

Bradford Elementary school will miss these students as they are top students and strong role models.

Thank you,


Wendy L. Stanley

Bradford Elementary School Principal

Haverhill Public Schools



BRADFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wendy L. Stanley, *Principal*

John P. Clark, *Assistant Principal*

May 29, 2012

Dear Mr. Scully,

I would like to make you aware of current building needs regarding classroom space at Bradford Elementary School. At present, every classroom, office and closet area is utilized, and we have need for additional space.

Literacy Room

Bradford Elementary School, along with several other schools in the district, has adopted the Lesley Literacy Collaborative model for Reading and Writing instruction. This fall, the final cohort of teachers at Bradford will be trained, allowing us to fully implement the Lesley Literacy Model in grades K- 5. Students are benchmarked in the fall, winter and spring with this program, and teachers are able to access books for their students at their appropriate reading level from the Literacy Closet. As each new group of teachers is trained, we are increasing our need for leveled books in our Literacy Closet. We have quickly outgrown our current closet space, and this fall we are devoting an additional closet to house our leveled books for the Literacy Program. Ideally, we should have one Literacy Room where all (A-Z) leveled books can be accessed by teachers for their students. Due to our lack of available space at Bradford, we will have two small Literacy Closets that will be split from levels A-M and N-Z in different parts of the building.

Data Room

With the additional Literacy Closet needed, our present "data space" will need to be moved to a smaller closet. MCAS scores, MAP scores and Literacy Benchmarks are all used at Bradford Elementary School to drive instruction. Meetings are held with each grade level and administration to post scores, analyze data and target student instruction. Additional classroom space where scores for all grades could be confidentially displayed along with space for teachers to meet for common planning and professional development would be beneficial. However, due to our tight space confines at Bradford Elementary, the data closet allows data for one grade level at a time to be posted and meetings for one grade level at a time to review and analyze scores.

Counseling Office

Bradford Elementary School's Counselor is currently housed in a space that was originally built as a Community Room. With an active PTO and a strong group of parent volunteers at Bradford, having the Community Room unavailable to volunteers leaves the group with no available place to work or meet within the school. The Bradford PTO organizes an annual Auction which raises money for technology at the school. Their planning and organizing has raised \$17,000 for technology purchases for the students and

staff at Bradford. Having additional classroom space for our School Counselor would allow our PTO to return to the Community Room, as well as allowing our School Counselor a more suitable space for individual and group counseling.

Special Education Motor Room

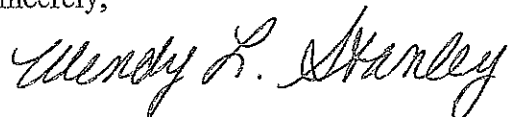
Bradford Elementary has several substantially separate Special Education classrooms for students who are diagnosed with Autism as well as 22% of the total population with Special Education needs. At times during the day, students need time out of the classroom to regroup, slow down or process decisions and choices. With every classroom, office and closet filled the space for a motor room or break room is unavailable.

Conference Room

A final concern for building space needs at Bradford Elementary School is an additional Conference Room. In early March, boxes of MCAS materials arrive for the ELA portion of the test. During this testing window, the materials remain locked in the office Conference Room making this space off limits for meetings and parent conferences. This same scenario is repeated again for several weeks in May when the Math portion of the MCAS test is administered. It becomes an enormous challenge to find a suitable place to hold a meeting during MCAS time as the Conference Room is off limits. Therefore, an additional space for parent conferences and committee meetings would be highly beneficial.

With well over 600 students at Bradford Elementary School and every classroom, closet and office utilized, additional space is needed. A room for our School Counselor, a Literacy Room to support the Lesley Literacy Collaborative, a Data Room for professional collaboration, a Special Education Motor Room and a Conference Room are building space needs at Bradford Elementary School.

Sincerely,



Wendy L. Stanley, Principal
Bradford Elementary School

For Official Use Only

Side C

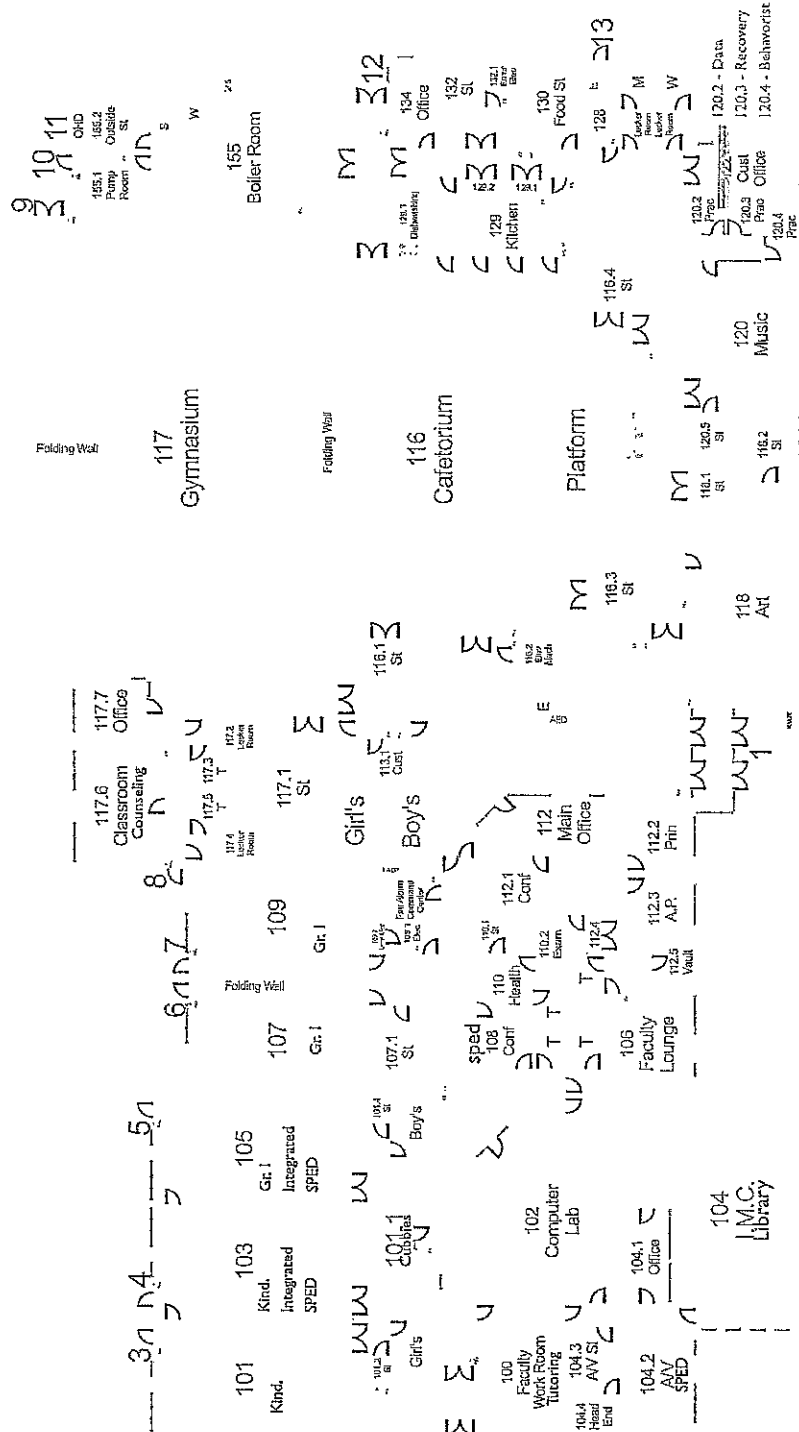
Side D

First Floor

District Name:	Haverhill Public Schools
School Name:	Bradford Elementary School
Address:	116 Montvale St. Haverhill, MA 01835

First Floor

First Floor



Legend

- Curtain
- Clock LA
- Water
- SI
- Elevator
- Emergency Phone
- Knock Box
- Water ShutOff
- Sprinkler ShutOff
- Electric ShutOff
- Gas ShutOff
- Pump
- Emergency Generator
- Fire Alarm Control Panel
- Heater System
- Fire Dept. Connection
- Fire Extinguisher

BeSafe

 MAPS

First Floor

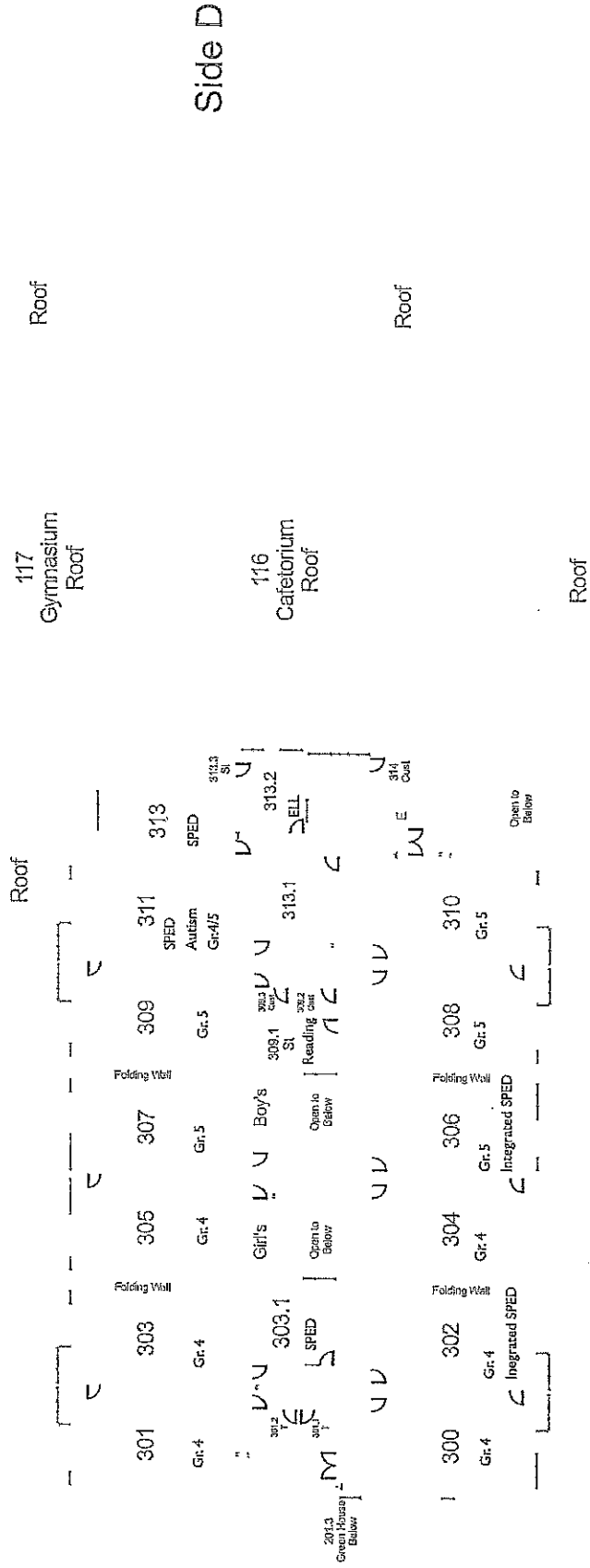
For Official Use Only

Side C

District Name:	Haverhill Public Schools
School Name:	Bradford Elementary School
Address:	116 Montvale St. Haverhill, MA 01835

Third Floor

Third Floor



Side D

Side B

Legend

- Camera
- Chair-Lit
- Elevator
- Storage
- Window
- Elevator
- Emergency Plans
- Map
- Mox Desk
- Weight Shelf
- Speaker Shelf
- Electrical Shelf
- Esc Stair
- Ramp
- Emergency Generator
- Fire Alarm Control Panel
- PULL
- Fire Alarm Control Panel
- Fire Alarm Control Panel
- Fire Alarm Control Panel

BeSafe
MAPC

Side A

Third Floor