

Brooklyn Public Schools HVAC Project Options
Respectfully Submitted By: P. Buell
Presentation to the BOF 9/19/2022
Presentation to ARP/ESSER 9/27/2022: Canceled
Presentation to the BOE 9/28/2022
Presentation to the BOS 9/29/2022

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Office of School Construction Grants & Review (OSCG&R)

Brooklyn reimbursement rate: 72.86% The local portion is 27.14%

The Brooklyn Public Schools would like to apply for a School Construction Grant through the Office of Administrative Services. This project is a "general construction" project that requires approval from the Town of Brooklyn and if approved by DAS/OSCG&R would provide a reimbursement rate of 72.86%

HVAC Grant Considerations: We will look to meet the air quality needs of the district by making the schools healthier, more efficient, and accessible to the community during all seasons of the year. During the last five years, there have been days that the building has been too hot to effectively educate students, there has been an ongoing need to leave windows open to increase air exchange and by doing so, we have created concerns from many parents who believe the open windows create a safety risk on the ground level classrooms. We are also aware of the weight limits and implications of upgrading or adding air handlers to the "new roof" and solar systems on our roofs. The Director of Facilities has been reviewing the locations for air conditioning units both on the roof and on the side of the buildings, including in the courtyards at BMS or "interior" areas of the school at BES. We believe that there has never been a better time to apply for an HVAC grant as this is the first time that this type of project has been offered under the Office of School Construction Grants.

ARP/ESSER Funding: The Brooklyn Board of Education has directed the Superintendent to request funding through ARP/ESSER to offset the local portion of the construction grant. It has recently been determined that the Department of Administrative Services has determined that ARP/ESSER funds can NOT be used to cover the cost of the local, 27.14%, of our project. The ARP/ESSER funds are allowed to be spent on HVAC if it was funding the full project, but can NOT be used as an offset to this type of grant request. The ARP/ESSER Committee has been very responsive to the idea of using these funds for HVAC at the schools and this would be a project that would meet all of the requirements of committee. This project would benefit a very large percentage of the Brooklyn residents. Our current enrollment is over 900 students and we employ 175 people. The request was justified in the application and is sustainable as part of the Town's largest investment. This project has a positive impact on COVID related protocols as it will increase the air exchange without having to open windows. Open windows creates inefficient heating of our buildings and poses a safety risk as this could allow a breach. **The original request of the ARP/ESSER Committee was for \$495,000.**

HVAC Estimates for BES and BMS: The Brooklyn Public Schools will need to get permission to create a building committee, create a RFQ to determine what specific requirements are needed and see approval

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from the Town of Brooklyn through a Town Meeting in order to move forward. The “rough estimate” for upgrading the HVAC for both buildings would be \$2,000,000.

Funding Considerations:

Option 1: Apply for the Office of School Construction Grant with Brooklyn Funding 27.17%.

\$2,000,000 Project would require approval by Brooklyn for the full cost

- **72.86% or \$1,457,200 reimbursement from DAS**
- **27.14% or \$ 542,800 to be paid for by the Town of Brooklyn Tax/Bond**

On 9/19/2022 the Board of Finance indicated their preference would be:

- **Town ARP/ESSER Committee should consider funding the cost of the schematic drawings**
- **They would like the Board of Selectman to approve the following resolutions**

Town authorization/local resolution for the Superintendent to apply for a grant

Prior to applying:

Before applying for a school construction grant, a municipality's legislative body must authorize its local board of education, through the superintendent, to apply to the DAS commissioner for a grant. Regional boards of education may vote to allow their district supervising agent (i.e., superintendent) to apply for the grant ([CGS § 10-283\(a\)\(1\)](#)).

Motion by BOF/BOS:

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Brooklyn Board of Education, through the superintendent, to apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services for an indoor air quality school construction grant at Brooklyn Elementary School.

Resolved, that the building committee is hereby established for the HVAC/indoor air quality project at Brooklyn Elementary School.

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of the schematic drawings and outline specification for the HVAC/indoor air quality project at Brooklyn Elementary School.

Date resolution passed:

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Motion by BOF/BOS:

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Brooklyn Board of Education, through the superintendent, to apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services for an indoor air quality school construction grant at Brooklyn Middle School.

Resolved, that the building committee is hereby established for the HVAC/indoor air quality project at Brooklyn Middle School.

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of the schematic drawings and outline specification for the HVAC/indoor air quality project at Brooklyn Middle School.

Date resolution passed:

Additionally, the municipality or regional board must either (1) secure funding authorization for the local share of the project costs that are effective under state law and local ordinance or charter or (2) schedule and prepare a referendum, if required, with results available by November 15 that year ([CGS § 10-283\(d\)](#)). State law allows any municipality to issue bonds to finance any school building project through a vote by its legislative body (CGS § 10-289).

With the BOE and BOS approval, I intend to move forward with posting an RFQ tomorrow for this project.