

Massachusetts School Building Authority

Steven Grossman
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director

March 18, 2011

Peter Dillon
Superintendent
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
50 Main St
Stockbridge, MA 01262

RE: Enrollment Projections for Monument Mountain Regional High School

Dear Superintendent Dillon:

I would like to thank you for speaking with the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") staff on February 11, 2011 regarding enrollment projections and methodologies. As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on the design enrollment for the proposed project at Monument Mountain Regional High School.

The Monument Mountain Regional High School accommodates the District's enrollment in grades 9-12, and accordingly, this analysis will be particularly focused on the enrollment projections for those grades.

The table below illustrates the District's K-12 enrollment during the most recent ten year period, as reported annually in October to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The District's total enrollment in grades 9-12 during the 2009-2010 school year was 595 students. The total 9-12 enrollment during the 2009-2010 school year reflected a decline of approximately 3% from the preceding school year, and a decline of 29 students (-4.6%) from the previous year, and a decline of 97 students (-14%) from the peak 9-12 enrollment of 692 students reported during the 2000-2001 school year. The average total 9-12 enrollment during the most recent ten year period was 645 students, and the most recent five year average was 637 students.

Year	K-4	5-8	9-12	Total
2000	457	443	692	1,592
2001	433	435	653	1,521
2002	392	443	661	1,496
2003	356	409	642	1,407
2004	356	413	612	1,381
2005	391	416	637	1,444
2006	382	383	683	1,448
2007	382	370	647	1,399
2008	449	354	624	1,427
2009	388	369	595	1,352



The MSBA understands the District is seeking a design enrollment to accommodate approximately 650 students in grades 9-12 at the Monument Mountain Regional High School.

The MSBA's base enrollment forecast for Berkshire Hills projects total enrollment for grades 9-12 to fluctuate within a range between approximately 540-600 students through the 2017-2018 school year. The base forecast projects that the total 9-12 enrollment in the District will decline as low as 538 students during the 2012-2013 school year, and then to fluctuate within a range between approximately 560-600 students for the remainder of the projection. The average total enrollment for grades 9-12 in the base forecast through 2017-2018 school year is 569 students. Following the last kindergarten class generated in the base projection through the entrance of that class into the 9th grade enables the observation of a longer term enrollment projection for the high school enrollment. The longer term trend in the base forecast for Berkshire Hills Regional School District is consistent with the average enrollment observed in the base projection through the 2017-2018 school year, as the longer term projection indicates that the District's high school enrollment will average 565 students through the 2026-2027 year.

As a result of a sensitivity analysis performed by the MSBA on this base enrollment projection, as well as from further discussion with the District, the following adjustment has been made to the base enrollment projection. It should be noted that during the enrollment conference call with the District on February 11, the District indicated additional data would be provided regarding the potential for local employment growth which may impact student in-migration to the District. To date, the MSBA has not received the referenced data.

- Out-of-District Enrollment
 - In order to adjust for fluctuations in the out-of-district enrollment patterns of the District's residents over time, the MBSA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.
 - The grade-to-grade survival ratios for grades 9-12 have been increased by a total of 3.3% throughout a four year period in the projection.
 - This adjustment added a total of approximately 7 students to the average total enrollment for grades 9-12, as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

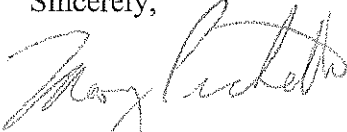
As a result of an analysis of the base enrollment projection, and the adjustment to the base projection described above, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 570 students for the Monument Mountain Regional High School.

The MSBA is forwarding the attached Design Enrollment Certification for your review. Please sign and return the attached certification within 21 calendar days to confirm agreement on the design enrollment for the proposed Monument Mountain Regional High School project. If the District feels that this design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Kevin Sullivan, and

propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District can be available to discuss enrollment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kevin Sullivan (Kevin.Sullivan@MassSchoolBuildings.org) at 617-720-4466. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc. Senator Benjamin Downing
Representative William Smitty
Stephen Bannon, Chair, BHRSD School Committee
Sharon L. Harrison, Business Administrator, BHRSD
Steven Soule, BHRSD School Building Committee
File Enrollment Projections 1.2 (Region 1)