



Madison Public Schools

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Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6300

November 29, 2022

DRAFT

Mr. Douglas Rogers, Director
Office of School Construction Grants & Review
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Congratulations on your recent appointment to lead the CT Office of School Construction Grants. Madison Public Schools looks forward to working with you on current and future projects. This letter is being sent on behalf of the Madison Board of Education in regards to the State of Connecticut HVAC grant program.

Madison has two significant projects on the immediate horizon however neither project is able to be considered for the grant project due to the tight timeframe to complete the projects. Madison Public Schools does not want to negatively impact students' academic experiences nor rush potentially the wrong project to be eligible for grant funding.

The first such project is a complete HVAC renovation for Polson Middle School. Polson Middle School was built in 1960 and enrolls approximately 650 students in grades 6-8. Polson currently has an older HVAC system with air conditioning in approximately half the building. Bringing a new HVAC system to Polson was part of over 10 years of planning by the Board of Education which resulted in a successful referendum in February 2022. We are currently in the design phase of this project and we are strongly considering geothermal energy. Madison is an environmentally conscious coastal town with geothermal projects currently being considered for our new school building, Town Hall and a community center. This takes additional time and as you can see, pushing this project forward would not be consistent with the Town's direction.

The second project is HVAC for Daniel Hand High School (DHHS). DHHS has a 20-year old HVAC system, which has had failing components and which was recently cited as a concern in an accreditation visit by NEAS&C. The Board has been proactive and has requested funding through our Town's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget. Working with our Town's First Selectwoman, funding for the design of this project has been put forward in the 2023-2024 CIP Budget. We then expect that the 2024-2025 CIP budget will include funding to complete this project. This project does not qualify for the grant program due to the timelines for completion.

Madison Public Schools and our consultant, Colliers International, have attended presentations on the HVAC Grant Program. Prior to your appointment, we personally submitted questions twice to the provided email address regarding the grant program, asking if the timelines were flexible and if the State intended to offer this program in future years. We did not receive a response to these questions.

The Madison Board of Education is requesting, through this letter, for the State of Connecticut to offer this important HVAC grant program in future years so that towns with approved projects and projects near

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approval can be considered. Research is clear on the importance of clean, efficient systems and the positive impact this has on student and staff health and student learning. Madison Board of Education and Madison taxpayers are making major investments in HVAC and we hope to take advantage of this opportunity for funding through the State of Connecticut.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Seth Klaskin, Chairperson
Madison Board of Education

CAC/wb

Cc: Madison Board of Education
Madison Board of Selectmen
Madison Board of Finance
Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman
Christine Cohen, CT State Senator
John-Michael Parker, CT State Representative
William McMinn, Facilities Director
Charles Warrington, Colliers International

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