

November 30, 2012 *Via E-Mail*

Mr. Jeffrey W. Patterson, Superintendent
jeff.patterson@lakewood.k12.oh.us
Lakewood City School District (Cuyahoga)
1470 Warren Rd.
Lakewood, Ohio 44198

RE: Priority Order of Funding – Status Request

Dear Superintendent;

In September of 2012 we requested each district on the priority list if they desired to engage in an active planning process. We received a positive response from 30 of those districts. Based on the resources available, we are contacting your district as we believe there may be a chance we could fund your district in July 2013. I am writing to ask for your decision on preparing a school construction project for Commission approval in July 2013. If you now desire to engage in active planning with us, **please submit the resolution along with the application to Janice Parker no later than January 2, 2013.**

To provide some background to your decision, I'd like to give you an overview of all the school districts working with the Commission. In 2007 the securitization of tobacco settlement revenue netted over \$4.1 billion for school district construction projects through the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC). With this funding, we were able to increase the number of projects approved, from an earlier average of 20-25 new projects per year, to 48 in 2007, 58 in 2008, and 35 in 2009. Since the tobacco bonds have been fully committed and so many projects are now in progress, we were only able to approve 9 new projects in 2010, 14 in 2011 and 27 in 2012. We are uncertain of the number of new projects that we will be able to approve in 2013.

As part of the acceleration of projects due to the tobacco money, OSFC's planning staff started the planning process with an unprecedented number of school districts. In fact, there are over 140 districts that are "lapsed" or "deferred" or had otherwise previously started the planning process. It is critical to our program that we have a solid understanding of which of these districts would like to commit to moving forward with a project in 2013. Based on the information you and other districts provide, we will be able to forecast how many additional districts we can offer to start the planning process.

If your district's intention is to be considered for July 2013 Commission approval, please send in the attached application by January 2, 2013. Be sure to include your board resolution. Please be aware that we do not anticipate adding any districts from the current priority list into the planning process mid-year. In other words, if you do not apply now for 2013 funding, the next available opportunity would be for approval in 2014.

In January, we will review the applications, including a comparison of desired projects and our funding availability. If you do submit an application to get ready for July 2013 approval, our planning staff will work with you over the coming months to create or update your master facilities plan, along with the enrollment projections, building assessments, etc. as needed. Based on funding availability and your position on the priority list, we may be able to jointly agree on a master plan by May 2013, with formal school board approval in June and Commission/Controlling Board approval in July 2013. In this case, your district would then have thirteen months to obtain the local share and required maintenance funding, through a bond issue or one of the funding alternatives.

If you do not want to seek Commission approval in July 2013, please let us know by completing and returning the "intention form" document to us. In this case, we will contact you again next fall to ask for your intention.

I appreciate your thoughtful attention to the timing of your project, and your communication back to us. Please contact me or your Planning Manager if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Hickman
Executive Director

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Enclosures:

OSFC Program Changes
Template Resolution
Application
Intent Form
Notification Office Relocation

cc: Mr. Timothy J. Penton, tim.penton@lakewood.k12.oh.us
Glenn Rowell, Planner
File