May 7, 2012

Maureen Marshall, Superintendent
North Middlesex Regional School District
23 Main Street
Townsend MA, 01469

RE: Enrollment Projections for North Middlesex High School

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I would like to thank you for speaking with the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") staff on March 22, 2012 regarding enrollment projections and methodologies, and for your email dated April 22, 2012 that indicated you do not expect planned curriculum changes to significantly affect enrollment. As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on the design enrollment for the proposed project at North Middlesex High School.

North Middlesex 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 K-12 enrollment in North Middlesex during the most recent ten year period, including enrollment for 2011-2012 school year as reported by the District. The total enrollment in grades 9-12 at the North Middlesex High School during the 2011-2012 school year was 1,078 students. The 9-12 enrollment during the most recent school year was approximately level with the preceding school year, which was reported at 1,104 students, however, the District’s enrollment within each of the configurations provided in the table below illustrate a generally declining trend during the most recent ten year period. The data in the table below indicates the District’s high school enrollment has declined by 13% from the peak 9-12 enrollment of 1,242 reported during the 2004-2005 school year. The average 9-12 enrollment during the most recent ten year period was 1,174 students. The District’s elementary and middle school enrollments have also experienced a period of decline during the last decade, as both total K-5 and 6-8 enrollments in the District have each declined consecutively during the ten year period included within the table below. The total K-5 enrollment in the District has declined by approximately 15% during the most recent five years, and the total 6-8 enrollment has declined by approximately 9% during that same period.
The MSBA understands the District is seeking a design enrollment to accommodate approximately 1,400 students.

The MSBA’s base enrollment forecast for North Middlesex projects total enrollment for grades 9-12 to continue to experience declining enrollment. The base forecast indicates 9-12 enrollment will trend towards approximately 900 students through the 2017-2018 school year as the recently experienced decline in elementary and middle school enrollments progress through the District’s K-12 system. The average total enrollment for grades 9-12 in the base projection through the 2026-2027 school year is 869 students.

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 and a review of additional enrollment data the District provided to the MSBA on March 8, 2012, the following adjustments have been made to the base enrollment projection:

- **Student Out-Migration**
  - In order to adjust for fluctuations in student out-of-district enrollment patterns over time, the MBSA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.
  - In order to make this adjustment, the MSBA observed the impacts of adjusting the grade to grade survival ratio for grades 9-12 by a total of 3.3% throughout a four year period in the projection.
  - This adjustment added a total of 24 students to the average total enrollment for grades 9-12, as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

- **Population**
  - Population estimates for Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend, using data from the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER), project a near term increase in the female population cohorts between 25
and 39 years of age. The MSBA’s base model has been adjusted to use a birth projection based upon the most recent ten-year average of the annual births reported in each community.

- This adjustment yields a total combined projection of 254 births per year in Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend for each projection year in the model.
- While this adjustment does not impact the 9-12 enrollment forecast through 2017-2018 school year, the adjustment does subtract approximately 25 students from the average total enrollment for 9-12 in the projection through the 2026-2027 school year (the point at which the last kindergarten class generated by the enrollment projection impacts the 9-12 projection).

As a result of analysis on the base enrollment projection, the adjustment to the base projection described above, and based on the historical enrollment trends of the District, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 870 students for North Middlesex High School.

The MSBA believes that this design enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification within 21 calendar days to confirm agreement on this design enrollment. If the District feels that the recommended design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Diane Sullivan, and propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District will be available to further discuss enrollment.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Senator Eileen Donoghue  
Senator Jennifer Flanagan  
Representative Sheila Harrington  
Susan Robbins, Chair, North Middlesex Regional School Committee  
File: Letters 10.2 (Region 2)
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

NORTH MIDDLESEX HIGH SCHOOL
DESIGN ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION

As a result of a collaborative analysis with the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") of enrollment projections and space capacity needs for the Proposed Project at the North Middlesex High School, the North Middlesex Regional School District hereby acknowledges and agrees that the design of the Proposed Project at the North Middlesex High School shall be based on an enrollment of no more than 870 students. The North Middlesex Regional School District further acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to 963 CMR 2.00 et seq., the MSBA shall determine the square feet per student space allowance and total square footage for a high school serving 870 students. The North Middlesex Regional School District acknowledges and agrees that it has no right or entitlement to any particular design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, or total square footage and that it has no right or entitlement to a design enrollment any greater than 870 students for the North Middlesex High School, and further acknowledges and agrees that it shall not bring any claim or action, legal or equitable, against the MSBA, or any of its officers or employees, for the purpose of obtaining an increase in the design enrollment of the North Middlesex High School that it has acknowledged and agreed to herein. The North Middlesex Regional School District further acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, the design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, and total square footage of the North Middlesex High School shall be subject to the approval of the MSBA’s Board and that the final approval of a Proposed Project at the North Middlesex High School shall be within the sole discretion of the MSBA’s Board.

The undersigned, for themselves and the North Middlesex Regional School District, hereby certify that that they have read and understand the contents of this Design Enrollment Certification and that each of the above statements is true, complete and accurate. The undersigned also hereby certify that they have been duly authorized by the appropriate governmental body to execute this Certification on behalf of the North Middlesex Regional School District and to bind the North Middlesex Regional School District to its terms.

[Signatures]
Chief Executive Officer
Date

[Signatures]
Duly Authorized Representative of School Committee
Date

[Signatures]
Superintendent of Schools
Date