



FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 22, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 FEB 13 AM 11:55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Veitch, Brian Monroe, Stephanie Pickup, Nicole Pacheco, Brendalee Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erik Andersen

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Tara Kohler, Assistant Superintendent Mark Balestracci, School Business Manager Nicole Potter

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monroe at 6:30 pm

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve regular session minutes from January 8, 2024 made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, approved (5-0).

Motion to approve executive session minutes from January 8, 2024, for content only made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, approved (5-0).

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Fairhaven High School Phase I Project:

Lynne Spencer and George Figueiredo presented an update and bid timeline on the Fairhaven High School (FHS) Phase I Project (Attachment A).

Update on DECA Club State Conference:

Nick Pilla, DECA Club Advisor, along with student members Madison Cabucio and Emma Flannery updated the Committee on the DECA Club Conference they attended in January. They were happy to inform the Committee they qualified for the DECA State Conference at the Boston Convention and Expo Center on February 27, 2025 through March 1, 2025 in some categories. The discussion ensued with the Committee asking questions about the DECA Club as well as the students explaining what being in the club means to them and their future.

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to allow the Fairhaven High School DECA Club to attend the DECA State Conference at the Boston Convention and Expo Center on February 27, 2025 through March 1, 2025), seconded by Mrs. Pickup, approved (5-0).

Class of 2025 Competency Determination Process:

Assistant Superintendent Balestracci presented the District's Competency Determination (CD) Process for the Class of 2025 based on the results of the November ballot question regarding MCAS (Attachment B). The new law eliminated the State requirement for achieving a passing score (needs improvement or higher) as a requirement to receive a high school diploma. DESE has deferred to local districts to establish how students who have not yet met the competency determination on MCAS, will now have to meet local requirements. Assistant Superintendent Balestracci also noted this is solely for the Class of 2025 only.

Mr. Monroe asked about the kids from the class of 2026 who have already taken the MCAS. Superintendent Kohler noted it could be one of the District's CD's next year, but they are waiting for guidance and clarification from the State. Mrs. Smith asked about the plan in place if students are not on track to graduate. Assistant Superintendent Balestracci noted that there is already a plan in place where students and parents / guardians are notified if a child is in danger of not graduating, it will be handled the same way.

Draft Budget Presentation:

Superintendent Kohler stated she received the Cherry Sheet from the State just prior to this meeting. The expectation from the State regarding our budget, comparing it to FY25, is a recommended slight decrease in enrollment, and increase to our foundation budget of a \$900,000, local contribution. She also stated Chapter 70 should have an increase of \$119,000. The required Net School Spending (NSS) is going to have an increase of approximately \$1,100,000 which puts us at a preliminary required NSS for FY26 of \$25,777,688. She stated this means the required NSS should go up 105%.

Superintendent Kohler presented the FY26 Draft Budget to the Committee (Attachment C), explaining what each column represents. Column 1: Current FY25 budget, Column 2: FY26 request with all contractual increases is \$26,716,433, where we are not far off from the NSS number. Column 3: FY26 with no contractual increases and the 2% reduction requested from the Town is \$25,256,166, and Column 4: Budgeted with the 2% reduction requested from the Town is \$26,133,651. Superintendent Kohler stated she will be meeting with the Town on Friday to present the budgets. Superintendent Kohler recommends requesting the \$26,716,433.

Mr. Monroe noted that, although it looks like a sizable increase, it is not, it is only 3.6% over NSS. He went on to mention that our neighboring Districts are well over 10% with Old Rochester Regional at 46%. Superintendent Kohler stated she thinks \$26,716,433 is a fair request, our teachers make less than the rest of the region, and believes there is a need to make sure their contracts, which are being negotiated this year, are improved. She noted taking a zero is not an option to her. Mr. Monroe also stated that the Town, rightfully so, did market adjustments for the Fire and Police Departments, because you cannot get good help without paying what the market pays. Mr. Monroe said the District has done a lot with less for years, but given the climate of the Town, where significant raises were given to other departments, he does not see how we go into negotiations without offering a market based increase in order to compete. Mrs. Pickup agreed with Mr. Monroe's sentiment of paying more to get the best people in our schools. She also stated she has seen first hand how the staff pour their heart and soul into the District.

Superintendent Kohler stated the FY26 Budget is a fair ask that will move us in the right direction, it doesn't fix the problem out of the gate. Mrs. Smith asked what the estimated amount may be if a full market research is done. Superintendent Kohler believes it would be one to five million \$1,000,000 - \$5,000,000 above the \$26,716,433. Mrs. Pickup suggested that the District present a video at Town Meeting with teacher testimonials with successes and the challenges they face, along with all the charts and graphs, etc. Superintendent Kohler stated yes, this is an option. Superintendent Kohler also urged the silent majority of Town residents to speak up in support of the District. Mr. Monroe added the District should never apologize for what it is asking, when we are doing the right thing. He stated in the past the District was 58% of the Town budget, and we are now at 48%, the request is not a big number as the School Department is the largest department in Town, with the most employees, most buildings, and the most infrastructure in terms of technology. He noted we ask for what we need for the good of the Town, most people don't move to Fairhaven for the water, they move to a town because it is safe and it has good schools. Mr. Veitch closed the topic with the acknowledgement that Superintendent Kohler will make the presentation and the Committee will take it from there.

Upcoming Events:

Next School Committee meeting will be held February 26, 2025.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to execute an extension option of the Reliable Bus Contract for 2025-2026, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, approved (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to approve the use of Clothes Bin Recycling at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School as a fundraiser for the new Family Center Hardship Fund, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, approved (5-0).

Questions From Individual Committee Members:

Mrs. Pickup asked the Committee if there was already a partnership in place between the Acushnet and Old Rochester School Districts, this is what she heard from an Acushnet parent. Superintendent Kohler stated not that she is aware, there is still a contract between Fairhaven and Acushnet and she will reach out to the Acushnet Superintendent to clarify. Mr. Veitch and Mr. Monroe also stated they will reach out to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Acushnet School Committee to begin discussing the future of this partnership.

A motion to adjourn and go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares and to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, roll call vote, approved (5-0).

Adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Sheri Souza
Secretary to the School Committee
Fairhaven Public Schools

Approved , February 12, 2025

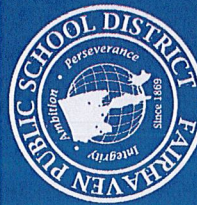
"Castle on the Hill"

Attachment A



Fairhaven Public Schools / Fairhaven School Committee

Renovations and Historic Preservation Fairhaven High School Phase I



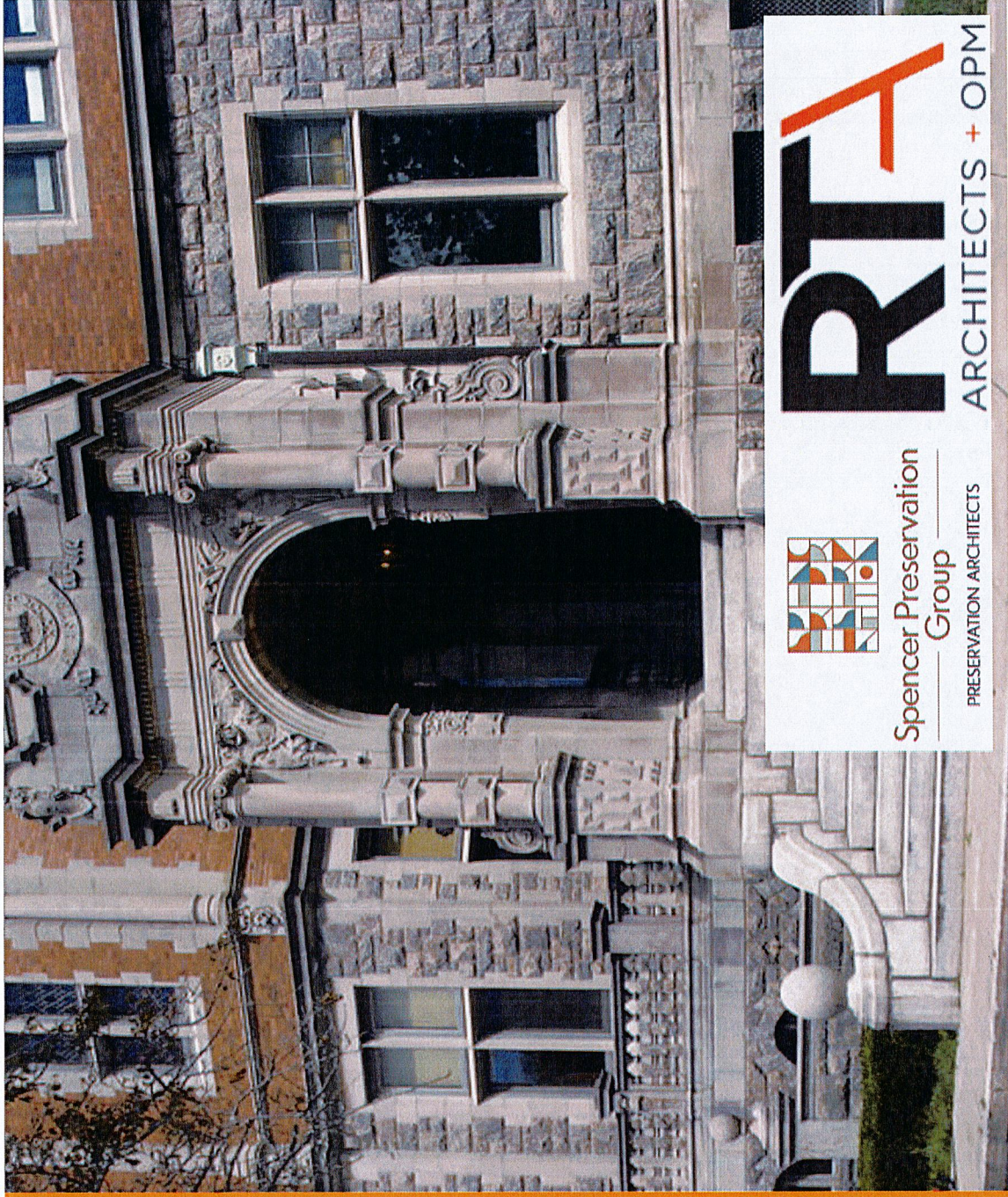
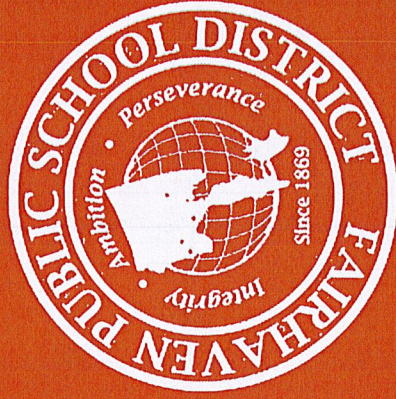
Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



AGENDA

- Project Overview
- Exploratory
- Phasing
- Base Bid / Alternates
- Construction Cost
- Bidding Schedule
- Construction Schedule



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



EXPLORATORY



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM

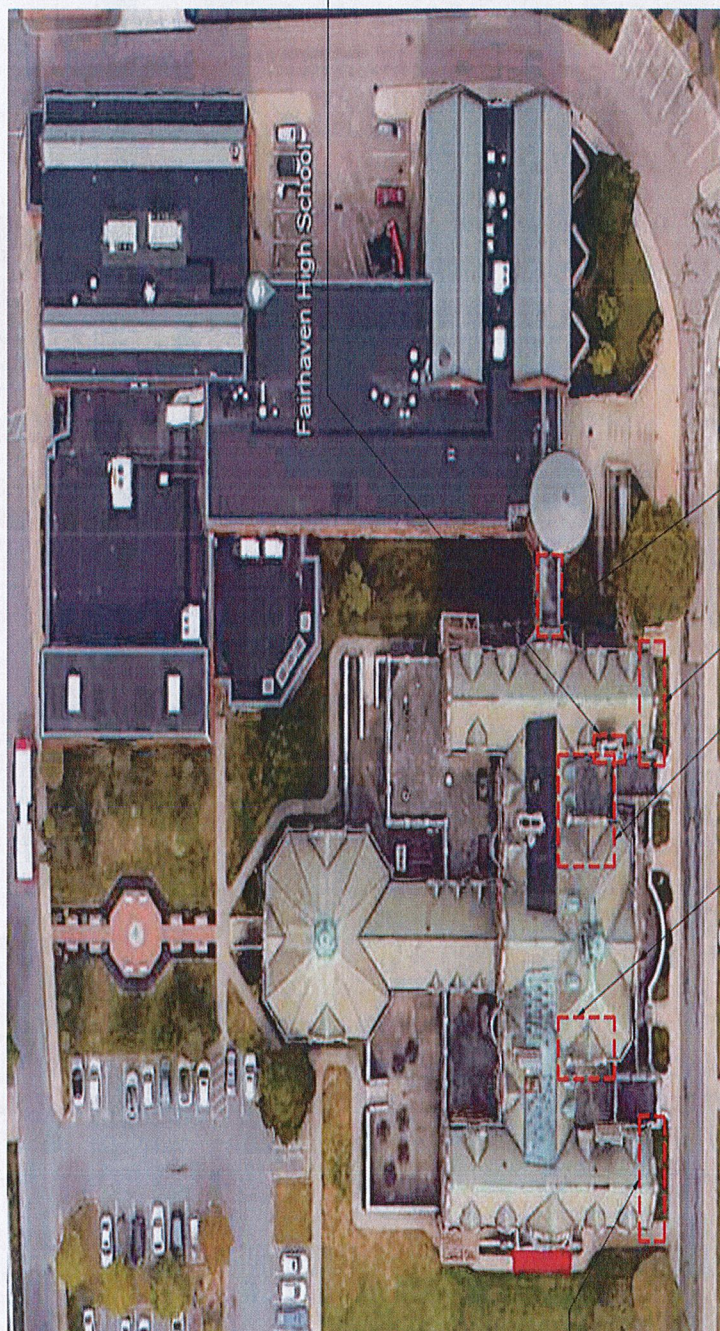


EXPLORATORY



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



AERIAL VIEW - FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

- WORK AREA 3:
CONNECTOR (AT NORTH
AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS)
- WORK AREA 2:
SOUTHEAST GABLE
- WORK AREA 1:
EAST AUDITORIUM GABLE AND ADJACENT
FLAT ROOF
- WORK AREA 4:
WEST AUDITORIUM GABLE



ALTERNATE NO. 3:
CHIMNEY

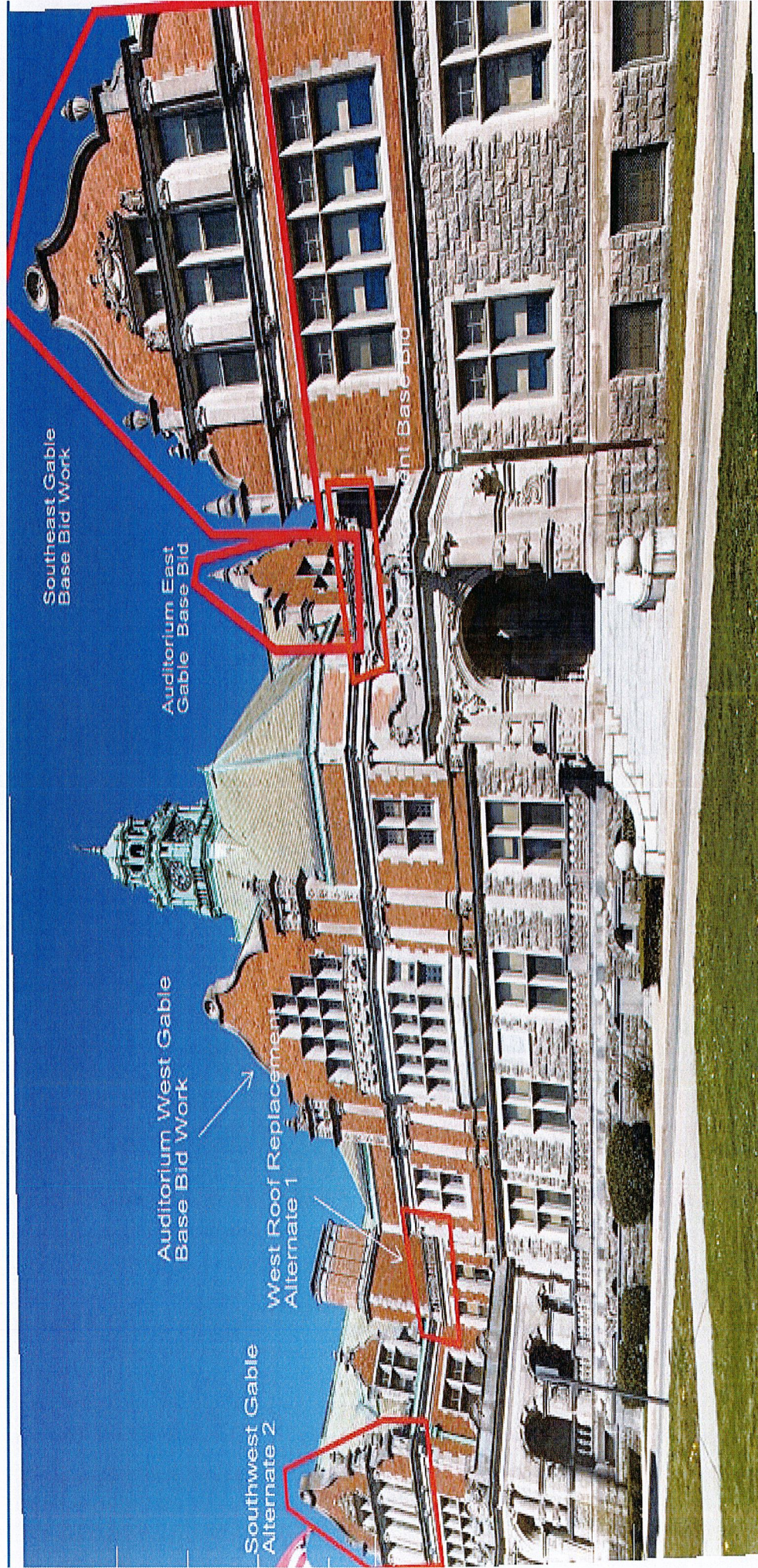
ALTERNATE NO. 2:
WORK AREA 5
SOUTHWEST
GABLE

PHASING PLAN



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM

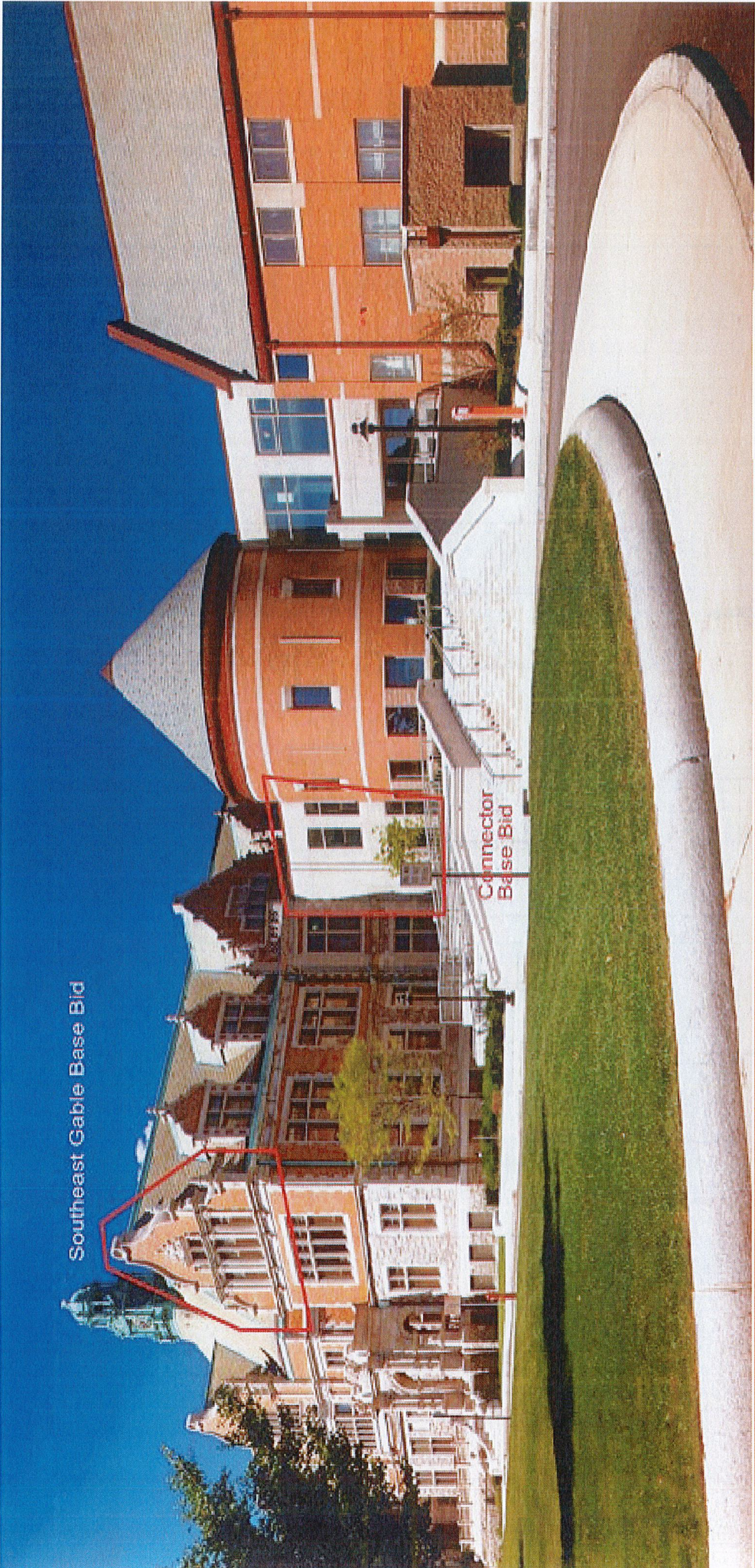


BASE BID / PROPOSED ALTERNATES



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM

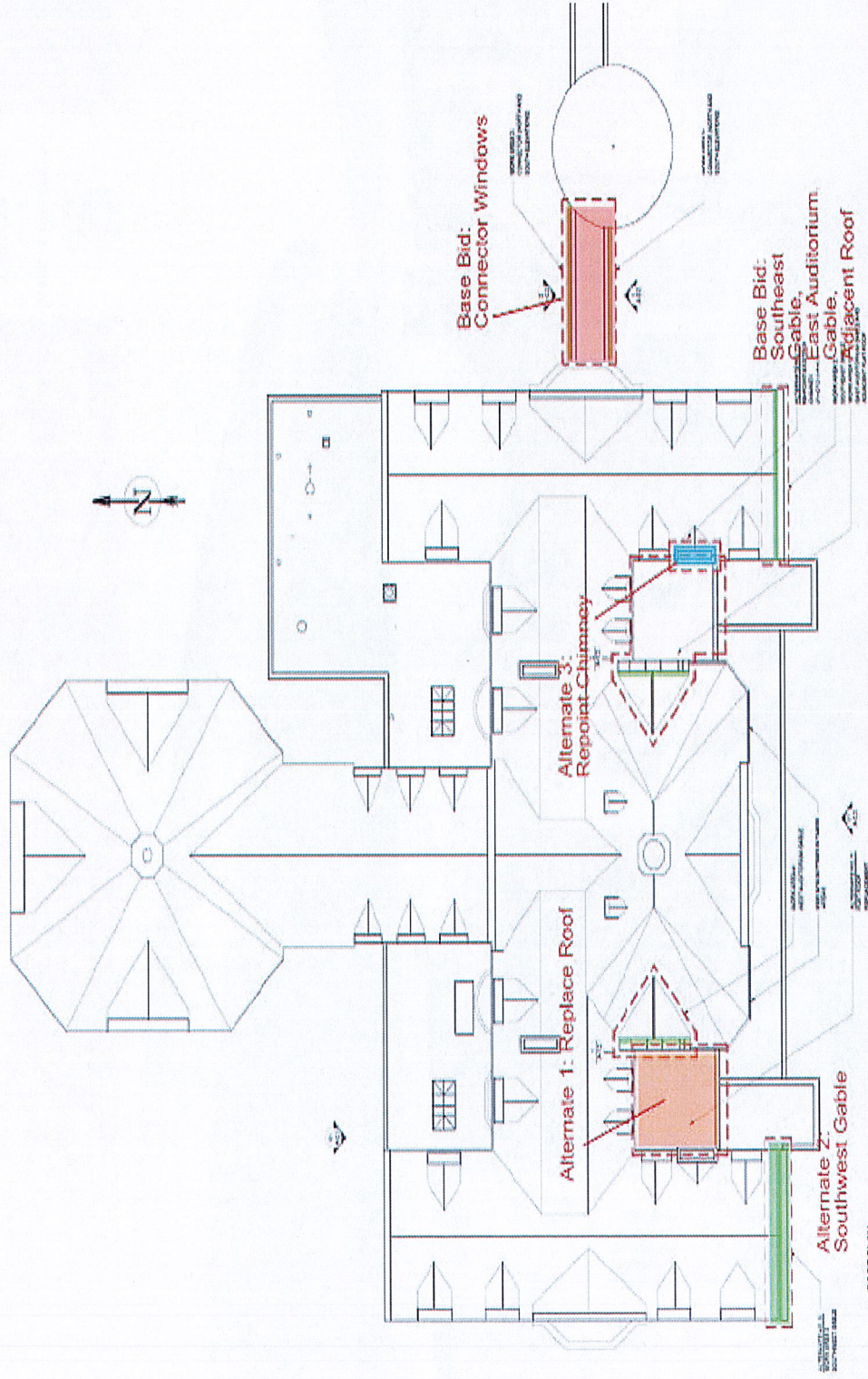


BASE BID



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



BASE BID / ALTERNATES



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-10-2010 BY 60322

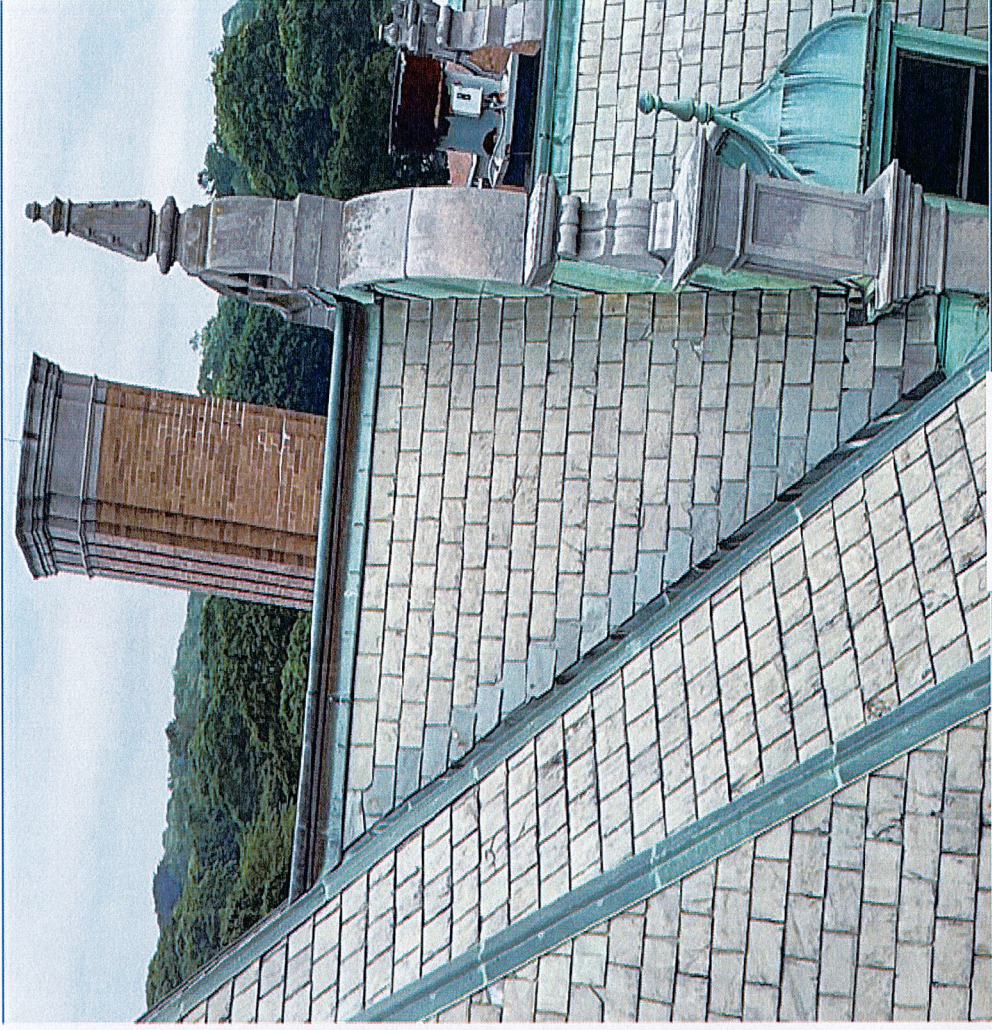
1. **THE**
 2. **THE**
 3. **THE**
 4. **THE**
 5. **THE**
 6. **THE**
 7. **THE**
 8. **THE**
 9. **THE**
 10. **THE**
 11. **THE**
 12. **THE**
 13. **THE**
 14. **THE**
 15. **THE**
 16. **THE**
 17. **THE**
 18. **THE**
 19. **THE**
 20. **THE**
 21. **THE**
 22. **THE**
 23. **THE**
 24. **THE**
 25. **THE**
 26. **THE**
 27. **THE**
 28. **THE**
 29. **THE**
 30. **THE**
 31. **THE**
 32. **THE**
 33. **THE**
 34. **THE**
 35. **THE**
 36. **THE**
 37. **THE**
 38. **THE**
 39. **THE**
 40. **THE**
 41. **THE**
 42. **THE**
 43. **THE**
 44. **THE**
 45. **THE**
 46. **THE**
 47. **THE**
 48. **THE**
 49. **THE**
 50. **THE**
 51. **THE**
 52. **THE**
 53. **THE**
 54. **THE**
 55. **THE**
 56. **THE**
 57. **THE**
 58. **THE**
 59. **THE**
 60. **THE**
 61. **THE**
 62. **THE**
 63. **THE**
 64. **THE**
 65. **THE**
 66. **THE**
 67. **THE**
 68. **THE**
 69. **THE**
 70. **THE**
 71. **THE**
 72. **THE**
 73. **THE**
 74. **THE**
 75. **THE**
 76. **THE**
 77. **THE**
 78. **THE**
 79. **THE**
 80. **THE**
 81. **THE**
 82. **THE**
 83. **THE**
 84. **THE**
 85. **THE**
 86. **THE**
 87. **THE**
 88. **THE**
 89. **THE**
 90. **THE**
 91. **THE**
 92. **THE**
 93. **THE**
 94. **THE**
 95. **THE**
 96. **THE**
 97. **THE**
 98. **THE**
 99. **THE**
 100. **THE**

~~LAST APPROVED BY
AND ADJUSTMENT FOR
MAY 1964~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-09-2001 BY 60322 UCBAW

COMMENTS
WOMEN, INFANTS AND
CHILDREN AND ADULTS
REPRODUCTION
FOR REPRODUCTION
REPRODUCTION

ARCHITECTS + OPM



SOUTH EAST GABLE BASE BID



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



ROOF REPLACEMENT



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA

ARCHITECTS + OPM



CONNECTOR BASE BID



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM

FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL:

MASONRY & ROOF PRESERVATION PROJECT 2025

COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY:

Includes 20% contingency. Alternates include contractor mark-ups & contingency.

BASE BID: \$1,529,392

Southeast Gable Cathodic Protection

Auditorium Block: east and West Gables:

Masonry work

Roof and gutters

East, flat roof replacement

Connector repairs

Plaster & paint in affected areas

Alternate 1: \$130,680

West flat roof replacement

Alternate 2: \$239,580

Southwest gable cathodic protection

Alternate 3: \$145,200

Repoint North Chimney



**Spencer Preservation
Group**
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

CONSTRUCTION COST SUMMARY

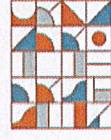
RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM

Bidding Schedule

January 24 OPM returns review comments to architect
January 30 Advertise in Central Register, Commbuys, Newspaper
February 5 Advertisement appears in Central Register; Drawings released to Bidders
February 12 Pre-Bid Conference
February 19 Filed Sub-bids Due : Roofing
March 5 General bids Due

Construction Schedule

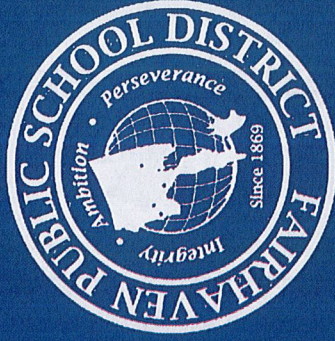
Early March Execute Contract
March - April Submittals, Samples, Mock-ups
May - July Auditorium Gables and Adjacent Roofs
July - August Southeast Gable
September - October Punchlist and Close-out



Spencer Preservation
Group
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS

CONSTRUCTION AND BIDDING SCHEDULE

RTA
ARCHITECTS + OPM



THANK YOU



Spencer Preservation
Group

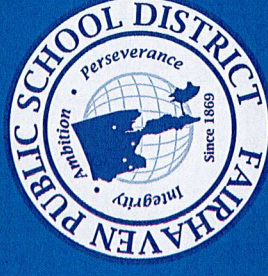
PRESERVATION ARCHITECTS



ARCHITECTS + OPM

FHS Class of 2025 Competency Determination Proposal

January 22, 2025

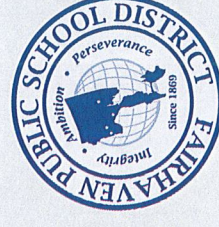


General Overview

December 7, 2024: New Massachusetts law took effect which eliminated the state requirement for achieving a passing score (Needs Improvement or higher) as a requirement to receive a high school diploma.

- MCAS assessment is still in effect as is the current system for Accountability from DESE.
- There is no “opt out” for parents/guardians or students in grades 3-10.
- DESE has deferred to local districts to establish how students who have not yet met CD on MCAS, will now meet by local requirements. This is referred to as “Local Certification.”

Local Certification means certifying that by completing local graduation requirements, students earning a diploma will have successfully mastered the standards that would have been assessed on the MCAS exams in ELA, Math, and Science.



Current FHS Graduation Requirements for a Diploma

Local Requirements

1. Minimum of 22 earned Credits

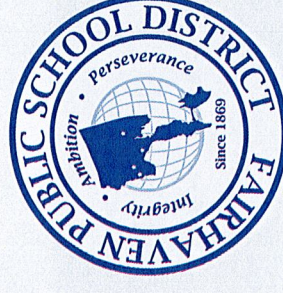
- Comprised of:

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Units</i>
English (English 1-4, or relevant AP Course)	4
Mathematics (Must complete minimum study of Alg 1, Geom and Alg 2)	4
History (World, US, and USII. World, US, and USII must contain Civics Project)	3
Science (Biology, one physical science course, and another lab science preferred)	3
World Language (Two consecutive years)	2
Health & Physical Education 0.5 Must be Health	1.5
Media/Visual/Performing/Arts	1.5

MCAS Competency Determination

Passing and meeting proficiency on each:

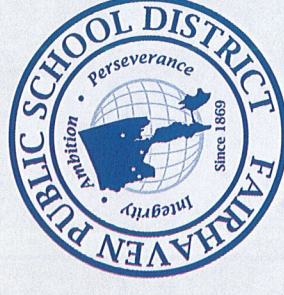
1. ELA
2. Math
3. Science



Class of 2025 Competency Determination Proposal

For the FHS Class of 2025 Only:

1. All current FHS seniors who have previously achieved a Meeting Expectations or higher on their 9th and 10th grade MCAS have already met the Competency Determination to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.
1. Current members of the Class of 2025 who scored a Partially Meeting Expectations and has been on an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) and completes the plan, will meet the Competency Determination to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.
1. Current members of the Class of 2025 who have not already met the Competency Determination (as listed above in #1 and #2), will have to complete the following to meet the Competency Determination to be eligible to receive as high school diploma.

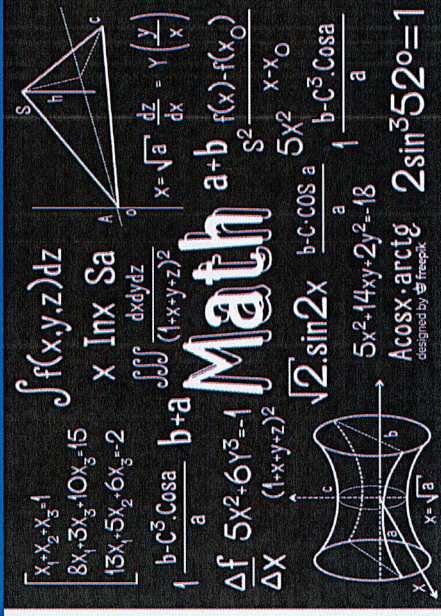




Successful Completion of:

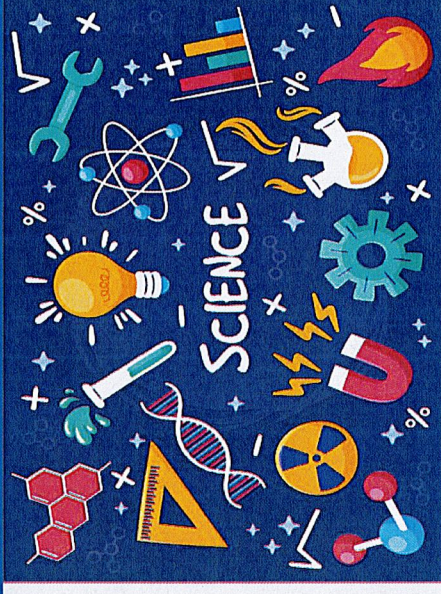
English Language Arts 10

Option #3 in Detail



Successful Completion of:

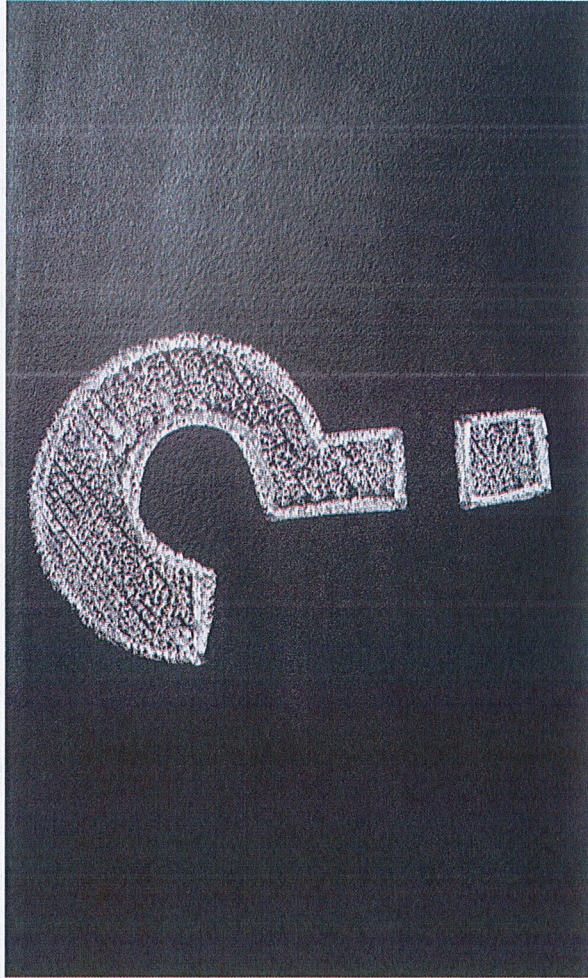
Algebra I
or
Geometry



Successful Completion of:

Biology
or
Chemistry
or
Another Lab-Based full year
Science Course

Questions



State		FY25	FY26	FY26	FY26
Code		Budgeted	Budget Request	Budgeted- no contract changes -TH	Budgeted -TH minus 2%
1000	District Leadership & Administration	246,200	241,700	246,200	246,200
2210	School Leadership	65,225	69,225	65,225	65,225
2250	Tech/Maintenance Agreements	28,975	28,975	28,975	28,975
2357	Professional Development	147,951	84,100	147,951	147,951
2410	Textbooks	56,802	57,052	56,802	56,802
2430	Instructional Equip./General Supplies	188,363	138,678	188,363	188,363
2440	Other Instructional Services (Tutoring)	89,780	119,000	89,780	89,780
2450	Instructional Technology	219,549	367,425	219,549	219,549
2710	Guidance and Adjustment	18,000	19,950	18,000	18,000
2800	Psychological Services	9,000	15,000	9,000	9,000
	TOTAL INSTRUCTION	823,645	899,405	823,645	823,645
3200	Medical Health Services	9,866	12,950	9,866	9,866
3300	Transportation Services	1,875,506	1,819,550	1,875,506	1,875,506
3500	Athletics/Student Activities	383,691	341,791	383,691	383,691
3400	Food Service	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
3600	School Security	35,000	37,500	35,000	35,000
	TOTAL STUDENT SERVICES	2,305,263	2,211,791	2,305,263	2,305,263
4110	Custodial Services	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
4120	Heating of Buildings	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
4130	Utility Services	402,260	404,260	402,260	402,260
4200	Maintenance	321,925	365,082	321,925	321,925
4225	Building Security Equipment	30,882	30,882	30,882	30,882
4400	Networking and Telecommunications	2,500	3,500	2,500	2,500
	TOTAL MAINTENANCE	999,067	1,045,224	999,067	999,067
5260	Non-Employee Insurance	3,390	3,850	3,390	3,390
5300	Lease Agreements	28,950	20,750	28,950	28,950
9000	Out of District Tuitions	1,464,019	1,497,256	1,464,019	1,464,019
	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES	5,870,534	5,919,976	5,870,534	5,870,534
	SALARY	18,949,679	20,796,457	19,901,064	20,796,457
	TOTAL REQUEST	24,820,213	26,716,433	25,771,598	26,666,991
	INCREASE		1,896,220	951,385	1,846,778
	PERCENTAGE INCREASE		7.64%	3.83%	7.44%
	TH Requested 2% Reduction			515,432	533,340
	ADJUSTED TOTAL REQUEST			25,256,166	26,133,651