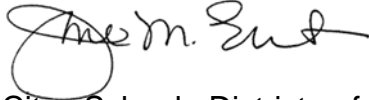





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 

SUBJECT: Petition of the City School District of the City of Schenectady for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit

DATE: March 29, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents consent to allow the City School District of the City of Schenectady to increase the indebtedness of the school district under the provisions of the State Constitution and the Local Finance Law?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by Article 8, Section 4, Paragraph (h) of the State Constitution and by Local Finance Law section 104.00(c).

Proposed Handling

This petition for consent will come before the Board of Regents at the April 2018 meeting for action.

Procedural History

The Board of Regents is required to give consent for such petitions prior to the petition being forwarded to the State Comptroller for final consideration. The Board of Regents has discussed in the past similar requests from school districts to exceed their debt limit and is familiar with the guidelines and procedures for granting consent.

Background Information

The Department received a petition from the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Schenectady seeking consent of the Board of Regents to an increase in the indebtedness of the City School District of the City of Schenectady.

The State Constitution requires that any increase in the constitutional limit on local indebtedness for a school district wholly or partly within a city of less than 125,000 inhabitants receive: (1) the approving vote of 60 percent or more of the duly qualified voters; (2) the consent of the Regents; and (3) the consent of the State Comptroller.

According to the petition, the City School District of the City of Schenectady is located in the County of Schenectady, and a portion of the Town of Rotterdam. The documentation supporting the petition verifies that more than 60 percent of duly qualified voters approved the two increases at a special meeting held on March 25, 2014 and at a regular meeting held on May 17, 2016. The first increase in indebtedness will be utilized for reconstruction and constructions of additions to and other improvements of various school buildings, including equipment, furnishings, machinery, and apparatus as well as site improvements and incidental costs. The second increase in indebtedness will provide funding for the construction of improvements at the Central Park Middle School, including incidental costs and expenses.

Staff has reviewed the petition and supporting documentation and recommends that the requested consent be granted.

Related Regent's Items

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents hereby gives consent to the issuance of bonds and/or bond anticipation notes by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Schenectady in the a total amount not to exceed \$72,500,000 for the reconstruction and constructions of additions to and other improvements of various school buildings, including equipment, furnishings, machinery, and apparatus as well as site improvements and incidental costs, and for the construction of improvements at the Central Park School, including incidental costs and expenses in connection therewith, in excess of the constitutional debt limit of said school district.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Board of Regents, the petition will be forwarded to the State Comptroller for final consideration.