

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a Statement of Interest and what did Sutton's contain?
  - a. A Statement of Interest (SOI) is one of the preliminary documents submitted to the MSBA indicating a town's interest in pursuing a new school building project. There are 8 potential priorities that the town can utilize to indicate the need for either new building or renovation.
  - b. Sutton's SOI indicated 6 of the 8 potential areas:
    - i. Priority 1 – Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists – *indicated*
    - ii. Priority 2 – Elimination of severe overcrowding – *indicated*
    - iii. Priority 3 – Prevention of the loss of accreditation – *indicated*
    - iv. Priority 4 – Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollment – *indicated*
    - v. Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse – *indicated*
    - vi. Priority 6 – Short term enrollment growth – *not indicated*
    - vii. Priority 7 – Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements – *indicated*
    - viii. Priority 8 – Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts – *not indicated*.
2. What information did the MSBA rely upon to determine the enrollment projections of 420 students each for the middle school and high school?
  - a. The following information was required to be submitted to the MSBA:
    - i. Actual enrollment information as of October 1, 2007;
    - ii. Actual births for 2006, 2007 and 2008;
    - iii. Number of residential building permits over the last 10 years by type (single family, multi-family);
    - iv. Number of residential permits projected to be issued over the next 2 years;
    - v. Estimate number of units from question iii which are designated for residents over 55 years of age;
    - vi. Any significant changes anticipated over the next 5 years (eg – opening of new private /charter schools; new regional infrastructure

improvement; arrival or departure of significant local employers, etc.)

3. Why did Sutton hire an Owner's Project Manager (OPM)?
  - a. The new MSBA regulations require that any school building project over \$1.5 million select an OPM from among those candidates that comply with strict application requirements.
4. What is Sutton's reimbursement rate for this project?
  - a. Sutton has preliminarily been approved for a 51.4% initial reimbursement. This percentage of reimbursement can be increased by a variety of initiatives which include such things as "green building" (up to 2% additional) and the creation of a maintenance trust.
5. Has the MSBA formally approved a final design?
  - a. The MSBA has approved the general schematic design known as "Design C". However, it is understood that this design is preliminary and is being improved and changed on an ongoing basis to meet curriculum needs, reduce costs, and to generally design the most efficient project for final submission. The final design will be submitted to the MSBA on December 16, 2009. The MSBA will be voting on final approval of this project design at their January meeting.
6. When and where are Building Committee meetings held?
  - a. The Building Committee holds a regularly scheduled meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Additional meetings are held as necessary and are posted on both the Committee's web page and at the Town Hall. The public is strongly urged to attend. The meetings are also broadcast on local cable channels and are available for viewing on the Town's website ([www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org)).