District: Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical School District
School Name: Franklin County Technical High School
Recommended Category: Project Scope and Budget
Date: April 22, 2026

Recommendation

That the Executive Director be authorized to enter into a Project Scope and Budget Agreement and a Project Funding Agreement with the Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical School District (the "District") to replace the existing Franklin County Technical High School with a new facility serving grades 9-12 on the site of the existing school.

MSBA staff also recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to allow the District 185 days to secure local funding for the Total Project Budget, effectively extending the typical 120-day deadline from August 27, 2026, to October 31, 2026.

Additionally, the District's proposed project is subject to the review of (1) the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office ("MEPA Review") and (2) an ecological study to Mass Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program ("NHESP"). Therefore, the MSBA Board's authorization to enter a Project Funding Agreement will be conditioned upon the District fulfilling the applicable MEPA requirements associated with the MEPA Review as well as any applicable requirements associated with an ecological study with the Mass Wildlife's NHESP reviews.

District Information	
District Name	Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical School District
Elementary School	N/A
Middle School	N/A
High School	Franklin County Technical High School
Priority School Name	Franklin County Technical High School
Type of School	High School
Grades Served	9-12
Year Opened	1976
Existing Square Footage	155,000
Additions	N/A
Acreage of Site	57-acres
Building Issues	The District identified deficiencies in the following areas: – Mechanical systems – Electrical systems – Plumbing systems – Building envelope – Roof – Accessibility In addition to the physical plant issues, the District reported that the existing facility does not support the delivery of its educational program.
Original Design Capacity	642 students
2025-2026 Enrollment	647 students
Agreed Upon Enrollment	600 students

District Information	
Enrollment Specifics	The District and MSBA have mutually agreed upon a design enrollment of 600 students serving grades 9-12.
Total Project Budget – Debt Exclusion Anticipated	Yes

MSBA Board Votes	
Invitation to Eligibility Period	December 21, 2022
Invitation to Feasibility Study	February 28, 2024
Preferred Schematic Authorization	October 29, 2025
Project Scope & Budget Authorization	On April 29, 2026, Board agenda
Reimbursement Rate Before Incentives	60.42%
Incentive Points	1.85 – Maintenance 3.00 – Energy Efficiency – "Green Schools" [1] 1.00 – Indoor Air Quality – "Green Schools" [1]
Total Reimbursement Rate[1]	66.27%

[1] *The MSBA has provisionally included three (3) incentive points for energy efficiency, and one (1) incentive point for indoor air quality, subject to the District meeting certain sustainability requirements for the project. If the District does not meet the requirements of the Green Schools Program, the District will not qualify for some, or all, of these incentive points, and the MSBA will adjust the reimbursement rate accordingly.*

Consultants	
Owner's Project Manager (the "OPM")	Colliers Project Leaders USA NE, LLC
Designer	Lavallee Brensinger Architects

Discussion

MSBA staff reviewed the documents provided by the District and met with the District and its consultants to discuss scope and budget. The District has provided a Total Project Budget of $236,572,983, which includes an estimated construction cost of $193,662,200 ($918/sq. ft.). The Estimated Basis of Total Facilities Grant would be $169,394,325, which excludes the following: OPM and Designer fees associated with excluded scope; OPM and Designer fees beyond MSBA funding limits; costs associated with permitting; costs associated with the removal of fuel storage tanks; costs associated with scope excluded site work associated with off-site improvements; construction costs for building and site work beyond MSBA funding limits, which includes scope associated with ineligible building area; costs associated with mailing and moving; costs exceeding the $1,915 per student allowance for furniture, fixtures, and equipment; costs exceeding the $1,570 per student allowance for technology. The Total Project Budget also excludes costs associated with the commissioning of ineligible building area, as well as the owner's and construction contingency costs.

Additionally, the proposed demolition of the Franklin County Technical High School will result in the MSBA recovering a portion of state funds previously paid to the District for the window and roof replacement project at the existing facility completed in October 2016. The MSBA has calculated this recovery of funds to be $431,199, and this amount has been deducted from the Estimated Maximum Total Facilities Grant.

Project Scope and Budget Agreement	
Enrollment: 600 students Proposed Total Square Feet: 211,075	District's Proposed Project Budget
Project Budget[1]	$226,238,350
Scope Exclusions/Ineligible Costs	-$56,844,025
Third Party Funding	-$0
Estimated Basis of Total Facilities Grant	$169,394,325
Reimbursement Rate	66.27%
Estimated Maximum Total Facilities Grant before Cost Recovery[2]	$112,257,619
Commissioning Costs Associated with Ineligible Building Area	-$1,788
Cost Recovery Associated with Prior Projects	-$431,199
Estimated Maximum Total Facilities Grant[2]	$111,824,632
Owner's and Construction Contingencies	$10,334,633
Ineligible Owner's and Construction Contingencies	-$7,429,700
Potentially Eligible Owner's and Construction Contingencies	$2,904,933
Potential Additional Grant Funds for Eligible Owner's and Construction Contingency Expenditures	$1,925,099
Total Project Budget	$236,572,983
Maximum Total Facilities Grant[3,4]	$113,749,731

[1]Does not include Owner's or Construction Contingencies.
[2]Does not include any grant funds for potentially eligible Owner's or Construction Contingency Expenditures; subject to MSBA review and audit.
[3]Includes maximum possible Owner's and Construction Contingency grant funds, the final amount of which, if any, shall be determined by the MSBA in its sole discretion. The MSBA does not anticipate that the District will expend all of its contingency funds on expenses that are eligible for MSBA reimbursement.
[4]Maximum Total Facilities Grant will be allocated in part to the current Grant Cap, and in part to future available Grant Cap space.

MSBA staff recommends an Estimated Maximum Total Facilities Grant of $111,824,632; however, the District may be eligible for up to an additional $1,925,099 in grant funds, subject to the MSBA's review and audit of the District's owner's and construction contingency expenditures. Accordingly, staff recommends a Maximum Total Facilities Grant of $113,749,731 for the Project Scope and Budget Agreement and Project Funding Agreement to replace the existing Franklin County Technical High School and construct a new facility serving students in grades 9 through 12 on the existing site. The MSBA Board's authorization to enter into a Project Funding Agreement will be conditioned upon the District fulfilling: (1) any applicable MEPA requirements associated with a MEPA Review and (2) any applicable requirements associated with an ecological study for Mass Wildlife's NHESP.