



MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Board Chair Jay Tepper, Board of Finance Chair Richard Freedman, and Board of Representatives President Jeff Curtis

FROM: Mayor Caroline Simmons

DATE: October 16, 2024

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Contract Approval Process – Schematic Design for Roxbury

Today, following research conducted regarding the Concept and Schematic Design (TSKP Studio RFP 2024.0008), Owners Rep (Arcadis RFP 2024.0276) and Construction Manager (O&G RFP 2024.0300), Corporation Counsel Thomas Cassone issued an opinion on whether such contracts are subject to the contract approval process under the Purchasing Ordinance in Chapter 23 of the Code of Ordinances, including any necessity for approval by the Board of Finance or Board of Representatives.

In May 2023, the City of Stamford was awarded a grant from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, per Public Act 23-205, covering 60% reimbursement of eligible project costs for the construction of a new Roxbury K-8 school. Since the project utilizes state funding and based on Corporation Counsel's interpretation of Sec. 23-18.11 of the City Charter, the city is permitted to follow the grantor's procurement requirements in lieu of that provided in the Purchasing Ordinance. Therefore, it is the Corporation Counsel's opinion that the above contracts do not require Board approval.

While I respect the Board of Finance's involvement and their 2-4 vote during this process, I have been clear that investing in our school facilities and embarking on this unprecedented school construction building program is one of my administration's priorities. Given the deteriorating condition of Roxbury, I have an obligation to students, teachers, and parents to ensure the construction of a safe, modern, and high-quality learning environment. Therefore, I will be directing the Director of Operations to move forward with the schematic design for the Roxbury K-8 project.

Please be advised that while Mr. Cassone's opinion applies to all Roxbury professional service contracts, at this time, we will only be proceeding with the schematic design. We look forward to engaging with all relevant Boards before any future actions on the school construction program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Simmons', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mayor Caroline Simmons