





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 Utica for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit

DATE: February 16, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents consent to allow the City School District of the City of Utica 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 February 2016 meeting for discussion and 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 Utica seeking consent of the Board of Regents to an increase in the indebtedness of the City School District of the City of Utica.

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 records, the boundaries of the City School District of the City of Utica are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Utica in Oneida County. The documentation supporting the petition verifies that more than 60 percent of duly qualified voters approved the increase at the special meeting held on May 19, 2015.

The increase in indebtedness will be used for the costs of the reconstruction, addition, improvement and repair of the Kernan Elementary School in the School District, including the demolition of existing buildings, grading or improvement of the site, and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required for the purposes for which the building is to be used. Staff has reviewed the petition and supporting documentation and recommends that the requested consent be granted.

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 Utica in an amount not to exceed \$9,750,000 for the reconstruction, addition, improvement and repair of the Kernan Elementary School in the School District, including the demolition of existing buildings, grading or improvement of the site, and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required for the purposes for which the building is to be used and the issuance of such bonds and/or bond anticipation notes 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.