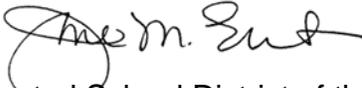




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 

SUBJECT: Petition of the Central School District of the City of
Niagara Falls for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional
Debt Limit

DATE: May 31, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents consent to allow the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls 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 June 2018 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 Niagara Falls seeking consent of the Board of Regents to an increase in the indebtedness of the Central School District of the City of Niagara Falls.

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 Niagara Falls is located in the County of Niagara. The documentation supporting the petition verifies that more than 60 percent of duly qualified voters approved the increase at a special meeting held on December 12, 2017. The increase in indebtedness will be used to undertake capital improvements, consisting of reconstruction and renovations, in part and construction to, and of, school buildings, grounds and facilities throughout the district.

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

Related Regent's Items

In 2013, the Board of Regents and the State Comptroller consented to and approved prior request in the amount of \$66,700,000 from the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls. See prior Regents Item: [2013](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413brca5.pdf) (<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413brca5.pdf>)

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 Niagara Falls in the amount not to exceed \$55,000,000 for the reconstruction and construction of improvements to school facilities, as well as site work, equipment, furnishings, machinery and apparatus, 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.