





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: James N. Baldwin 

SUBJECT: Petition of the City School District of the City of Gloversville for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit

DATE: March 3, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents consent to allow the City School District of the City of Gloversville 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 will come before the Full Board for consideration at its March 2022 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

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, in the past, discussed 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 Gloversville seeking consent of the Board of Regents to an increase in the indebtedness of the City School District of the City of Gloversville.

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 Board of Regents; and (3) the consent of the State Comptroller.

According to the petition, the City School District of the City of Gloversville is located primarily in the City of Gloversville, includes portions of the Towns of Johnstown, Bleecker, Caroga, and Mayfield, and is located in Fulton County, New York. 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 15, 2020. The amount requested for approval by the Board of Regents is \$32,500,000, all in excess of the constitutional debt limit, to be used to fund a capital project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various school district buildings and facilities (and sites thereof), including the acquisition of new furnishings, equipment, machinery, or apparatus required for such buildings.

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

Related Regents Items

In November 2016: Petition of the Gloversville City School District for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit (<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1116brca8.pdf>).

In 2016, the Board of Regents and the State Comptroller consented to and approved a prior request in the amount of \$37,800,000 from the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Gloversville. See prior Regents Item: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1116brca8.pdf>.

In May 2008: Petition of the Gloversville City School District for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit (<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008/2008-05-4>).

In 2008, the Board of Regents and the State Comptroller consented to and approved a prior request in the amount of \$24,885,200 for capital improvement projects and \$400,000 for buses from the Board of Education of the City School District in the City of Gloversville. See prior Regents item: <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008/2008-05-4>.

In October 2005: Petition of the Gloversville City School District for Consent to Exceed the Constitutional Debt Limit (<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2005Meetings/October2005/1005emscvesida2.htm>).

In 2005, the Board of Regents and the State Comptroller consented to and approved a prior request in the amount of \$60,310,000 from the Board of Education of the City School District in the City of Gloversville. See prior Regents item: <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2005Meetings/October2005/1005emscvesida2.htm>.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

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 Gloversville in an amount not to exceed \$32,500,000, all of which will be in excess of the constitutional debt limit, for a capital project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various school district buildings and facilities (and sites thereof), including the acquisition of new furnishings, equipment, machinery, or apparatus required for such buildings, 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.