



# Office of the City Council

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
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Tuesday April 23, 2013

Fellow Councilors;

In anticipation of the April 30, 2013 Special City Election regarding the borrowing order relative to funding the Conte School project, I feel it incumbent of this Council to have a final weigh in on its fate. As you all know we first acted on this project two months ago by voting in favor of the borrowing order. Last month we re-affirmed our position on the project by voting unanimously not to rescind the original order, thus forcing the question to the Special City Election.

I am sure the Council is fully aware of the ramifications of this vote.

The School Building Committee did due diligence in reviewing all possibilities for building a new school. Their goal was to provide the greatest educational opportunities for our children at an affordable price to the City. Their meetings were thorough and informational and inclusive of all who attended.

Many of us followed this process closely and had ample opportunity to voice our concerns and ideas at the school building committee meetings during the selection process. We had ample opportunity throughout this process to question the engineers, architects and the state in their decision making. After careful review, Conte was chosen as the best solution for the students and the City.

The City of North Adams has the opportunity to receive a \$ 23 million dollar reimbursement check from the state towards the cost of building the new Conte Elementary School. This is the single largest award ever given to the City by the State. The City of North Adams cannot and should not let this money slip away.

There is no guarantee from the state that future projects will be funded. I have served as a City Councilor for 24 years and have had the privilege to vote on the funding of the only two school building projects during that time span....Drury and Brayton schools, respectively. Both of these projects involved retrofitting or building on to existing structures. In the case of Drury, there was a strong push to build a new school on State Street. After careful deliberation the City chose instead to modernize the existing Drury into the great school and facility the school has become. And Drury has served the City well. The Brayton School construction project served a greater community cause as it helped preserve the YMCA and it too became a great school and facility, which has served the City well.

Like these previous school projects, the new Conte Elementary School will also serve the City well. It will again stand tall as a fine educational facility and will remain as an important monument and link to the history and heritage of this City. The Conte Elementary School will be a great school and facility we can all be proud of.

Conte will receive a complete makeover. Conte will be revived with State of the art technology and efficient energy and operational systems. The school will feature unique, large and spacious classrooms with high ceilings and grand windows looking down on the city. The students will be within a short walk to our Public Library, Mass Moca, MCLA, the future Mohawk Theater and other cultural and community programs.

Certainly no project is perfect and not everyone will agree with each other but we as a City must move forward. There are far too many positive aspects of this school project to let \$ 23 million dollars in state reimbursement slip away.

I would respectfully ask the Council to let their voices be heard in supporting this school project and furthermore ask the Council to adopt the attached resolution asking the people of the City of North Adams to VOTE YES for the Conte Elementary School Building Project.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael C. Bloom  
North Adams City Council President



# City of North Adams

## In City Council

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

April 23, 2023

**Whereas:**

the North Adams City Council is the legislative body of our City government empowered with the duty of acting on borrowing orders and,

**WHEREAS:** the City began a process over four years ago to evaluate our school system and its future school building needs and,

**WHEREAS:** the City Administration selected a School Building Committee made up of a diversified group of concerned citizens and a highly qualified and professional Project Architect/Engineer to evaluate the options available to the City in improving its elementary schools and,

**WHEREAS:** this School Building Committee held numerous meetings to evaluate Sullivan, Brayton, Greylock and Conte Schools; as well as other possible sites, to determine which school building project would most benefit the education of our students yet be affordable to our City and,

**WHEREAS:** after lengthy meetings with public input, recommendations from the State School Building Assistance Bureau, Architects, Engineers, and the School Committee; the Conte school building was chosen as the best option for the City, both in terms of costs as well as best serving the needs of the students and,

**WHEREAS:** the Conte Elementary School Project would bring new life into a major historical structure and,

**WHEREAS:** the Conte Elementary School Project will provide a complete building rehabilitation, state of the art technology and classrooms, energy efficient operating systems, an enhanced playground, gym and outside recreation areas as well as adequate parking area and,

**WHEREAS:** the City Council voted in favor of the borrowing order to fund the Conte Elementary School Project and,

**WHEREAS:** the City Council reaffirmed its position on the Conte Elementary School project by voting unanimously not to rescind its original Conte Borrowing order and,

**WHEREAS:** the City will be responsible for only twenty percent of the project after state reimbursement and,

**WHEREAS:** the State will reimburse the city in the amount of Eighty percent of the project which amounts to Twenty-Three million dollars, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of North Adams hereby urges the citizens of North Adams to vote yes for the Conte Elementary School Project at the Special City Election on April 30, 2013, thus authorizing the City to borrow the necessary funds to move forward on this project and to subsequently receive Twenty Three Million Dollars in school building cost reimbursement from the State.