

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

242 Spring Hill Road  
Storrs, CT 06268

Donald H. Ouillette  
Assistant Director of Project Management  
Department of Public Work  
165 Capitol Avenue, Rm. 460  
Hartford, CT 06106  
March 4, 2009

Dear Mr. Ouillette,

The Education Committee met on Thursday, February 26, 2009. At that time the members present unanimously approved the following motion made by Stamford Regional Fire School Training Director Conte and seconded by Hartford County Regional Fire School Training Director Jepeal:

The Education Committee of the CSFA adopts the following plan to prioritize Connecticut Regional Fire School capital projects:

1. \$5.2M to complete New Haven Fire Academy,
2. \$5.7M to complete Hartford County Regional Fire School,
3. \$8.3M to Design/Build Fire Training School of Torrington,
4. \$6.9M to Design/Build Fairfield Regional Fire School,
5. \$1.0M to purchase land for Eastern Connecticut Fire School
6. \$0.9M to purchase land for Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire School

These figures utilize the \$28M currently authorized in bond funding for these projects, provide incentive for the immediate advertisement of RFP/RFQ requirements (as requested by Commissioner Curtis last April, announced by Governor Rell last July, and released by the Bonding Commission last August), and reflect figures offered by DPW in their cost projections.

Committee members are cognizant that approximately \$35M in additional bonding must be authorized in order to facilitate the completion of Eastern, Valley, Wolcott and Middlesex Fire Schools in accordance with the recommendation of the Facilities Study commissioned by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2001.

March 4, 2009

The following members of the Education Committee were in attendance at that meeting.

Burrville Fire School – Rich Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Leslie Shull, Jr., Eric Deschamps  
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Christopher Tracy  
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Steve Venziano, Paul Perrotti  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control - Rich Nicol  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll  
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrisette  
Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Tony Conte

If you have any questions please call me at 860-450-6875.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan R. Hawkins".

Alan R. Hawkins, chairman

cc. Doug Moore, Chief of Staff

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

242 Spring Hill Road  
Storrs, CT 06268

Raeanne V. Curtis, Commissioner  
Department of Public Work  
165 Capitol Avenue, Rm. 427  
Hartford, CT 06106  
April 27, 2009

Dear Commissioner Curtis,

I spoke with Assistant Chief Christopher Tracy from the Fairfield Fire Department on Friday about the kick off meeting for the design of the Fairfield Regional Fire School. Chief Tracy had very positive things to say about the meeting and the professionalism of Mr. David Wlodkowski. It sounds like this project may, finally be off to a good start. This is however, the same step in the project that you had requested \$150,000 from the Bond Commission for in April 2008. That funding was released by them on August 4, 2008.

At our meeting on March 18, 2009 Deputy Commissioner O'Hearn reported that the invitations to bid for the New Haven Regional Fire Academy construction would be sent out in a week or two. Assistant Chief Tracy told me that he stopped to visit you last Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and you reported that the invitations would go out in about two weeks. It is apparent that more than five weeks slipped away from any progress on this project.

I have recently discovered that Senate Bill #759 which was a request for an additional \$40 million for the regional fire school project died in committee. Additionally, the \$5 million that appeared in the Governor's proposed budget for 2010 to continue to move the regional fire schools project forward seems to have also been withdrawn. With the amount of support that the Education Committee has seen from members in the House and Senate for this project I cannot help but think that at least some of the negative signs recently come from the lack of progress.

You cannot possibly understand the frustration on the part of members of the Education Committee as we watch all of these steps backward in this project that we have dedicated more than nine years effort toward. Firefighters in the state of Connecticut deserve to have more attention paid to this essential project that stresses state of the art training facilities to help them perform safely.

Please support our efforts by continuing to keep this project moving forward. If the current bond authorizations become depleted, it will be the function of the Education Committee to lobby for additional funding.

Sincerely,



Alan R. Hawkins, chairman

