

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Samuel A. Mudd Elementary – Media Center

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bob Gorrell, Executive Director



When the IAC approved the new Cost per Square Foot at their June meeting (see page 4 of this publication for more information), [Brian Gibbons, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Greenberg Gibbons](#) and a public member of the IAC appointed by the Speaker of the House, urged Local Education Agencies to move forward projects as quickly and efficiently as possible right now while the economy is favorable. Mr. Gibbons noted that in the private sector, contractors have been more aggressive in recent months and that prices have been more favorable than in the last several years.

I echo his sentiments. There are so many occurrences in the world that could not have been envisioned before COVID-19. Now more than ever, it is critical that we utilize taxpayer dollars to best effect — wringing out every bit of value we can — for the benefit of Maryland's children. Our school facilities continue to operate and to house students, and we must continue our work to maintain those facilities so that every child in every seat in Maryland has an educationally sufficient learning environment. Every challenge provides unexpected opportunities, and to the extent that we can do so responsibly, we should strike while the iron is hot by moving forward our major and capital maintenance projects now while we can do so at a lower cost.

SCCAN GUIDELINES

Education Article §6-113.1(e) and (f) require that:

(e) On or before December 1, 2018, the Interagency Committee on School Construction and the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN) jointly shall develop guidelines and best practices for the assessment and modification of physical facilities and spaces to reduce opportunities for child sexual abuse.

(f) Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, each county board shall develop policies and procedures on the use and modification of physical facilities and spaces to reduce opportunities for child sexual abuse.

The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect adopted the Guidelines at their meeting on May 7, 2020. The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) subsequently adopted the Guidelines at their meeting on May 14, 2020. [The Adopted Maryland Guidelines and Best Practices for the Design, Assessment, and Modification of Physical Facilities and Spaces to Reduce Opportunities for child Sexual Abuse](#) introduces research-based guidelines, including: The Situational Prevention Approach (SPA), Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines (CDC).

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBER

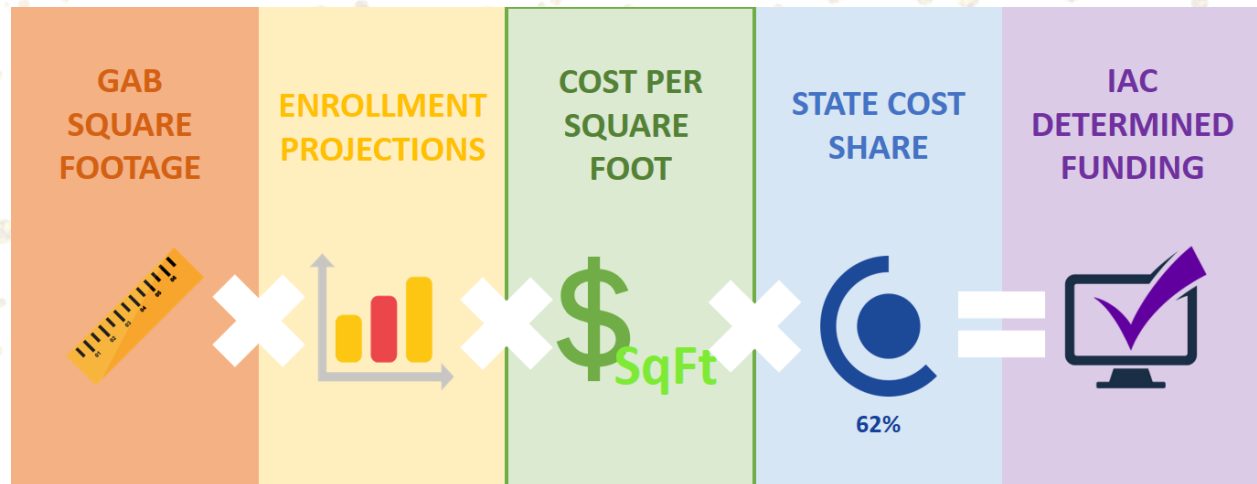
Ms. Linda Eberhart

The Interagency Commission on School Construction is pleased to welcome its newest member, Linda Eberhart. Ms. Eberhart worked in Baltimore Schools for 42 years as a teacher for 38 years and then as Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. She was named the 2001-2002 Maryland Teacher of the Year while teaching at Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School, where her students had the state's highest test scores in math. In 2002, the Washington Post, in an article titled "[In Bleak Environment, Teacher Fosters Big Gains](#)," described Ms. Eberhart's tireless efforts to educate her children and her unique approach of developing interdisciplinary lessons so that kids apply their learned skills to real-life problems. The author of the article noted that Ms. Eberhart's students did not follow typical performance trends. Instead, students that would typically be the worst performing based upon gender or racial trends were outperforming the majority of students in the State.



After retiring from education in 2012, Ms. Eberhart subsequently served on the Maryland State Board of Education and has been very active in promoting educational improvement throughout the State. She served on the Governor's STEM Task Force in 2009, served on the National Advisory Board for STEM Achievement (a 5 year NFS grant with Johns Hopkins University (SABES), contributed to the [ACLUs Buildings for Academic Excellence: A Vision and Options to Address Deficient School Facilities in Baltimore City](#). The ACLU report recommended that the State commit to bring all State school buildings up to minimum adequacy and "implement a rational allocation for capital funds that directs funding to the greatest needs" while taking into account each district's ability to contribute. Implementing a standards-based program that would prioritize programs in just this way is a current initiative of the IAC, and program specifics are under consideration by the [Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities](#).

Ms. Eberhart was appointed to the Interagency Commission on School Construction by the Speaker of the House and attended her first meeting in March of 2020. With her extensive experience in education and her passion for ensuring that every child in every seat in Maryland has a sufficient place to learn, Ms. Eberhart is sure to be an asset to the Commission!



FY 2022 COST PER SQUARE FOOT

To determine the Maximum State Construction Allocation for each project, or the up-to amount that the State will pay on a particular project, the IAC uses the formula shown above, which includes several components.

The cost per square foot is established by the IAC in July of the calendar year one year before approved CIP projects are solicited by the LEA. The number is applicable to major CIP projects that were bid in the CIP year for which it was adopted. The Adopted Cost per Square Foot is based on bids received for new school construction in the prior six-month period derived from industry sources, and the anticipated cost escalation factors used by other State agencies.

At their meeting on June 25, 2020, the IAC adopted the cost per square foot for FY 2022, which will be used in preliminary and final approvals for the FY 2022 CIP in October 2020 and May 2021, respectively. Based upon recent school construction bids and a review of the national building cost index, the IAC approved a 3.5% increase over the FY 2021 figure, for an FY 2022 Cost Per Square Foot for building of \$341.



IMPORTANT DATES

8/20/2020: IAC Meeting

9/10/2020: IAC Meeting

10/7/2020: Submission of FY22 CIP Requests Due

10/15/2020: IAC Meeting