



Meeting Minutes – May 09, 2024

Call to Order:

Chair Edward Kasemeyer called the video-conference meeting of the Interagency Commission on School Construction to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

Edward Kasemeyer, Appointee of the President of the Senate, Chair
Linda Eberhart, Appointee of the Speaker of the House, Vice-chair
Courtney League as Designee for Secretary Atif Chaudhry, Maryland Department of General Services
Michael Darenberg, Appointee of the Governor
Chuck Boyd as Designee for Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning
Brian Gibbons, Appointee of the Speaker of the House
Gloria Lawlah, Appointee of the President of the Senate
Krishnanda Tallur as Designee for Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools

Members Not in Attendance:

None.

Revisions to the Agenda:

None.

Public Comment:

Mr. Joseph Jakuta of Climate Parents of Prince George's County. Mr. Jakuta provided testimony requesting that the IAC develop Life-Cycle Cost standards that reflect fossil fuel-based equipment as having a shorter than current life-span due to the Climate Solutions Now Act limiting the use of fossil fuel powered equipment after 2045.

IAC Correspondence:

None.

1. Executive Director's Report – **[Informational Only]**

Executive Director Alex Donahue informed the Commission that staff would present a summary of bills related to the IAC in agenda Item 10. Executive Director Donahue also gave a brief introduction to the Item 3's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 100% recommendations, in which he discussed how the increased cost of construction activities resulted in fewer funding recommendations than in past years, and stated that the appropriations to school construction have not kept pace with inflationary pressures. Executive Director Donahue also praised staff for the work they had done in compiling the recommendations for FY 2025 allocations. Lastly, Executive Director Donahue announced that the IAC was approved to procure an IT contractor to configure a new GIS-based facilities data system that will house the IAC's Statewide Facilities Assessment and Maintenance-Effectiveness Assessment data. He indicated that this procurement, the existing Business Management System currently in the process of being rolled out, and the Facilities Inventory Database will complete the Integrated Master Facilities Asset Library mandated in Education Article §5-310.

2. Consent Agenda – [Motion Carried]

Upon a motion by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

a. April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

To approve the draft April 11, 2024 IAC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

b. Contract Awards

To approve contract procurement as presented.

c. Project Allocation Reversion

To revise the contract approval for St. Mary's County Public Schools' Town Creek Elementary School (PSC 18.014) HVAC Project, approved by the IAC on October 13, 2022, to revert \$464,640 to the reserve account for St. Mary's County.

d. Cancellation of Contract Award - Baltimore City Public Schools - Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School Annex (PSC 30.286)

To approve the cancellation of the contract awarded to Plano-Coudon, LLC for construction funding for the Baltimore City Public Schools Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School Annex (PSC 30.286) Renovation/Addition project.

3. FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program 100% Recommendations – [Motion Carried]

Funding Programs Manager Arabia Davis presented the 100% Capital Improvement Program (CIP) recommendations for FY 2025, totalling \$313.8 million plus an additional \$40 million for the Enrollment Growth and Relocatable Classrooms program, known as EGRC. Ms. Davis indicated that fewer Local Planning approvals were being recommended for approval FY 2025 than had been recommended in many recent fiscal years. Executive Director Donahue noted that this decrease was not due to issues with applications, but rather that this was due to the high amount of future funding liabilities that the State has already approved. Ms. Davis went on to detail the CIP recommendation spreadsheets in the agenda, highlighting a few LEAs and projects which warranted further explanation.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Ms. Lawlah, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Program as presented in the total amount of \$363.3 million including \$358.8 million for allocation to funding requests, \$500,000 for Department of General Services (DGS) design consultant fees, and reserving \$3.9 million in new authorization for design/planning services and unanticipated project costs; and, to authorize the IAC staff to make minor adjustments to allocations based on calculation of the project's Maximum State Allocation amount to avoid the over-or under-funding of a project.

4. FY 2023 & 2024 Capital Improvement Program Amendment Request – Anne Arundel County Public Schools – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Lisa Vaughn presented a request from Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) for funding adjustments for 16 different projects that were awarded funding via the FY 2023 and FY 2024 CIP. Ms. Vaughn cited that the adjustments were due to project contracts coming in lower than anticipated, and the rounding of State participation to the nearest \$1000 in CIP publications. Ms. Vaughn indicated that AACPS requested that the total amount of \$1,283,113 be reverted to their reserve account.

Mr. Darenberg inquired why AACPS appear to have received favorable bids when other counties seemingly have not. Ms. Vaughn indicated that this was due to AACPS using past cost information to establish project estimates, and due to market conditions and complexity of project scopes. Mr. Gibbons asked if prices are coming down compared to the significant inflation previously seen. Ms. Vaughn indicated that prices are not coming down across the board, and that the construction market is still seeing increased costs. She also indicated that the surplus is likely due to the unique situation of AACPS rather than any reduction in construction costs. Executive Director Donahue added that the IAC staff are currently in the process of compiling the cost per square foot from recent projects for the update to the State cost per square foot, which will be presented at the next IAC meeting. He added that there is a slight softening of inflation in the market, and that costs are not climbing as steeply as they previously were.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. League, the IAC voted unanimously to approve Anne Arundel County Public Schools' (AACPS) request to amend the presented project allocations and revert unused FY 2023 and FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds totaling \$1,283,113 to their reserve fund account.

5. FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program Amendment Request – Dorchester County Public Schools – Vienna Elementary School (PSC 09.005) HVAC Project – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Sean Vorsteg presented the request from Dorchester County Public Schools to rescind \$2,232,000 of FY 2023 CIP funding for the Vienna Elementary School HVAC project, as the project will not be pursued due to the shifting priorities of the LEA. DCPS additionally requested that \$282,250 of this rescission be allocated to conduct feasibility studies at various elementary schools, and that the remaining \$1,949,750 be transferred to the LEA's reserve account.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. League, the IAC voted unanimously to rescind the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding awarded to Dorchester County Public Schools' (DCPS) Vienna Elementary School (PSC 09.005) HVAC project totaling \$2,232,000 and transfer the funding to their reserve fund account for future use.

6. Maximum State Allocation and FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program Increase – Montgomery County Public Schools – Sligo Middle School (PSC 15.235) HVAC Replacement Project – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Director Melissa Wilfong presented a request from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for an increase to their Maximum State Allocation and their FY 2023 CIP award for the Sligo Middle School HVAC replacement project. Ms. Wilfong indicated that this request for increase is due to higher than anticipated bid results on the project.

Mr. Gibbons asked as to whether this increase was due to a change in project scope, or if it was just due to cost, and if this was due to a scarcity of HVAC units presently. Ms. Wilfong indicated that both scarcity of materials and an increase in cost due to recent inflationary pressures are factors in the increased project cost.

Upon a motion by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Mr. Gibbons, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Allocation for Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) Sligo Middle School (PSC 15.235) HVAC project from \$4,500,000 to \$6,180,000 and to transfer \$1,680,000 from the LEA's reserve fund account to the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project, in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.07.

7. Built to Learn Funding Request – Montgomery County Public Schools – Burtonsville Elementary School (PSC 15.285) Replacement Project – [Motion Carried]

Funding Programs Assistant Sheron Johnson presented a request for Built to Learn (BTL) funding for the MCPS Burtonsville Elementary School replacement project. Ms. Johnson indicated that MCPS was seeking \$29,907,000 to construct the new elementary facility, which would accommodate 762 students, and that the project aligned with the goals of the BTL program.

Upon a motion made by Vice-chair Eberhart, seconded by Mr. Darenberg, the IAC voted unanimously to approve Montgomery County Public Schools' request for Built to Learn construction funding for the Burtonsville Elementary School (PSC 15.285) Replacement project totaling \$29,907,000.

8. Built to Learn Funding Request – Montgomery County Public Schools – Greencastle Elementary School (PSC 15.155) Renovation/Addition Project – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Johnson also presented a request for funding approval of the MCPS Greencastle Elementary School renovation/addition project. For this project MCPS requested \$7,727,000 of BTL funds. Ms. Johnson indicated that the project aligned with the goals of the BTL program.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. League, the IAC voted unanimously to approve Montgomery County Public Schools' request for Built to Learn construction funding for the Greencastle Elementary School (PSC 15.155) Renovation/Addition Project totaling \$7,727,000.

9. FY 2020 Healthy Schools Facility Fund Rescission Request – Calvert County Public Schools – Mt. Harmony Elementary School (PSC 04.007) Boiler Project – [Motion Carried]

Funding Programs Assistant Deterrion Sims presented a request from Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) to rescind funding FY 2020 Healthy Schools Facility Fund (HSFF) funding for the Mt. Harmony Elementary School Boiler Project. CCPS indicated that due to local fiscal constraints, they are unable to complete the project, and request that the funds totalling \$62,010 be rescinded. Ms. Sims indicated that these funds would be reverted to the Statewide HSFF reserve account for future reallocation to other eligible projects.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to rescind the \$62,010 awarded through the FY 2020 Healthy School Facility Fund for Calvert County Public Schools' Mt. Harmony Elementary School (PSC 04.007) boiler replacement project.

10. 2024 Legislative Session Summary – [Informational Only]

Policy Analyst Victoria Howard presented an informational item summarizing the 2024 Legislative Session bills which had an impact on the IAC and related stakeholders. Ms. Howard provided summaries of HB 1390: Public School Construction - Funding and Administration, HB 472: Establishment of the School Mapping Data Program, and several bills that impacted specific LEAs and asked for members of the IAC to serve on workgroups relating to school construction and funding in Calvert and Frederick Counties.

Deputy Director Cassandra Viscarra presented information regarding the Capital and Operating Budget bills, as well as the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 (BRFA). Most notably, the BRFA repealed Ed. Article §5-315, which created and funded the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund, and transfers the existing \$40 million to fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund.



11. Executive Session – Closed

Upon a motion by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to meet in Executive Session at 9:41 am, pursuant to General Provision Article §3-305(b)(7), to obtain the advice of legal counsel on a law or regulation affecting the Commission.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:23am.