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Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2020

Call to Order:

Dr. Karen Salmon called the video-conference meeting of the Interagency Commission on School Construction to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, Chair
Denise Avara, Appointee of the Governor
Secretary Ellington Churchill, Department of General Services
Linda Eberhart, Appointee of the Speaker of the House
Brian Gibbons, Appointee of the Speaker of the House
Edward Kasemeyer, Appointee of the President of the Senate
Gloria Lawlah, Appointee of the President of the Senate
Secretary Robert S. McCord, Maryland Department of Planning

Members Not in Attendance:

Dick Lombardo, Appointee of the Governor

Revisions to the Agenda:

None

Public Comment:

None

IAC Correspondence:

None

I. Consent Agenda – [Motion Carried]

Upon a motion from Secretary McCord and a second by Mr. Kasemeyer, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Lawlah was absent from the vote.

A. Approval of the December 10, 2020 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Interagency Commission on School Construction Meeting.

B. Summary of Contract Awards

To approve contract procurement as presented.

C. Approval of Revisions to Previously Approved Contracts

To approve the revisions to previously approved contract awards to accurately reflect the adjusted reversion amount.

II. Report on ASP and SSGP Projects Extended per Authority Delegated to the Executive Director – [Informational Only]

Wanda Ascencio, Finance and Business Manager, presented a report on Aging Schools Program (ASP) and School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) projects that were extended under the authority delegated to the Executive Director of the IAC. The authority granted to the Executive Director to extend these projects was done in order to expeditiously respond to LEA requests for extensions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report showed ASP projects totaling \$3,035,041 and SSGP projects totaling \$2,376,036 projects that have been granted extensions by the Executive Director.

III. Status Report on Contract Deadline Extensions Related to the Governor’s Executive Order Dated March 12, 2020 – [Informational Only]

Bret Waskiewicz, Senior Regional Facilities Manager, delivered a status report on contract deadline extensions related to the Governor’s Executive Order dated March 12, 2020.

Section 5-303(j) of the Education Article of the Maryland Code requires that, for each Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project that receives an allocation of State school-construction funds from the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), the LEA execute a contract with a vendor within two years of the IAC’s approval of the project allocation. Mr. Waskiewicz reminded the Members that on August 20th, 2020, the Executive Director of the IAC requested that the cancellation of 5 Prince George’s County projects be removed from the Agenda. Secretary McCord had informed the IAC Staff that the IAC had the authority to issue an extension to the deadline of when a CIP project must be under contract, in accordance with the Governor’s executive order. The IAC issued their public notice the same day, which extended the deadline for any CIP project that will expire during the State of Emergency to the 30th day after the date on which the State of Emergency is terminated.

The IAC staff reported on 12 CIP projects with contract deadlines that have been extended under the Notice dated August 20, 2020. Mr. Waskiewicz also provided a recent update, not reflected in the table in the report. Howard County will request that both identified projects be rescinded the February IAC meeting, with the funds being reallocated to Hammond High, their #3 priority in their FY 2022 CIP request. Montgomery's project was successfully rebid and is now in the procurement stage. Furthermore, Prince George's project had a phase one portion created, and the new contract for this phase is in procurement. There are no additional updates to the Baltimore City Schools project.

IV. Baltimore City Public Schools Project Cancellation and Amendment of the FY 2021 CIP – [Motion Carried]

Jamie Bridges, Regional Facilities Manager for Baltimore City, presented an item on a Baltimore City project cancellation and an amendment to the FY 2021 CIP.

IAC staff received official notification from Baltimore City on November 6, 2020 requesting, in accordance with §5-303 (j)(3) of the Education Article, the rescission of an elevator project approved in the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the amendment of the FY 2021 CIP to include an elevator project at a different building. BCPSS inadvertently requested funding for the Thomas Jefferson PK-8 #232 building when in fact the need for the elevator project existed at the Thomas Johnson PK-8 #084 building.

Upon a motion from Ms. Avara and a second from Secretary Churchill, IAC Members voted unanimously to approve a request from Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPSS) to:

1. Rescind \$466,000 allocated to the Thomas Jefferson PK-8 #232 Elevator project (PSC 30.090.21 SR); and transfer the funds to the Statewide Contingency Account reserved for BCPSS.
2. Amend the FY 2021 CIP to include the Thomas Johnson #084 PK-8 Elevator project (PSC 30.044); and allocate \$466,000 from the Statewide Contingency Account reserved for BCPSS to fund the project.

V. Baltimore City Public Schools: Cancellation of 4 Projects – [Motion Carried]*

Jamie Bridges, Baltimore City Project Manager, presented an item on a Baltimore City cancellation of four projects. Per a letter dated November 19, 2020, City Schools has requested the cancellation of the three FY 2019 CIP projects and one Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) project.

Mr. Bridges noted that projects at City College High School for a roof and fire alarm replacement are being delivered through a major renovation project. The educational specifications report on that project is complete and the feasibility study is ongoing. The Edgewood Elementary Vertical Package Unit (VPU) project, was one of the earlier VPU projects, and the original cost estimate was initially inaccurate.

The HSFF project at the Southside Building was a request to separate the HVAC and VPUs from the Carter G. Woodson building. However, there was no existing plan for either building, and at a utilization rate of 30%, the building solution became a particular challenge for both the Commission and City Schools. Ultimately, VPUs were determined to be a scalable solution. Dr. Salmon noted she found this building troubling, and asked if there was any way to reallocate students to another building. Mr. Bridges responded that this discussion comes up every year with this building, and it presents a major challenge. Ms. Avara asked about the current state of the fire safety systems in the Southside Building, and Mr. Bridges did confirm that the alarms and fire safety systems are in functional and working condition.

Due to outstanding requests for further information about the Southside Building, Dr. Salmon requested they defer the second motion on this item to a later date, and suggested that the IAC request additional information from Baltimore City. Specifically, Dr. Salmon asked that the IAC staff request that Baltimore City reconsider providing the previously suggested solution of VPUs so that students in the facility would be more comfortable.

Upon a motion Mr. Kasemeyer from and a second from Ms. Lawlah, IAC Members voted unanimously to approve:

1. The cancellation of three (3) Baltimore City Public Schools FY 2019 Capital Improvement Program projects, and the transfer of the project allocations of \$7,005,000 to the Statewide Reserved Appropriation Account for reallocation to other eligible CIP projects in Baltimore City.

***Due to a request for further information the members modified the Staff recommended motion found in the Agenda to exclude the cancellation of one HSFF project at the Southside building.**

VI. Baltimore City E15M HVAC Project Status Report – [Informational Only]

Jamie Bridges, Baltimore City Project Manager, presented a status report on the Baltimore City E15M HVAC allocation.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and with unanimous agreement by all members present, the Interagency Commission met in closed session on Thursday, January 14th to discuss personnel matters. All members were present at the closed session with the exception of Mr. Lombardo. Also in attendance was Robert Gorrell, Executive Director of the IAC. The Executive Session commenced at 9:26 AM.



Adjournment:

The meeting of the Interagency Commission on School Construction adjourned at 9:41 a.m.