



Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2025

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
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
Manish Kothari, Appointee of the Governor
Krishna Tallur, as designee for Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools

Members Not in Attendance:

Gloria Lawlah, Appointee of the President of the Senate

Revisions to the Agenda:

None.

Public Comment:

Nora Walsh, a member of the public, gave public comment regarding the Crown High School replacement project.

IAC Correspondence:

None.

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

Executive Director Alex Donahue gave a report on two items to the Commission. He first gave an update regarding emergency repairs ongoing in the State. Allegany County Public Schools' Westernport Elementary (PSC L01F024) flooding repairs are continuing on schedule, and no funding shortfalls are anticipated. He stated that the Williamsport High School (PSC L21F031) asbestos remediation project in Washington County is underway and a request for emergency funding from the IAC is anticipated at a later date.

Executive Director Donahue also stated that he and other IAC staff have been continuing to provide data on school facilities needs to State and local decision makers, and that he participated in two events at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Winter Conference, a panel discussion on school facilities funding and a one-on-one interview and question & answer session on the same topic. He stated that both went well and prompted many good questions from various stakeholders, including one County Executive.

2. Consent Agenda – [Motion Carried]

Upon a motion by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Mr. Tallur, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the below motions as part of the consent agenda.

a. November 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

To approve the draft November 13, 2025 IAC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

b. Contract Awards

To approve contract procurement as presented.

c. Healthy School Facility Fund State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Revision Correction

To correct the fiscal year of previously reverted federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) referenced in Item 8 of the November 13, 2025 IAC Meeting Agenda from FY 2022 to FY 2023.

d. Executive Director Approvals of Extensions to Special Funding Programs – [Informational Only]

e. Informational Only: Prince George’s County Public Schools Change of Educational Function and Name Change – [Informational Only]

3. FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program 75% Project Approvals – [Motion Carried]

Executive Director Donahue and Funding Programs Manager Arabia Davis presented the FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program 75% Recommendations, totaling \$210 million based on a preliminary total capital budget of \$280 million. Ms. Davis noted that adjustments will be made to the recommendations between this approval and the 90% and 100% approval stages. Ms Davis also noted that the motion has been revised to reflect that Montgomery County Public Schools withdrew their request for the Burtonsville Elementary School (PSC L15F052) replacement project.

The IAC heard testimony requesting appeals to the FY 2027 CIP from ten LEAs and received written testimony from an additional four LEAs.

Upon a motion made by Secretary Chaudhry, seconded by Mr. Tallur, the IAC voted unanimously to, contingent upon the Fiscal Year 2027 State Capital Budget and final approval of the 100% FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), approve the FY 2027 75% CIP preliminary awards and Planning Approval as presented in the Summary of 75% Recommendation Details by Project attached to this Item and to approve recommended awards to projects with a “U” status contingent upon resolution of outstanding issues. Further, to accept late CIP amendments from Montgomery County and Prince George’s County received by December 11, 2025.

4. FY 2026 Healthy School Facility Fund Recommendations - Baltimore City Public Schools – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Davis presented the FY 2026 Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) recommendations for Baltimore City Schools. Ms. Davis noted that of the total \$90 million allocated to the HSFF program for FY 2026, \$45 million is earmarked for Baltimore City Schools projects. Of the eight projects submitted for funding, IAC staff recommended funding be awarded to seven projects.

Upon a motion made by Vice-chair Eberhart, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to approve FY 2026 Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) project awards for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) totaling \$45,000,000 as presented.

5. Built to Learn Funding Request - St. Mary's County Public Schools - Chopticon High School (PSC L18F019) Multi-Systemic Project – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Eugene Shanholtz presented a request from St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) for the award of Built to Learn (BTL) funding totaling \$13,531,434 to partially fund the Chopticon High School multi-systemic project. The project's scope includes replacing exterior windows and doors, the entire roof, electrical, lighting, fire safety, security, and HVAC systems as well as making ADA-related upgrades. Mr. Shanholtz additionally noted that once awarded this BTL funding, the balance of funding totaling \$2,166,471 would be sought by the LEA through the FY 2027 CIP. Mr. Shanholtz stated that, if approved, the request would award all remaining BTL funds allocated to SMCPS.

Chair Kasemeyer requested that Executive Director Donahue provide a brief description of the BTL program for newly appointed Commission member Manish Kothari. Executive Director Donahue stated that the program was created in 2020 as a one-time infusion of funding, set to be awarded over a five-year period and spent over a ten-year period. He stated that nearly 98% of funds have been awarded to date, and that the IAC would be paying out funds on awarded projects over the next few years.

Mr. Darenberg asked if the revenue bonds were 15-year bonds. Executive Director Donahue stated that he would have to confirm what the time on payoff was. Later in the meeting, Executive Director Donahue stated that these bonds were 30-year bonds. Mr. Darenberg asked if the bonds were required to be paid off prior to another one-time funding program similar to the BTL program being established. Executive Director Donahue responded that it would depend on the source of bond repayment funds.

Upon a motion made by Secretary Chaudhry, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to approve St. Mary's County Public Schools' (SMCPS) request to award Built to Learn (BTL) construction funding to the Chopticon High School (PSC L18F019) multi-systemic project totaling \$13,531,434.

6. Maximum State Award Increase and Award of Reserve Funds - Baltimore County Public Schools - Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School (PSC L03F035) Electrical and Open Space Enclosure – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Lisa Vaughn presented a request from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) to increase the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School electrical and open space enclosure project. Ms. Vaughn stated that BCPS received higher than anticipated bids for the project, due to the original project budget having been prepared in the fall of 2022, and with higher manufacturing, transportation, and labor costs being in effect once the project entered into design. She added that while the project was in design, it was also determined that it would be more cost effective to renovate the vestibule to be a secure vestibule while the contractor was on site, which was added as an alternate on the bid tabulation. Ms. Vaughn stated that these changes resulted in a request to increase the Maximum State Award, which IAC staff recommend.

Mr. Kothari asked if cost increases are seen across the board, impacting all projects in Maryland. Executive Director Donahue stated that IAC staff have been tracking price increases, and that they are frequently absorbed by the LEAs by increasing local funding. Executive Director Donahue also stated that there are many kinds of projects seeing increases, and are particularly dependent on the kind of materials needed and the availability of contractors, and that staff could provide additional information on price increases at the next meeting if requested.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award for the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School (PSC L03F035) Electrical and Open Space Enclosure project from \$2,250,600 to \$4,463,624 in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B and to transfer \$2,213,024 from the LEA's reserve account to fully fund the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project; and to modify the scope of the project to include the renovation of the existing vestibule to create a secure vestibule.

- 7. Maximum State Award Increase and Award of Reserve Funds - Baltimore County Public Schools - Halethorpe Elementary School (PSC L03F005) HVAC and Open Space Enclosure – [Motion Carried]**
Ms. Vaughn presented a request from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) to increase the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the Halethorpe Elementary School HVAC and open space enclosure project. Ms. Vaughn stated that the project originally received funding under the FY 2024 CIP, but received no bids and could not meet the encumbrance deadline, resulting in the project being amended into the 2026 CIP. Subsequent bids came in over the original budget due to the increases in manufacturing, transportation, and labor costs.

Executive Director Donahue provided a brief summary of the IAC establishment of Maximum State Award, stating that the MSA is established in the first year of construction funding and is determined based on the project. LEAs may request increases to the MSA under certain circumstances, and that the IAC encourages LEAs to use State funds as quickly as possible to avoid losing purchasing power against inflation.

Upon a motion made by Vice-chair Eberhart, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award for the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Halethorpe Elementary School (PSC L03F005) HVAC and Open Space Enclosure project from \$3,557,400 to \$6,279,217 in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B and to transfer \$2,721,817 from the LEA's reserve account to fully fund the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project.

- 8. Maximum State Award Increase and Award of Reserve Funds - Baltimore County Public Schools - Logan Elementary School (PSC L03F110) Electrical and Open Space Enclosure – [Motion Carried]**
Ms. Vaughn presented a request from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) to increase the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the Logan Elementary School electrical and open space enclosure project. Ms. Vaughn stated that this project was awarded funding under the FY 2024 CIP and was originally estimated in the fall of 2022, but was amended into the FY 2026 CIP due to delays when splitting the work into two bid packages. Manufacturing, transportation, and labor costs have since increased, resulting in higher bid amounts than what was originally requested for the project.

Secretary Chaudhry asked whether cost increases have been accounted for in newer projects to ensure that future funding awards are in line with estimates when projects are awarded. Executive Director Donahue stated that future funding awards will be in line with future estimates, and that IAC staff are working to ensure accuracy when recommending project awards and establishing MSAs. He added that the original budgets were slightly low when awarded and the delays in bids for the project were the primary cause of the original awards being lower than actual bids received.

Upon a motion made by Secretary Chaudhry, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award for the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Logan Elementary School (PSC L03F110) Electrical and Open Space Enclosure project from

\$1,405,800 to \$2,412,810 in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B and to transfer \$1,007,010 from the LEA's reserve account to fully fund the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project.

9. Capital Improvement Program Rescind and Amend - Baltimore City Public Schools – [Motion Carried]

Mr. Shanholtz presented a request from Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) to rescind funds awarded to the Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School Annex renovation/addition project and to the Furley Elementary School replacement project. City Schools requested that the reverted funds be awarded instead to the Baltimore Polytechnic #403 and Western High #407 Building renovation projects. Mr. Shanholtz stated that both of the projects with funding rescinded will be able to be fully executed with other funding sources, including federal ESSER funds. If approved, this action will result in a \$10,972,151 increase in the LEA's reserve account.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to cancel the Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle Annex (PSC L30F286) renovation/addition project, to rescind \$18,809,000 awarded to the project, and to transfer the funds to the LEA reserve account; to revert \$522,672 awarded to the Furley Elementary #206 (PSC L30F256) replacement project and transfer the funds to the LEA reserve account, and to reduce the Maximum State Award for the project to \$42,329,328; to apply \$4,932,970 from the LEA reserve account to the Baltimore Polytechnic #403 (PSC L30F185) renovation project via an amendment to the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP); and to apply \$3,426,551 from the LEA reserve account to the Western High Building #407 (PSC L30F227) renovation project via an amendment to the FY 2026 CIP.

10. FY 2026 Healthy School Facility Fund Scope Revision - Frederick County Public Schools - Middletown High School (PSC L10F005) Roof Replacement Project – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Laura Smyles presented a request from Frederick County Public Schools to correct the section of the Middletown High School roof indicated on their FY 2026 CIP funding application from Section A to Section B, a 17,562 sf section of roof at the same facility. Ms. Smyles indicated that the LEA has acknowledged that any additional funds required to cover the revised scope will be locally funded, and that the original award amount was not being amended.

Upon a motion made by Secretary Chaudhry, seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to revise the scope of the FY 2026 Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) award to Frederick County Public Schools Middletown High School (PSC L10F005) Roof Replacement project to replace Section B of the roof in lieu of Section A.

Announcements:

Chair Kasemeyer announced that the next IAC meeting would be held on February 12, 2026 and will include a discussion about a report on a decrease in school populations.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 am.