



Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2026

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
Chuck Boyd, as designee for Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning
Manish Kothari, Appointee of the Governor
Gloria Lawlah, Appointee of the President of the Senate
Krishna Tallur, as designee for Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools

Members Not in Attendance:

Michael Darenberg, Appointee of the Governor

Revisions to the Agenda:

None.

Public Comment:

The IAC received written public comment from Michael Waal regarding the Kent County Cost Share. The document containing written comments can be found at the end of the March 12, 2026 IAC Meeting Agenda. Public comment was also heard from Arielle Escobar with the Judith P. Hoyer Montessori School.

IAC Correspondence:

None.

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

Executive Director Alex Donahue gave an update on several items, beginning with the FY 2027 Budget and the current legislative session, stating that he presented to key legislative committees regarding school-construction needs statewide, and regarding the operating and capital budgets proposed by Governor Moore. He stated that legislators did not indicate any capacity for adding to either budget, but also does not believe that the budget will be decreased, indicating similar funding levels to FY 2026. Executive Director Donahue added that there are several legislators advocating for an increase to State spending on school-construction, stating that SB 934 and HB 1329 have been introduced to increase the annual legislative target for school-construction funding by \$100 million. He also stated that the IAC's departmental bill, SB 48 has been moving forward steadily, and that IAC staff submitted amendments to the sponsoring committees to adjust some provisions, which resulted in no additional questions or concerns being raised.

Executive Director Donahue then commented on the mid-cycle adjustment to the State Cost Shares that are proposed in Item 10 of the agenda. He stated that the proposed adjustments address some

characteristics of the current formula that did not previously take into consideration the limited project purchasing power of small tax bases, and that the tripling of school construction costs in the last few decades has made this method of determining local funding availability problematic. Executive Director Donahue stated that while a complete revamping of the formula would result in a truly comprehensive set of improvements, timing is not adequate to do so, and in order to provide relief to the lowest-wealth small counties in FY 2028, staff are proposing an additional factor that would increase the State share of lower-wealth counties. Staff will continue to research options for more extensive changes to the State-cost share system.

2. **Consent Agenda – [Motion Carried]**

Upon a motion by Chuck Boyd, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

a. **February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

To approve the draft February 12, 2026 IAC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

b. **Contract Awards**

To approve contract procurements and project reversions as presented.

c. **Revisions to Previously Approved Contracts**

1. To approve the revisions to previously approved contract awards as presented to accurately reflect the adjustments to the State and local participation in the contract amounts, reversions of funds, and/or corrections to project allocation information; and,
2. To revise the contract revision amounts from Item 2.C. on the February 12, 2026 agenda to reflect correct local funding amounts as presented.

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

e. **Reversion of Funds - Anne Arundel County Public Schools**

To revert uncontracted FY 2023 Enrollment Growth and Relocatable Classroom (EGRC) and FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds totaling \$2,543,764.18 from the presented Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) projects.

f. **Reversion of Funds - Baltimore County Public Schools - Westchester Elementary (PSC L03F130) Roof Project**

To revert uncontracted FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds totaling \$1,669,786.57 from the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Westchester Elementary (PSC L03F130) roof project.

g. **Change of Name - Prince George's County Public Schools - Online Campus (PSC L16F139) – [Informational Only]**

3. **IAC Staffing Update Presentation – [Informational Only]**

Deputy Director Cassandra Viscarra presented current vacancies in IAC staff positions and recruiting efforts. She reported that the IAC staff currently has five vacancies and that management is currently working to recruit for and hire all positions, specifically stating that one position just completed the interview process.

4. **FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program Amendments and Maximum State Award Increase - Baltimore County Public Schools - Timber Grove Elementary School (PSC L03F077) HVAC Project – [Motion Carried]**

Capital Projects Manager Lisa Vaughn presented a request from Baltimore County Public Schools for an increase to the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the Timber Grove Elementary School HVAC and open space enclosure project and an increase to their FY 2025 CIP award pending said MSA increase. Ms. Vaughn stated that the reason for the increase was due to greater than anticipated costs for raw

materials, manufacturing, transportation, and labor, as well as volatility in the economy at the time of initial project request and bid. She stated that an additional \$2,684,789 is needed for the project.

Chair Kasemeyer asked if the project was initially anticipated to be less expensive than it ended up being. Ms. Vaughn confirmed that this project was part of a group of projects that were slightly underestimated and ended up costing more due to inflation and other increased costs.

Secretary Chaudhry asked whether the prior estimates were several years in advance resulting in greater costs when the projects were funded. Ms. Vaughn confirmed that the estimates were likely around 2022, with additions in 2023, and now were a few years old. Secretary Chaudhry stated that the significant increases in costs of materials and tariffs understandably create higher project costs as well.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lawlah, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award for the Baltimore County Public Schools Timber Grove Elementary School HVAC and open space enclosure project from \$4,867,500 to \$7,552,289 in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B and to transfer \$2,684,789 from the LEA's reserve account to fully fund the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program project.

5. FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program Amendment, Maximum State Award Increase, and Contract Revision - Baltimore County Public Schools - White Oak Special Education (PSC L03F065) Mechanical System Project – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Lisa Vaughn presented a request from Baltimore County Public Schools for an increase to the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the White Oak Special Education mechanical system project, an increase to their FY 2024 CIP award pending said MSA increase, and a subsequent contract revision to reflect the State and local participation amounts. Ms. Vaughn stated that the reason for the increase was due to greater than anticipated costs for raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, and labor, as well as volatility in the economy at the time of initial project request and bid. She stated that an additional \$3,558,869 is needed for the project.

Chair Kasemeyer asked if the funds being awarded to this project were not needed, if they would otherwise go to the BCPS reserve account. Ms. Vaughn confirmed that when various scopes come in under budget reserve funds are used and awarded via the CIP, and that BCPS is in the process of using some of their older reserve funds. Chair Kasemeyer additionally asked how long the funds remain in the reserve account, and if there was a limit on the length of time they may remain in the reserve fund. Deputy Director Cassandra Viscarra stated that the funds remain in the account for use for two years pursuant to a statutory requirement, and if during that two year period the funds are applied to a project and reverted again, then the clock resets on the funds.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lawlah, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award (MSA) for the Baltimore County Public Schools White Oak Special Education School (PSC L03F065) HVAC and open space enclosure project from \$6,191,200 to \$9,750,069 in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B; to transfer \$3,558,869 from the LEA's reserve account to fund the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program project; and, to revise the previously approved contract award to Towson Mechanical, Incorporated to accurately reflect the adjustment to the State participation from \$6,191,200 to \$9,129,890 and local participation from \$6,941,800 to \$4,003,110 in the contract amounts.

6. FY 2025 and FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program Amendments - Baltimore County Public Schools - Fullerton Elementary (PSC L03F004) HVAC, Roof, and Open Space Enclosure Project – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Vaughn presented a request from BCPS to remove the Fullerton Elementary HVAC, roof, and open space enclosure project from the FY 2025 CIP and rescind all funding to reevaluate the scope and schedule. Contractors for the project informed BCPS that the scope was more complex than initially anticipated, which would cause project delays. Ms. Vaughn noted that without this rescission, the project would exceed the two year statutory limit and would have to be rescinded by law in May of this year. She noted that BCPS also requested to amend their FY 2026 CIP to include this project to have enough time for project completion, and requested an additional \$2,862,770 from their reserve account be applied to fully fund the project.

Upon a motion made by Vice-chair Eberhart, seconded by Chuck Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to cancel the Baltimore County Public Schools FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program Fullerton Elementary (PSC L03F004) HVAC, roof, and open space enclosure project, rescind the \$4,267,230 award, and transfer the rescinded funds to the LEA's reserve account, and; to amend the FY 2026 CIP to include the Fullerton Elementary HVAC, roof, and open space enclosure project and award a total of \$7,130,000 of reserve funds to the project.

7. Maximum State Award and Built to Learn Funding Adjustment - Montgomery County Public Schools - Woodward High School (PSC L15F125) Replacement – [Motion Carried]

Capital Projects Manager Laura Smyles presented a request from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for increases to the MSA and Built to Learn funding on the Woodward High School replacement project. Ms. Smyles indicated that the original award of \$78,597,000 was based on the IAC's analysis of total eligible funding at the MCPS State cost share of 50%. However, after the award, MCPS notified IAC staff that several contracts for the project were bid without prevailing wage. As projects receiving State funding of 25% or more of project costs are required to be bid with prevailing wage, IAC staff recommend a reduction of State participation bringing the State cost share down to 24.99% for a total MSA of \$43,139,642 and revised BTL funding of this amount. Ms. Smyles noted that the BTL funds allocated to the LEA that are freed up by this action will be used for other projects in the County, and IAC staff are working with the LEA to identify other potential projects as soon as possible.

Chair Kasemeyer asked Executive Director Donahue to provide additional information on the project. Executive Director Donahue stated that the Woodward High School Replacement was a particularly complicated project, and that this approach would follow all relevant laws as written, and is consistent with past IAC practice. He also stated that this adjustment would make available a significant amount of funding for other MCPS projects in need of additional funding.

Secretary Chaudhry asked if MCPS has put in place safeguards to ensure that prevailing wage is applied when needed for all future project requests. Executive Director Donahue stated that MCPS has done so, but that the IAC doesn't have all the details regarding this project in particular and why it was bid without prevailing wage, but that extensive discussions with MCPS and the State Department of Labor are ongoing.

Upon a motion made by Krishna Tallur, seconded by Chuck Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to revise the approved Maximum State Award and Built to Learn Program award for the Montgomery County Public Schools Woodward High School (PSC L15F125) replacement project from \$78,597,000 to \$43,139,642.

8. Maximum State Award Increase and Built to Learn Funding Revision - Montgomery County Public Schools - Burtonsville Elementary School (PSC L15F285) Replacement Project – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Syles informed the IAC that after amendments to COMAR approved at the August 14, 2025 IAC meeting that permitted adjustments to the MSA for projects seeking net-zero after the first time construction award, MCPS informed staff that the Burtonsville Elementary School project could now qualify for the additional 5% net-zero State cost share add-on and requested increases to the MSA and BTL funding to fully fund the project.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lawlah, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award and the Built to Learn award for the Montgomery County Public Schools Burtonsville Elementary (PSC L15F285) Replacement project by \$2,718,000 from \$29,907,000 for a total revised award of \$32,626,000, contingent upon final passage of changes to COMAR 14.29.02.08 preliminarily adopted by the IAC at the August 14, 2025 IAC meeting.

9. FY 2026 Nonpublic Aging Schools Program Award Recommendations – [Motion Carried]

Maryland State Department of Education Office of School Facilities (MSDE OSF) Administrator Myron Mason presented the recommendations for awards for the FY 2026 Senator James E. “Ed” DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program. Mr. Mason stated that the program provides funds for capital improvements in nonpublic school facilities that are at least 16 years old, and that the award maximum varies based on criteria met by each school. He informed the commission that 175 schools in 19 districts were being recommended to receive funding.

Krishna Tallur acknowledged the work and cooperation between IAC and MSDE OSF on the administration of the NASP program, and that the two agencies have put together a program process that is efficiently and effectively run.

Upon a motion made by Krishna Tallur, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2026 Senator James E. “Ed” DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program awards as presented, totaling \$3,500,000.

10. COMAR Amendments to State Local Cost Share – [Motion Carried]

Executive Director Donahue presented amendments to the IAC’s current State-Local Cost Share (SLCS) amounts for each LEA to be amended in COMAR. He stated that current factors fail to address the smaller fiscal capacity of low-wealth small counties relative to large, infrequent capital projects. Executive Director Donahue stated that while larger changes to the SLCS formula are needed, there is unfortunately not enough time, data, or research available now to develop an entirely new system of determining SLCS, particularly not in time for the FY 2028 CIP awards which must be prepared in July of this year. He states that the solution of adding an additional factor that would increase the State share of small, low-wealth counties by up to 25 percentage points if the county’s total wealth is less than ten percent of the average of the top four wealthiest counties’ total wealth would help pay for large capital projects in these areas. Executive Director Donahue added that while this solution may result in deferrals of other less urgent projects by these LEAs, this is unavoidable at current school construction funding levels, and this change would give a moderate boost to smaller LEAs struggling to make top priority projects fiscally viable. He added that after conversations with the General Assembly, IAC staff believe this to be an acceptable policy adjustment that will not adversely impact larger State funding approaches or policies.

Chair Kasemeyer stated that this effort is likely one that small counties appreciated the IAC's attention to and desire for fairness for counties with a smaller tax base. He additionally commended staff for listening to the concerns of smaller counties and developing a system to help these districts.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lawlah, seconded by Secretary Chaudhry, the IAC voted unanimously to approve amendments to COMAR 14.39.02.06 to implement a Small County State Cost Share adjustment as presented.

11. Legislative Update – [Informational Only]

Policy Analyst Victoria Howard presented an update on Legislation that may impact the IAC during the 2026 legislative session. She highlighted several bills that IAC staff have been following, and stated that staff would continue to keep the commission apprised of any bills moving forward that would impact the IAC, and intend to provide another update at the April IAC meeting.

Chair Kasemeyer asked if there were any bills that the IAC opposed currently. Ms. Howard stated that there was previously one bill that was opposed by the IAC alongside other agencies, but that the bill had since been withdrawn by the sponsor. Executive Director Donahue stated that he believed that there is another bill that was of concern, but after meeting with the sponsor have since developed a path forward that is amenable to all parties.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Ms. Lawlah seconded by Chuck Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 am.