



Meeting Minutes – June 11, 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
Deputy Secretary Joh Sedtal 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
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:

Deputy Director Cassandra Viscarra stated that there were no revisions to the agenda as published but noted that a change was published the day before the meeting with a revision to Item 7 that changed the motion language to permit staff to make non-substantive revisions to the Administrative Procedures Guide as needed.

Public Comment:

None.

IAC Correspondence:

None.

Agenda Items:

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

Executive Director Alex Donahue gave a report on several items of note. He opened by thanking the commission and staff for their work during FY 2026 as it comes to a close, and expressed appreciation for the FY 2027 budget showing roughly the same funding levels as FY 2026. He noted however, that due to construction cost inflation, the same amount of funding does not fund the same amount of work as it did for prior fiscal years. Executive Director Donahue next stated that despite comments by some criticizing the political nature of capital budget investments for FY 2027 and others, the IAC will continue to be completely apolitical in how State funds are awarded. He stated that any political aspects toward appropriations come from the General Assembly, and are out of the IAC's control. However, he stated he continues to express to the General Assembly and others that funds need to follow the data to address whatever deficiencies exist in school facilities. Finally, he thanked all IAC and LEA staff who have worked to move operations onto the IAC's Business Management

System, and stated that as the IAC prepares for two new funding programs in FY 2028, the BMS will be utilized further and become more essential to agency practices.

2. Consent Agenda – [Motion Carried]

Upon a motion by Krishna Tallur, seconded by Mr. Darenberg, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kothari and Deputy Secretary Sedtal were not present for this vote.

a. May 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

To approve the draft May 14, 2026 IAC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

b. Contract Awards

To approve contract procurement as presented.

c. Revisions to Previously Approved Contracts

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.

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

e. Added Capacity Site Approval – Calvert County Public Schools – Calvert Elementary School (PSC L04F004) and Calvert Country School (PSC L04F012)

To approve Calvert County Public Schools' (CCPS) use of the existing Calvert Elementary School (PSC L04F004) and Calvert Country School (PSC L04F012) sites for the construction of a new colocated Calvert Elementary School and Calvert Country Facility (PSC L04F030) to replace their separate existing facilities, and to retain the existing facilities for future use as swing space; adhering to the actions identified in the State clearinghouse review, State identifier MD20260317-0121.

3. FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program Amendments – St. Mary's County Public Schools – [Motion Carried]

Director of Capital Projects Melissa Wilfong presented an amendment request from St. Mary's County Public Schools to redirect FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding from the Esperanza Middle (PSC L18F010) multisystemic project to the Leonardtown High (PSC L18F004) chiller replacement project. Ms. Wilfong stated that since the submission of the FY 2027 CIP, one of two chillers at Leonardtown High school has failed and the school is currently operating on a single chiller, causing strain on the system resulting in costly on-going repairs. She stated that funds needed for the Esperanza Middle school multisystemic project will be requested in the FY 2028 CIP.

Mr. Darenberg asked what the timeframe was for the new chiller installation. Ms. Wilfong stated that the LEA was intending to order immediately upon receiving funding approval, but they are unsure of the lead time for the equipment. Mr. Darenberg asked if the project would be completed prior to the next school year. Ms. Wilfong indicated that having the chiller installed before significant heat when the building is occupied is the LEA's goal. Mr. Darenberg asked if the new single chiller would replace the two chillers currently installed, or if it was only replacing the one chiller that had failed. Ms. Wilfong stated that the failed chiller would be removed and the new chiller would allow the building to continue to operate at full capacity.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to rescind \$3,658,447 of funding from the FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program award for the St. Mary's County Public Schools' Esperanza Middle (PSC L18F010) multisystemic project and transfer the rescinded funds to the LEA's reserve account; and, to amend the FY 2027 Capital Improvement

Program Leonardtown High (PSC L18F004) chiller replacement to award \$1,295,689 from the LEA's reserve account to partially fund the project.

4. FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program Amendment and Maximum State Award Increase Request – St. Mary's County Public Schools – Chopticon High School (PSC L18F019) Multisystemic Project – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Wilfong presented a request from St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) to increase the Maximum State Award for the Chopticon High (PSC L18F019) multisystemic project, which had bids come in higher than anticipated. Ms. Wilfong stated that the project expenditures were found to be reasonable by IAC staff, and that SMCPS was in compliance with the requirements of COMAR 14.39.02.08B. She added that funding awarded to the project was a combination of rescinded funds from previous projects, including funds that were rescinded as part of Item 3 of this agenda, and that the balance of funding would be requested in the FY 2028 CIP.

Chair Kasemeyer requested that Executive Director Donahue provide additional information on the request. Executive Director Donahue stated that this was an example of a district doing what they can to meet urgent project needs, and that the only way to do so in this case and many others is to delay less urgent projects. He added that situations such as this are not unique to SMCPS, that State and local funding amounts are not sufficient to meet all needs simultaneously, and that the IAC is doing what they can to assist the school district in finding funding for urgent projects.

Mr. Darenberg asked how the initial estimate was developed. Ms. Wilfong stated that this project had included escalation costs in the budget, but that the market exceeded those escalation amounts. Additionally, she added that due to the limited number of contractors in St. Mary's County, the significant scope of HVAC work, and the inclusion of alternates built into the bid packages were all factors that increased cost for this project specifically. Mr. Darenberg asked about other LEAs, stating that MSA increases seem to be requested more frequently. Deputy Director Cassandra Viscarra stated that most likely there seem to be a significant number of MSA increases for two reasons. She stated that frequently, LEAs are aware of these increases prior to the requests being brought to an IAC meeting, but wait until they receive final bids to request the increase so that the approved amount is accurate. Additionally, she stated that because MSA increases are individual items brought to IAC meetings and are discussed at length, whereas projects estimated at the correct amount are approved as part of the CIP each year in bulk, the discussion of project cost increases appears disproportionately frequent.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Darenberg, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to increase the Maximum State Award for the Chopticon High (PSC L18F019) multisystemic project from \$33,056,182 to \$37,828,186, in accordance with COMAR 14.39.02.08B; and, to award \$2,736,916 from the LEA's reserve account to the FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program Chopticon High multisystemic project.

5. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Project Funding Source Revisions – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Viscarra presented a request to reassign State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from projects that initially received these funds that would be unable to meet the required Federal expenditure deadline. Ms. Viscarra stated that IAC staff worked with the Department of Budget and Management to have language added to the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act that would permit these funding reassignments, so projects that comply with the expenditure deadline can utilize them. She stated that the change is largely an accounting funding source adjustment that would not ultimately impact which projects were approved for funding or the total amount of funding received.

She stated that the item proposed to move SLFRF funding from seven projects in Baltimore City to a number of projects in other LEAs that meet all SLFRF requirements, with the Baltimore City projects instead receiving CIP and EGRC State funding.

Mr. Tallur asked whether this item was requiring reimbursements to be made from General Funds. Ms. Viscarra stated that these revisions would be largely administrative, that SLFRF funds are being assigned to projects that were already paid by adjusting the funding sources through a journal entry, and the projects with delays would be paid via other IAC capital funds.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Kothari, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to approve the rescission of \$39,801,100 of federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the presented FY 2022 and FY 2023 Healthy School Facility Fund projects in Table 1 and transfer the funds to the Statewide Reserve, to award the same amount of State funds to the presented projects in Table 1, and to revise the presented projects in Table 2 to apply SLFRF funds and revert the same amount of funds to the applicable LEA's Reserve Account.

6. Proposed COMAR Amendments to 14.39.02 and 14.39.04 – Departmental Bill – [Motion Carried]

Policy Analyst Victoria Howard presented amendments to the IAC's regulations in COMAR to align with the recently passed departmental bill, Senate Bill 48. She stated that the main revisions to COMAR included changing the term 'maximum State construction allocation' to 'Maximum State Award,' replacing the requirement for the 75% CIP approval by the Commission with notification letters to LEAs and local government entities indicating anticipated funding levels, and clarification that certain types of facility status change requirements apply when schools are no longer used for purposes eligible for school construction funding. She stated that the revisions would be published in the Maryland Register for public comment for 30 days after submission.

Krishna Tallur stated that MSDE appreciated the collaboration between the IAC and MSDE staff during the departmental bill drafting and review process and subsequent regulatory and procedural revisions.

Upon a motion made by Krishna Tallur, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to approve amendments to COMAR 14.39.02 and 14.39.04 that incorporate revisions to regulations that were approved during the 2026 Legislative Session as a result of the passage of the IAC's Departmental Bill, Senate Bill 48.

7. Administrative Procedure Guide Amendments – Departmental Bill – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Viscarra presented amendments to the IAC's Administrative Procedures Guide (APG) which included some definition changes, required elements for facility status change submissions, a requirement for LEAs to notify the IAC of planned redistricting that would impact eligible enrollment, an adjustment to the section on educational specifications to provide better instructions to LEAs, clarifications on the timeframes of data used to determine State cost share add-ons, and the addition of Appendix C which outlines the requirements for projects utilizing federal funds.

Vice-chair Eberhart asked if any comments were received from LEA facility staff, or if they had any questions or concerns regarding the changes. Ms. Viscarra stated that staff had received no comments on these revisions since they were published one week ago, and prior revisions brought to the May IAC meeting were discussed in depth at the last Facility Planner Meeting held by the IAC.

Upon a motion made by Vice-chair Eberhart, seconded by Mr. Darenberg, the IAC voted unanimously to approve amendments to the IAC's Administrative Procedures Guide as presented and to authorize IAC staff to make non-substantive changes as needed.

**Announcements:**

Chair Kasemeyer announced that the July IAC meeting had moved from its original date of July 9, 2026 to July 16, 2026.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Vice-chair Eberhart seconded by Mr. Darenberg, the IAC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am.