



Meeting Minutes – August 13, 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. The meeting was paused after the roll was called due to technical difficulties with the video stream, which resulted in the first Item on the agenda not beginning until 9:07 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
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:

None.

IAC Correspondence:

None.

Agenda Items:

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

Executive Director Alex Donahue gave an update to the Commission on the visits he and other staff have been conducting in person with LEAs across the state. He stated that in the past two weeks, he had visited six LEAs, met with Superintendents, visited schools in need of major renovation or replacement, and discussed many projects that are needed in the coming years but remain unfunded. Many LEAs expressed that even the most urgent projects seemed to be out of reach due to lack of funding. He stated that he hopes to share this information in the coming legislative session with the General Assembly. Additionally, Executive Director Donahue stated that he is sharing this information with all of Maryland's counties when presenting as part of a panel later that day in a session on local public infrastructure at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) summer conference.

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 and motions therein.

a. July 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes

To approve the draft July 16, 2026 IAC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

b. Contract Awards

To approve the contract procurements and project reversions as presented on the following pages.

c. Cancellation of Reversion of Funds – Montgomery County Public Schools – Gaithersburg Middle School (PSC L15F068) HVAC Phase 2 Project

To amend the contract approval for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Gaithersburg Middle School (PSC L15F068) HVAC phase 2 project contract approval at the March 12, 2026 IAC meeting to show a reversion of \$0 instead of \$391,750.

3. FY 2026 and 2027 Capital Improvement Program Project Cancellation Request – Kent County Public Schools – Kent County Middle School (PSC L14F003) Replacement – [Motion Carried]

Lead Capital Projects Manager Lisa Vaughn presented a request from Kent County Public Schools to cancel the FY 2026 and 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding for the Kent County Middle School replacement project. Ms. Vaughn stated that the LEA informed IAC staff that uncertainty around funding requirements delayed the required local funding commitment. KCPS has stated that they intend to resubmit the project in the coming months if and when sufficient local funding is available to be committed to the project on a timeline that would support the project's construction schedule.

Executive Director Donahue stated that staff are continuing to work with KCPS and Kent County to ensure that the project will be fundable in the timeframe needed in the future.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Kothari, seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to rescind the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) awards and approval of the associated Maximum State Award for the Kent County Public Schools (KCPS) Kent County Middle (PSC L14F003) replacement project and to transfer the \$10,250,000 in project funding to the LEA's Reserve Fund Account.

4. FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program Cancellation Request – Allegany County Public Schools – Flintstone Elementary (PSC L01F020) Underground Storage Tank – [Motion Carried]

Ms. Vaughn presented a request from Allegany County Public Schools to cancel the FY 2025 CIP funding for the Flintstone Elementary underground storage tank project. At the July 16, 2026 IAC meeting, this Item was deferred pending additional information regarding the storage tank. Ms. Vaughn stated that the tank contents include fire water, raw well water, and No. 2 fuel oil. ACPS confirmed that all tanks are functioning properly and show no signs of failure. She added that the tanks are inspected annually and kept up to date on maintenance. Ms. Vaughn stated that the replacement project was due to changes in requirements for the raw well water and ACPS determined that it would be more efficient to replace all three underground tanks with above ground tanks to make controls more accessible and safe for staff access when servicing.

Mr. Darenberg asked why all three are being removed if only one of the tanks is diesel, noting that if the water tanks can safely be left underground it may be more cost effective to do so. Executive Director Donahue stated that keeping the tanks underground leaves limited space for staff to safely perform maintenance when needed. Ms. Vaughn added that the raw well water tank specifically has

updated codes and regulations that ACPS must follow which are made more difficult by access being underground, and that in an effort to avoid spending additional money in doing so, the LEA determined that replacing the tank is the best course of action. Mr. Darenberg asked why the water tanks are not being decommissioned and left under ground, with replacement water tanks being installed above ground, and stated that this seemed like it would be a more cost-effective solution. Executive Director Donahue stated that staff will confirm with ACPS if this is an option that has been considered, but that at this time, the cost of putting tanks above ground is a large expense, and putting off the project is required due to funding limitations.

Upon a motion made by Mr. League seconded by Vice-chair Eberhart, the IAC voted unanimously to cancel the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS) Flintstone Elementary (PSC L01F020) Underground Storage Tank project and to transfer \$765,000 in project funding to the LEA Reserve Fund Account.

5. FY 2021 Healthy School Facility Fund Cancellation Request – Carroll County Public Schools – Westminster High (PSC L06F042) Windows Project – [Motion Carried]

Special Projects Capital Projects Manager Laura Smyles presented a request from Carroll County Public Schools to cancel the FY 2021 Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) project award for the Westminster High windows project. Ms. Smyles stated that in 2023 a significant amount of funding for the project was reallocated to other HSFF projects, as the Westminster project was delayed pending resolution of unforeseen environmental issues. The project has continued to be on hold as CCPS works with the EPA to determine the proper course of action to remove windows after finding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the window caulk and surrounding masonry. Due to this, CCPS has requested to cancel the project and rescind all remaining funding totaling \$292,010 to the statewide reserve account. CCPS will determine future funding needs for the project once the full cost and scope is determined.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Tallur seconded by Mr. League, the IAC voted unanimously to cancel the FY 2021 Healthy School Facility Fund (HSFF) award to the Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) Westminster High (PSC L06F042) windows project and to transfer \$292,010 in project funding to the Statewide Reserve Fund Account.

6. Final Baltimore City HVAC Program Status Report – [Informational Only]

Ms. Smyles presented the final status report on the Baltimore City HVAC program established in the 2018 Capital Budget bill, SB 186. This program appropriated funds to design, construct, and equip heating, ventilation, and air conditioning improvements for Baltimore City public school buildings. Ms. Smyles stated that by February 2019 the IAC had awarded nearly all funds to 19 City Schools HVAC projects, that all projects have been completed, and that IAC staff have tracked and recorded the progress of these projects, with regular reports to the IAC. A total of \$210,029 in unexpended funds remain to be utilized or rescinded, and IAC staff are working with the Department of Budget and Management to determine appropriate use or reversion of the funds.

Vice-chair Eberhart asked how many Baltimore City schools still do not have air conditioning. Executive Director Donahue stated that no schools currently lack AC, and that statewide all operating schools have AC currently except for a select few in Garrett County who declined to install new HVAC systems due to a climate that does not require air conditioning to keep the school comfortable and out of a desire to not perform major renovations in the short term on facilities where these systems would not be used for their entire useful life.

7. Closed Session — [Motion Carried]

Upon a motion by Mr. Kothari seconded by Mr. Boyd, the IAC voted unanimously to close the meeting to discuss a personnel matter and obtain legal counsel.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mr. Kothari seconded by Mr. League, the IAC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. from Closed Session.