

The Honorable Richard P. Henry
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General for Education
State of Maryland
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Mr. Henry:

During the January 9, 2023, meeting of the Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Committee of Prince George's County Council, members expressed an interest in further investigating certain claims that came to light during the County Council's retreat in December 2022. The concerns identified were brought forth by a former Prince George's County Public Schools' (PGCPS) Supervisor of Capital Programs, and a former private-sector school building and former Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) Senior Regional Facilities Manager. The relevant presentations and issues are attached for your review and further summarized below:

The following concerns were presented by the former PGCPS Supervisor of Capital Programs concerning Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects:

- Lack of competitive bidding on some construction projects.
- Architect and Engineering fees calculated with a methodology that inflates costs.
- Ballooning "total project costs" in school construction projects.
- Large unidentified project costs estimates listed in the "Other" category that escalate total project costs which are solely borne by the County.
- Potential inflation of administrative costs.

The following concerns were presented by the former private-sector school building and former Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) Senior Regional Facilities Manager concerning CIP Projects:

- Continued issues within the PGCPS Maintenance Department to achieve a passable score in the State's Maintenance Effectiveness Assessment. PGCPS scores around 66% ("Not Adequate").
- Mismanagement of projects with State funding.
- Inability to spend State and County CIP allocations.
- Failure to "close out" projects once substantially completed.

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The County Council requests that your office investigate the above-described matters, which, in our view, fall within your Office's purview under the Maryland Code, Education, § 9.10-104(b)(1). Thank you in advance, and we look forward to your findings. Accountability and transparency are pillars of good governance, and we appreciate your partnership in the furtherance of these principles. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair
Prince George's County Council