

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** LTR 11142023a  
**Draft No.:** 1  
**Committee:** Committee of the Whole (COW)  
**Date:** November 14, 2023  
**Action:** FAV (A)

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**REPORT:** Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 11-0 (In favor: Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Franklin, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The IAC joint signature letter between the County Executive and County Council was transmitted to the Clerk for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

The Legislative Officer summarized the purpose of the joint signature letter, which is a funding request to the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction endorsing the Prince George's County Board of Education's Proposed FY 2025 Capital Budget, and identified the projects that are considered most critical.

The funding request includes the County's priorities, such as:

- (1) Projects receiving State planning approval
- (2) Projects approaching permitting and in need of State construction funding
- (3) Projects requiring State planning approval

The Legislative Officer identified each project in the three (3) priorities. These priority projects bring the total funding request to the State to approximately \$69.4 million.

The projects are being designed using County funds and need State planning approval. Granting planning approval for these projects will enable the County to move forward on these new construction projects.

Stanley Early, Director, Office of Management and Budget, highlighted the County Council's and Administration's collaborative efforts in identifying projects for State consideration to optimize our resources. Identifying these projects has created the potential to secure State funding; however, this process commences during the budget phase.

An amendment was proposed to supplement funding in the second priority group, County Priority 5 (Staged Renovation Project - South Region), with an additional \$5 million, resulting in a total of \$15 million. This amounts to a state funding request of \$74.4 million for FY 2025.

It was additionally clarified that before the final approval of the IAC joint signature letter, the

schools affected by the increased funding allocation would be identified, or a process for identifying these schools would be established.

The Council Chair indicated that the Administration should arrange a meeting with the PGCPs leadership, ensuring they are informed about the changes to the letter and that everyone is aligned before it is considered in next Tuesday's Council session.

**The County Council sitting as the COW voted 11-0 favorably as amended on the Proposed Joint Signature IAC Letter.**

Prior to the transmittal of the IAC joint signature letter to the Clerk of the Council, the Board of Education's recommendations for the IAC letter were discussed in the Education and Work Force Development (EWD) committee on November 6, 2023.

During the November 6, 2023 EWD committee worksession, Shawn Matlock, Director of Capital Programs, presented the Board's recommendations through a PowerPoint presentation. He also provided supplementary details regarding the capital improvement projects' status and addressed council members' inquiries.

Council Members raised concerns about the need for more school construction in the southern part of the County. The discussion revolved around the disparity in school construction between the northern and southern parts of the County. PGCPs administration noted that the primary reason for this discrepancy is the overcrowding in the northern area. The rationale behind this is the greater ease of collaboration with the State due to overcrowding concerns. It was clarified that construction is underway for Brandywine K-8 and Colin Powell K-8 in the southern region.

Additionally, there are plans to explore consolidation in the southern area as the state prioritizes cost-efficient construction. Several schools, including Crossland and Suitland High Schools, are currently under construction or renovation in the southern area utilizing the pass-through grant and stand-alone construction. The overall strategy for modernization encompasses various approaches, including P3 initiatives, to consolidate resources for larger schools.

A conversation occurred regarding a modification in the eligibility criteria for students from the Crossland community who can enroll in the school. A proposal has been introduced suggesting that students must now apply to register in Crossland. Crossland will establish a Career and Technical Education (CTE) hub boundary,

allowing students from southern high schools to apply for admission. Crossland's students can attend if they enroll in the CTE program.

A Council Member inquired about the current status of schools in his district, particularly William Wirt and Glenridge Middle Schools. Additionally, the Council Member asked about "stage renovation" details.

Mr. Matlock mentioned that Glenridge is scheduled to open in the fall, while William Wirt is expected to open in the spring. He also elaborated on stage renovation, which involves upgrading existing schools without needing complete reconstruction by working around the building while students are in class. The design phase is slated for FY 2023, although there has been a two-year delay in the construction timeline to begin construction in FY 25.