



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

February 1, 2022

Mr. Robert A. Gorrell
Executive Director
Interagency Commission for Public School Construction
200 West Baltimore Street, Suite 200
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Gorrell:

On December 6, 2021, Baltimore County Government submitted a letter of concurrence for the Baltimore County Board of Education Fiscal Year 2023 State Funding school capital request. In the previous letter, Baltimore County provided support for local funding for projects 1-10 and 15-41. The letter outlined conditional support for the Towson High School and Dulaney High School projects, noting fiscal and historical constraints to full support.

Since my initial letter, I had the opportunity to share these constraints directly with Governor Hogan and legislative leaders, and I commend Governor Hogan for his recently-announced \$1 billion dollar investment in school construction in the FY23 Maryland State budget. As a result of this immediate investment, as well as greater than originally anticipated levels of state funding this year through the Healthy School Facility Fund and Baltimore County's annual share of Built to Learn Act funding, Baltimore County will be able to accelerate school capital projects across the jurisdiction and invest more in them, including the Dulaney and Towson and High School projects.

Our administration's December 6th concurrence letter provided conditional support of a replacement school for Dulaney High School, pending additional funding. In light of these new investments, Baltimore County fully concurs with the Board of Education submission for projects 13-14.

My December 6th letter also noted that Towson High School requires an immediate solution to address severe overcrowding and antiquated learning spaces. Baltimore County Board of Education's CIP submission includes Towson High School as a new building – despite being at odds with what preservation experts have shared with us and the Board regarding the schools' historic designations preventing such an approach.

We are concerned that the Board's action to amend their Towson High school submission only delays meeting the needs of that school. Rather than allow such a delay, Baltimore County will also concur with items 11-12 of the Board of Education's request in order to allow work to proceed.

We anticipate the planning and design phase will reveal that Towson High School requires a significant renovation and new addition because of its historic designation, and we expect BCPS will follow all Maryland Historic Trust and County Landmarks Preservation Commission processes carefully. Baltimore County government remains fully committed to delivering on a transformative project that feels like-new for this school community.

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I look forward to working with you and your staff through the remainder of this review process to approve the full Baltimore County Public School FY23 CIP submission.

Sincerely,

John A. Olszewski, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive