

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

TELECONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA

**Originating from Secretary Johnny Key's Conference Room
April 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**

Commissioner Members

Johnny Key, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education
Larry Walther, Secretary Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration– *via teleconference*
Mark Conine, President, Arkansas Development Finance Authority – *via teleconference*

ADE / Division Staff in Attendance

Tim Cain, Director, DPSAFT
Lori Freno, General Counsel, ADE
Murray Britton, Assistant Director – *via teleconference*
Carol Bowman, Administrative Analyst – *via teleconference*

Quorum was met.

Meeting called to order.

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2022

The Commission approved the minutes for the January 28, 2022, Commission teleconference meeting.

2. 2021-2023 Partnership Program Projects – Year-Two Funding Approval

Tim Cain indicated the Division reviewed available program funding. Based on funding in the 2022 legislative fiscal session and existing program balances, there was \$92,649,188 available on July 1, 2022, to fund the Year-Two and additional Year-One (2021-2023) projects.

Secretary Key congratulated the school districts on funding and thanked the Division staff for it's hard work.

The Commission approved a funding level of \$92,649,188.

3. Construction Cost Increase

Tim Cain reported that the cost of construction had increased sharply since 2020, and directly inflated the costs of facility construction projects. He indicated the Division was aware of this unprecedented challenge and had been analyzing data, having conversations with districts and stakeholders, and working on possible solutions for the 2123 and the 2325 Partnership cycles.

Mr. Cain indicated that current options for school districts were:

1. Reduce scope and size of projects
2. Use different building materials and finishes
3. Possibly more time allowed
4. Possible use ESSER funds if applicable

Secretary Key stated that some school districts might ask why more funding not allowed presently, but indicated the Commission can only approve the amount of funds provided in the last Legislative session.

The Commissioners discussed that options not addressed by Mr. Cain would need the Executive Branch and General Assembly's involvement. The Commissioners indicated this issue was statewide for other agencies as well as potential millage elections.

4. Adjourn