

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

**Meeting
Arkansas Department of Heritage
April 24, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.**

Commission Member in Attendance:

Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
Cheryl Schluterman, Interim President, Arkansas Development Finance Authority
Larry Walther, Director, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

Others in Attendance:

Jennifer Dedman, Attorney Supervisor Legal Services, Arkansas Department of Education
Brad Montgomery, Director, DPSAFT
Carol Bowman, Administrative Analyst, DPSAFT

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2018

The Commission approved the summary minutes for the December 10, 2018, Commission meeting.

2. Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules for the Specifications Governing School Bus Design

Ms. Dedman requested the Commission approve the rule changes and submittal to the Arkansas Legislative Council Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee.

The Commission approved rule and forwarded them to the Arkansas Legislative Council Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee.

3. 2017-2019 Partnership Program Projects – Refunding Warm, Safe, Dry (Systems)

Brad Montgomery notified the Commission that two projects with the same ranking beyond the \$10 million funding limit had been funded with unencumbered funds. Charleston School District and Pottsville School District received a combined total of \$3,427,246.52.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

4. 2019-2021 Partnership Program Projects

Tab 4a 2019-2021 Academic Facilities Partnership Program Disapproved Projects

Mr. Montgomery explained the Disapproved Projects.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

Tab 4b Appeals Process

Mr. Montgomery provided a brief review of the appeal process and stated it was a lengthy process and it could require up to nine months to complete, and that the Commission would be asked to commit carryover funds from rescinded projects if the appeal outcome was favorable to the school district.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

Tab 4c 2019-2021 Academic Facilities Partnership Program Projects *(Sorted by Project Ranking)*

Mr. Montgomery provided the Commission the approved Partnership Program Projects sorted by ranking. Mr. Walther asked for clarification regarding the next five projects with the same Project Average Score. Mr. Montgomery explained that until the Division had funds available to fund all five projects at once, funds would be held until school districts rescind enough project funds to fund all five, much like the Charleston and Pottsville school districts explained in Tab 3.

Mr. Walther suggested to Commissioner Key an additional provision could be made that might enable part of the projects be paid prior to all five funded at same time.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

Tab 4d 2019-2021 Academic Facilities Partnership Program Projects *(Sorted by School District)*

Mr. Montgomery indicated the report was the same as 4c but sorted by school district name.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

Tab 4e Available Funding for Year-One of 2019-2021 Academic Facilities Partnership Program Funding Cycle *(Millions)*

Brad Montgomery reported the 2019-2021 Carry Forward was \$45.3 million. The Division held back approximately \$2.6 million, which represented the remaining balance of the \$5.5 million Catastrophic funding used to fund amounts not covered by the school district's insurance. He reviewed the FY19 Revenue Stabilization Act and FY19 Bonded Debt Assistance. The total was \$104.8 million in available funds. The Commission discussed possible new legislation to increase the Catastrophic fund.

The Commission approved and provided state financial participation for 2019-2021 Partnership Program Year-One projects listed in Tab 4e, prioritized per current Rules Governing the Academic Facilities Partnership Program, to a funding level of \$104.8 million.

5. Act 542 of 2017 (Unused/Underutilized Facilities)

Mr. Montgomery stated that no charter organization had requested a facility when school districts requested a waiver. The process required large amounts of time from Division staff and the Division might require additional staffing. Mr. Montgomery stated he was not aware of buildings that had been leased or sold as a result of the program, only that North Little Rock School District had exchanged property with the City of North Little Rock and that Little Rock School District had sold the old Gilliam Campus to Watershed, but no transactions with a charter organization.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

Commissioner Key and Mr. Walther expressed their thanks for the well-prepared documents and packets, which were easy to understand and use, and that it had been a good meeting.

6. Adjourn