



Draft Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting of the
School Building Projects Advisory Council
April 28, 2025, at 9:00 AM (held via Microsoft Teams)

Meeting video

<https://youtu.be/zVyebIUorkU>

Members Present:

Michelle Gilman, Chair
Don Poulin
William Turner
Lance Hall
Omarys Vasquez
Angela Cahill
Antonio Iadarola
Louis Casolo

Members Absent:

Chlo Anne Bobrowski
Paul Hinsch
Julia McFadden

Department Staff Present:

Eleanor Michael, DAS
Amanda Bellagamba, DAS
Amy LaChance, DAS
Ian Alexander, DESPP
Nicole Villardi, DESPP

1. Call to Order by Commissioner Michelle Gilman at 9:03am.

Chair Gilman confirmed the meeting quorum, thanked the Council members for their attendance and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

2. Opening Remarks by Commissioner Gilman

Chair Gilman updated members on relevant staffing changes at the Department of Administrative Services, including the departure of Dr. Alice Pritchard and Ella Sun, Director of the Grants Program, among others. She also shared that DAS had published proposed school construction regulations on the eRegulations system, which can be found on the Secretary of the State's website. The public comment period for the regulations is open through May 16th, and she encouraged members to share the regulations with their constituencies and provide comments. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a motion to adopt by Don Poulin

and seconded by Lance Hall. Omarys Vazquez abstained from the vote, as she was absent at the previous meeting.

3. Legislative Update by Amanda Bellagamba, DAS Legislative Liaison

Amanda Bellagamba provided an update on a number of bills that are proposing changes to the school construction grant program that are currently pending before the legislature. Her presentation focused on House Bill 6922, which is a DAS agency bill that proposes to remove CTECS from the School Construction Grant program statutes found in Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to simplify their process of getting school construction funding. She noted that the proposal also incorporates the standalone HVAC Grant into the Non-Priority List administrative process. She provided updates on a variety of other legislative proposals, as well, particularly highlighting ones that provided bonus rates for projects that included special education programs, early childhood programs, and for municipalities that achieve certain affordable housing levels.

4. Presentation on the School Security Grant Program and the Multi-Media School Security Grant Program by Ian Alexander, Grants Supervisor, DESPP and Nicole Villardi, Regional Coordinator, DESPP

Ian Alexander explained that the two School Security Grant Programs run by DESPP are bond funded, and introduced Nicole Villardi, who provided updates on both programs.

Nicole Villardi noted that the School Security Grant Program for Security infrastructure improvements provides funding for items such as alarms, panic buttons, fencing and perimeter security, improvements to doors and windows, and so on. The grant program started in 2013, and over \$93M has been allocated to fund over 2,000 projects to date. The Multi-Media School Security Grant Program requires schools to have an interoperable direct line of communication between the school and law enforcement. Both programs are reimbursement programs, and the reimbursements are based on a town's wealth index.

5. Next quarterly meeting: July 3, 2025 at 9:00am

Chair Gilman reminded members of the next meeting, and asked that members email her any agenda items they would like to discuss.

6. Open Discussion

Chair Gilman asked for a motion to add an Agenda Item 6 for Open Discussion. A motion was made by Angela Cahill, seconded by Don Poulin, and approved unanimously.

Don Poulin asked if copies of the slides would be distributed, and Chair Gilman indicated that DAS will email them to Board members and post them on our website.

Lou Casolo asked what the source of the information was for the allowable cost per square foot guidelines that were included in the draft school construction regulations. DAS Staff Attorney Amy LaChance indicated that the numbers came from a study conducted by Arcadis, and Chair Gilman shared that the study would be posted on the DAS website.

7. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Don Poulin and seconded by Lance Hall and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26am.