

PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

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Superintendent of Schools
Frederick County Board of Education
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March 18, 2016

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

This letter is a follow up to our recent meeting regarding the school construction approval process. We appreciate you taking time during your hectic schedule to meet with representatives of our organization to discuss this important topic.

As we discussed, our specific concern centers around the Board of Public Works (BPW) appeal when superintendents and staff are given 10 minutes to provide a brief overview of their school projects. However, our experience has been that the members of the BPW often do not question the construction projects but use the time as a forum to advance political agendas such as financial literacy, declining enrollment, communications to parents, post-labor day starts, charter school approvals, and other instructional or operational issues. Recently, Treasurer Kopp is the only member who actually asks appropriate questions because of her deep understanding of the school construction process. Further, recent history has shown that the BPW approves the recommendations from the Interagency Committee on School Construction. Therefore, this additional step in the school construction process seems unnecessary and redundant.

We are advocating for a change in this approval process that would result in a more efficient and effective process. PSSAM believes it would be more appropriate to present our appeals in writing to the IAC, where they have the expertise in evaluating the process. This would allow their members and staff to understand the issues in a concise, straight forward method. If questions arise, local superintendents would appear again before the IAC so we can dialogue appropriately about our construction appeals and projects.

We thank you again for your continued support. We believe that with your guidance and leadership, we can attain a more effective and efficient process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Theresa R. Alban'.

Theresa R. Alban, Ph. D.,
President PSSAM *and*
Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools

Cc: IAC Members

Governor Larry Hogan
Treasurer Nancy Kopp
Comptroller Peter Franchot
Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer,
Senator James E. DeGrange, Sr.
Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Delegate Adrienne Jones