



Testimony of Commissioner Josh Geballe

Department of Administrative Services

Priority List Review Committee

January 15, 2021

Good morning Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France, Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin and Representative Cheeseman.

My name is Josh Geballe and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services. I am joined by Kosta Diamantis, Deputy Secretary at the Office of Policy and Management and Director of the Office of School Construction Grants, Review and Audit and other members of his team.

You have before you the DAS-recommended school construction Priority List projects for this year. Table 1 lists the fifteen school construction projects that were reviewed by DAS and submitted to the School Construction Priority List Review Committee. The fifteen projects consist of ten elementary schools, a middle school, three high schools and one special education school. Of the 15, five are new school projects, six are renovation projects, two are categorized as "Extension/Alteration projects," one is for special education and one is for vo-ag equipment.

This proposed Priority List has estimated total project costs of \$637,710,083. If the legislature and Governor approve, that would set the State's maximum grant amount for these projects at \$392,874,668. In addition, there is one reauthorization with estimated project costs of \$112,329,500 and a potential grant change of \$32,381,067.

I would note that this maximum total grant amount is the upper limit on state grant support for these school construction projects. The Director and his team from the Office of School Construction Grants, Review and Audit conduct extensive review of the school construction projects. Preliminary meetings are often held before grant applications are submitted, enabling us to present to you grant proposals based on the true cost of needed construction work. The Director of the Office of School Construction Grants, Review and Audit will continue to work with the school districts who have proposed projects on this Priority List. Those additional reviews may lead to reduced total project costs and grant commitments, so the true cost may be lower than the authorized maximum amount.

We look forward to working with you, not only on this Priority List, but on our continuing work of delivering modern school facilities that support the high quality of education that Connecticut's children need in a cost-effective manner.

I thank you for your steadfast dedication and unwavering commitment to Connecticut's children and their school facilities. Deputy Diamantis and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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