



Testimony of Commissioner Josh Geballe

Department of Administrative Services

Priority List Review Committee

January 25, 2022

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 (DAS). I am joined by Noel Petra, Deputy Commissioner and Interim Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review, as well as other members of his team.

You have before you the listing of eligible school building projects submitted by DAS to the Office of the Governor pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 10-283(a)(2) and to this Committee in accordance with C.G.S. Sec. 10-283a. Table 1 lists the nine school construction projects that were reviewed by DAS and submitted to the School Construction Priority List Review Committee. The nine projects consist of four elementary schools, a middle school, three high schools and the purchase of one bus. Of the nine, three are new school projects, two are renovation projects, two are categorized as "Extension/Alteration projects," one is an alteration and one is for vo-ag equipment.

This proposed Priority List has estimated total project costs of \$537,684,828. If the legislature and Governor approve, that would set the State's maximum grant amount for these projects at \$135,695,290. In addition, there is one reauthorization with estimated project costs of \$188,122,766 and a potential grant change of \$48,675,571.

The Office of School Construction Grants and Review conducts extensive review of the school construction projects, including often preliminary meetings with municipalities before grant applications are submitted. As always, the Office of School Construction Grants and Review will work with all relevant school districts, including those who have proposed projects on this Priority List and those that are in the process of proposing projects for next year's Priority List. The Office of School Construction Grants and Review team will continue to review project costs and construction timelines with school districts and offer assistance during these challenging times.

We look forward to working with this committee and the legislature as a whole, 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 Commissioner Petra and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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