



Joint meeting of the
School Safety Infrastructure Council
and
School Building Projects Advisory Council

November 10, 2020
 (held remotely via Teams)

Minutes

SSIC	SBPAC	11/10/2020 attendance
	Secretary of OPM or designee	Steven Kitowicz
DAS Commissioner or designee	DAS Commissioner or designee	Dep. Secretary Kosta Diamantis
DESPP Commissioner or designee		William Turley
SDE Commissioner designee	SDE Commissioner designee	John Woodmansee for SSIC / Donald Poulin for SBPAC
Steven Waznia		present
	Antonio Iadarola	present
	Glenn Gollenberg	present
	Lou Casolo	present

4 of 11 total seats.	6 of 8 total seats.
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1. Dep. Secretary Diamantis, in the chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08am.
2. On discussion of Council membership and the future of the two Councils, Diamantis discussed the need for the Councils to have a full complement and reappointment.
3. Update on school construction policy.
 - a. Discussion (Diamantis, Gollenberg, Poulin, Iadarola) regarding:
 - i. Per square foot costs,
 - ii. Office of School Construction Grants and Review (OSCGR) present work on a white paper on cost escalation,
 - iii. Concerns regarding automatic assumption that PLAs increase costs,
 - iv. How negotiating can keep costs down under PLAs,
 - v. Having more GC projects,
 - vi. Expanding number of constructors who can do school construction,
 - vii. Data from Connecticut and other states on school construction costs,
 - viii. Current labor shortages,
 - ix. Certain present high material costs.
4. Concerning the suggested motion: "That the School Safety Infrastructure Council reaffirms the School Safety Infrastructure Criteria (Appendix A of the November 19, 2015 SSIC Report: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DAS/Communications/Communications-List-Docs/Special-Reports/SSIC-Report-Nov-19-2015.pdf>);



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affirms it is the responsibility of local officials to implement the Criteria, based on their own assessment of how to ensure the safety of their local schools; and affirms that local officials are to be cognizant of the various provisions of the Criteria, but are to apply those provisions to the degree that they, in their professional capacities, find necessary to preserve safety in their local schools.”

- a. Discussion (Diamantis, Woodmansee) that the item cannot be acted on because no quorum was present for the SSIC.
5. Discussion (Diamantis, Gollenberg, Turley, Woodmansee) on whether to recommend merging the SSIC and SBPAC. Discussion of it being a good concept. Further discussion to be at the next meeting.
6. Discussion (Gollenberg, Diamantis, Woodmansee) on researching other states’ experience and more recent federal guidance on school safety standards. OSCGR to ask the National Association on School Facilities for any research done.
7. Discussion (Diamantis, Casolo, Gollenberg):
 - a. On the state’s self-imposed \$400 million per year limit on new school construction grant commitments (grant amount, not total project costs),
 - b. That there might be times when all Priority List requests are not funded in any given year,
 - c. Regarding the new project tracking tool being developed by OSCGR,
 - d. On OSCGR having gotten change order processing up to date,
 - e. On OSCGR closing many projects,
 - f. On energy efficiency standards.
8. Discussion (Diamantis) that there is to be further joint meetings in early December and in January and February of 2021.
9. Adjourned without objection at 9:52 am.