

The use of project labor agreements is becoming exceedingly commonplace on government-funded construction projects. In February 2022, President Joe Biden issued an executive order instituting a project labor agreement requirement on all federal construction projects worth more than \$35 million. Labor agreements have been used for generations to ensure workers on large-scale construction projects receive fair wages, overtime pay, working conditions, health insurance, and other benefits. They also protect taxpayers by eliminating costly delays due to labor conflicts or shortages of skilled workers. The lack of any labor component in the general anticipated terms of the project agreement for Phase II of the P3 Program is a mistake that must be addressed.

The undersigned is not attempting to dictate the specific terms of a project labor agreement nor are we expecting a project labor agreement on all six schools and every scope of work. Instead, we want to work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to develop a project labor component that will enhance the effectiveness of Phase II and uplift economically the people of Prince George's County.

Selection of Six Schools

With over 200 school buildings across our County, we understand the scarcity of resources and that a limited number of schools can be built in each phase. Though we appreciate the work of the task force and PGCPSS, we will need to understand the criteria and data behind their selection, and where other schools are in the prioritization for funding. Collectively, we have a responsibility to ensure that students across the County benefit from the public investment as was the case in Phase I. The incoming County Council must be on board with Phase II because we will be the body voting on the Phase II MOU.

In conclusion, we hope to work with you to address these concerns and ensure that Phase II of the P3 Program is a success. We wanted to timely express our concerns so that we can begin collaborations and potentially adjust to avoid any delays when the time comes for the incoming Council to consider the MOU for Phase II of the P3 Program. Please send us your availability to meet in the next three weeks to discuss our concerns and determine the best path forward. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Wala Blegay, Council Member-Elect
Edward Burroughs III, Council Member
Tom Dernoga, Council Member
Jolene Ivey, Council Member
Eric Olson, Council Member-Elect
Krystal Oriadha, Council Member-Elect