SUMMARY OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Eighteen states and the Department of Defense Education Activity took part in the second annual meeting of the National Council on School Facilities (NCSF) from December 7 through December 9, 2014 at the Thurgood Marshall Center in Washington, D.C. The 21st Century School Fund (21CSF), a nonprofit focused on improving our nation's school facilities and the incubator of the Council, organized, staffed, and hosted the annual meeting for the Council.



Kathleen Moore, 2014 NCSF President and the California director of school facilities

2014 National Council President Kathleen Moore welcomed the members, attending states, and guests. Moore introduced the Council's mission and highlighted the role of the Council in providing an efficient way to learn about state facilities policies and practices and to explore new trends and research related to states' roles in education facilities.



Members and Participating States

Alabama • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Delaware Georgia • Iowa • Maryland • New Jersey • New Mexico New York • North Carolina • Ohio • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Texas • West Virginia • Washington • Wyoming • U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity

TOUR OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL

The state officials toured the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity's (DoDEA's) new Crossroads Elementary School on Joint Base Quantico in Virginia. Mike Smiley, Chief of Facilities for DoDEA, described how the school is built to support 21st-century learning standards and took questions from the group. After the tour, the attendees networked over lunch at the Officers' Club. Tom Brady, Director of the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity, delivered a keynote address focused on the importance of modern facilities to advance student achievement.

National Council on School Facilities MISSION

...to support states in their varied roles and responsibilities for the delivery of safe, healthy, and educationally appropriate public school facilities that are sustainable and fiscally sound.

STATES REPORT OUT

Each attending state official introduced their state school-facilities organization and reported on school-facilities issues in their state. Among the topics covered were: state funding of facilities; ensuring equitable school environments; improving the efficiencies and effectiveness of their state facilities organization; facilities pressures from growing or declining enrollments; enforcement of state facilities policies; and efforts to improve state facilities data systems.



FACILITIES FUNDING PANEL

Participants had the opportunity to learn about state facilities funding in greater depth from a panel of state facilities representatives from New Mexico, Georgia, Maryland, and Alabama. Each state's representative reported on how their state funds school facilities, the distribution models for the funds, and the history and structure of their state's funding relationship with local school districts.

For example, Bob Gorrell, Director of the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority, reported that his agency has overseen 572 projects with \$1.8 billion in state matching awards since its inception. New Mexico has seen the facilities condition index for its inventory of school buildings improve from a high of 70% in FY04 (very poor facilities conditions) to 35.5% in FY14.

FACILITIES DATA MANAGEMENT

Bob Gorrell (NM), 2013 President of the National Council on School Facilities, led the discussion on the need for good facilities data systems. Building on similar discussions between National Council members in 2013, the focus of the discussion was on developing a common framework for school-facilities data and for the need to make adjustments to the National Center for Educational Statistics' accounting cost codes relating to school facilities.

School Planning Consultant, Ken Phelps of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction described how his state collects school-facilities data and the challenges to maintaining a modern database that can be used for research planning.

SCHOOL FACILITIES STANDARDS

Kathleen Moore (CA), the 2014 President of the National Council on School Facilities, facilitated a session on roles and interests on states standards of public K-12 school facilities. Jeff Vincent, Deputy Director of U. C. Berkeley's Center for Cities & Schools, a guest and research partner of the 21st Century School Fund, presented information from a forthcoming report entitled Building Accountability in California: State Standards and Requirements for K-12 School Facilities that he is preparing for the California Department of Education. During the session, state officials discussed the goals of states in maintaining standards and the challenges of setting and maintaining standards that must be implemented at the local district level. Officials identified the areas where each of their states had state standards. There was a large range, from states with no standards, to those with standards for: school siting, minimum enrollments, school boundaries, school capacity formulas, school design, space standards, construction procurement, debt limits, maintenance, district wide planning, facilities safety, project labor standards, energy efficiency, certification requirements, funding, data reporting, and capital planning.



Bob Gorrell, Director of the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority; Jeff Vincent, Deputy Director, Center for Cities & Schools, University of Berkeley, California; Terry Granderson, Assistant Director of Facilities, Arkansas Department of Education

RESEARCH STUDY

The National Council on School Facilities is engaged with the 21st Century School Fund and the U.S. Green Building Council in a major research study. Mary Filardo of the 21st Century School Fund presented preliminary findings. The study will establish a profile for every state on capital and maintenance spending, long-term debt, and enrollment between FY 1995 and FY 2012. State representatives provided feedback and input on the data as well as on the issues that the forthcoming joint report will highlight.



Barbara Bice, Chief of the School Facilities Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education; Bill Panos, Director of the Wyoming School Facilities Department; Mike Smiley, Chief of Facilities for DoDEA

FACILITIES PLANNING VIDEOS

Another project the National Council is participating in is to produce a series of training videos on school-facilities planning and management for local school districts. During the annual meeting, the first training video, narrated by Kathleen Moore (CA) was described. The videos will help states deliver best-practice training to their local districts on Educational Facilities Master Planning; Safety & Emergency Management Planning; Capital-Improvement Planning; Energy-Management Planning; Maintenance Planning; and Education Specifications. The school facilities best-practice video series is a collaborative project between the National Council, the U.S. Department of Education's Education Facilities Clearinghouse at George Washington University, and the 21st Century School Fund.

The Educational **Facilities Master Plan**

A Best Practice For **Public School Districts**

December 2014

Presented by: Kathleen Moore
Director, Facilities and Transportation Services Division California Department of Education

Education Facilities Clearinghouse. National Council on School Facilities. 21st Century School Fund.

NATIONAL COUNCIL **BOARD ELECTIONS 2015**

At the end of the meeting, Carl Thurnau, Director of the Office of Facilities Planning of the New York State Education Department took office as the 2015 President of the National Council. Mike Rowland, Director of Facilities Services for the Georgia Department of Education, was elected the 2016 President. Perry Taylor, Director of Facilities for the Alabama Department of Education and Bill Panos, Director of the Wyoming School Facilities Department, were elected as At-Large Representatives.

SETTING NATIONAL COUNCIL'S GOALS FOR 2015

The National Council on School Facilities Board of Directors met following the annual meeting and updated the Council's strategic plan to reflect the following priorities for 2015:

- Improve communication between state officials and the National Council on School Facilities.
- Provide governors and state legislators analysis
 of data and information on K-12 capital outlay
 and maintenance and operations spending.
- Assist states in getting good practice information to local districts.
- Improve facilities data definitions to increase the quality of state-level facilities data management.



Rob Caudill, Systems Analyst with the Texas Education Agency, talks with David Lever, Executive Director of Maryland's Interagency Committee on School Construction.

HOLD THE DATES FOR 2015!

The 3rd annual meeting of the National Council on School Facilities will be in Washington, D.C., December 6-8th.



www.FacilitiesCouncil.org