



## Board of Education Report

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**File #:** Rep-279-22/23, **Version:** 1

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### **Approve the Definition of Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein**

**June 13, 2023**

#### **Facilities Services Division**

#### **Action Proposed:**

Approve the definition of four outdoor learning environment projects at 2nd Street Elementary School, Christopher Dena Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Weigand Avenue Elementary School, as described in Exhibit A, and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein. The combined budget for the four outdoor learning environment projects is \$9,323,069.

Authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s) to execute all instruments necessary, as legally permissible, to implement the projects including budget modifications.

#### **Background:**

On August 24, 2021, the Board of Education (Board) adopted an update to the School Upgrade Program (SUP) to integrate Measure RR funding and priorities into its operational framework and approved the Measure RR Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) to help guide the identification of sites and development of project proposals. The Implementation Plan included, among other things, the development of Safe and Welcoming Outdoor Learning Spaces Projects, also referred to as Outdoor Learning Environment Projects (Projects).

The proposed Projects include, but are not limited to, removal of excess relocatable buildings and adjacent asphalt to provide additional green space on the school by constructing an approximately 2,000-square-foot outdoor learning space with landscape, shaded seating areas, shade structure, internet connectivity, sink if infrastructure is already in place, and accessibility improvements.

The proposed Projects are identified utilizing the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index (Greening Index) for a ranking of campuses with the greatest need for enhanced greening and the application of Electronic Capacity Assessment Review (ECAR) data to determine campuses with excess portable classrooms that can be removed without a demand to replace the classroom capacity.

The Greening Index was developed utilizing data measuring two types of need:

1. Community-based need was measured using data from the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, a comprehensive study of the diverse parks and recreation facilities throughout LA County's cities and unincorporated communities, prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. Los Angeles Unified's campus specific need was measured by the percentage of hardscape versus

greenspace within each school site excluding high school athletic fields.

**Bond Oversight Committee Recommendations:**

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on May 18, 2023. Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment is in alignment with BOC recommendations and will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully complete the Facilities SEP.

**Expected Outcomes:**

Approval of the proposed four outdoor learning environment project definitions, and amendment to the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein. The approval will enable staff to proceed with the design and construction of the proposed Projects.

**Board Options and Consequences:**

Adoption of the proposed action will authorize staff to proceed with the expenditure of Bond Program funds and begin the environmental reviews and clearances, design, procurement, construction, and other activities necessary to implement the proposed Projects.

If the proposal is not approved, the activities discussed above will not commence and the schools will not benefit from the creation of the proposed outdoor learning spaces.

**Policy Implications:**

The proposal does not impact Los Angeles Unified policy. It furthers implementation of the update to the SUP to integrate Measure RR funding and priorities into its operational framework. Furthermore, the proposal is consistent with the District's long-term goal to address unmet school facilities needs, improve the conditions of aging and deteriorating school facilities, and provide students with safe and healthy outdoor learning environments. The action aligns with the Green Schools for All: Equitable Funding and Expansion of Green Spaces across District Campuses Board Resolution (Res 002-22/23), adopted on September 27, 2022, that reinforces Los Angeles Unified's commitment to creating green learning spaces.

**Budget Impact:**

The combined budget for the four outdoor learning environment projects is \$9,323,069. The Projects will be funded by Bond Program funds in the SUP targeted for major modernizations, upgrades, and reconfiguration to school campuses.

The project budgets were prepared based on the current information known, and assumptions about the project scope, site conditions, and market conditions. The project budgets will be reviewed throughout the planning, design, and construction phases as new information becomes known or unforeseen conditions arise and will be adjusted accordingly to enable the successful completion of the proposed Projects.

**Student Impact:**

The outdoor learning environments projects, once completed, will help ensure that approximately 1,230 students attending these four schools are provided with safe, welcoming, and sustainable outdoor learning environments that support student-centered, experiential, and engaged learning.

**Equity Impact:**

In alignment with the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, Los Angeles Unified is committed to creating environments where students feel safe, welcome, and excited to learn, and to a strategy that includes developing safe and

sustainable green spaces, outdoor learning environments, and shaded areas at each school.

**Issues and Analysis:**

The intent of the outdoor learning environment projects is to provide safe, welcoming, and sustainable outdoor learning environments at schools most in need of greening resources to support instruction.

The principal project planning tenets are:

1. Design, size, and elements vary across elementary, middle, and high schools.
2. Accommodate general classroom use for cross disciplinary lessons.
3. Provide informal gathering spaces and/or play spaces for elementary school.
4. Provide overflow seating for nearby library/multipurpose rooms.
5. Provide space for outdoor performances/speakers.
6. Provide outdoor study areas adjacent to classrooms.
7. Planted areas may be utilized by class curriculum.

**Attachments:**

Exhibit A: Scope, Budget, and Schedule for Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects

Exhibit B: BOC Resolution

Previously adopted Board reports referenced in the Background section:

- Adopted August 24, 2021: [Board Report No. 027-21/22](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WJNvfi_ATG8VbpDx6KXq4_w2GxmSBNJA/view?usp=sharing)  
<[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WJNvfi\\_ATG8VbpDx6KXq4\\_w2GxmSBNJA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WJNvfi_ATG8VbpDx6KXq4_w2GxmSBNJA/view?usp=sharing)>

**Informatives:**

None

**Submitted:**

05/09/2023

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



ALBERTO M. CARVALHO  
Superintendent

APPROVED BY:



PEDRO SALCIDO  
Deputy Superintendent, Business Services and Operations

REVIEWED BY:



DEVORA NAVERA REED  
General Counsel

Approved as to form.

APPROVED BY:



MARK HOVATTER  
Chief Facilities Executive  
Facilities Services Division

REVIEWED BY:



TONY ATIENZA  
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning

Approved as to budget impact statement.

PRESENTED BY:



AARON BRIDGEWATER  
Director of Facilities Planning & Development  
Facilities Services Division

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Report**

**Exhibit A**

**Scope, Budget, and Schedule for Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects**

**1. 2nd Street Elementary School Outdoor Learning Environment Project**

*Boyle Heights Community of Schools, Region East, Board District 2 (Dr. Rocio Rivas)*

Project Background and Scope: 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Elementary School serves students in transitional kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As of the 2022-2023 Electronic Capacity Assessment Review (E-CAR), the school served 216 students. The school is ranked #12 on the Greening Index. Some buildings on the campus are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places/California Register of Historical Resources, but will not be impacted by this project.

The project includes, but is not limited to:

- Removal of one bungalow building (2 classrooms) and adjacent asphalt.
- Construction of an approximately 2,000-square-foot outdoor learning space.
- Landscaping including trees, pavers, and decomposed granite.
- Shaded seating areas.
- Shade structure.
- Internet connectivity.
- Irrigation and outdoor sink.
- Improvements to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal requirements including from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Division of the State Architect (DSA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Project Budget: \$2,348,634

Project Schedule: Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2025 and be completed in Q2-2026.

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Exhibit A**

**Scope, Budget, and Schedule for Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects**

**2. Christopher Dena Elementary School Outdoor Learning Environment Project**

*Boyle Heights Community of Schools, Region East, Board District 2 (Dr. Rocio Rivas)*

Project Background and Scope: Christopher Dena Elementary School serves students in transitional kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As of the 2022-2023 E-CAR, the school served 376 students. The school is ranked #17 on the Greening Index.

The project includes, but is not limited to:

- Removal of one bungalow building (2 classrooms) and adjacent asphalt.
- Construction of an approximately 2,000-square-foot outdoor learning space.
- Landscaping including trees, pavers, and decomposed granite.
- Shaded seating areas.
- Shade structure.
- Internet connectivity.
- Irrigation and outdoor sink.
- Improvements to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal requirements including from the ADA, DSA, CEQA, and DTSC.

Project Budget: \$2,348,634

Project Schedule: Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2025 and be completed in Q2-2026.

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Exhibit A**

**Scope, Budget, and Schedule for Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects**

**3. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School Outdoor Learning Environment Project**

*Manual Arts/Vermont Square Community of Schools, Region South, Board District 1 (Dr. George McKenna)*

Project Background and Scope: Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School serves students in transitional kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. As of the 2022-2023 E-CAR, the school served 331 students. The school is ranked #20 on the Greening Index. Some buildings on the campus are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places/California Register of Historical Resources, but will not be impacted by this project.

The project includes, but is not limited to:

- Removal of one portable building (2 classrooms) and adjacent asphalt.
- Construction of an approximately 2,000-square-foot outdoor learning space.
- Landscaping including trees, pavers, and decomposed granite.
- Shaded seating areas.
- Shade structure.
- Internet connectivity.
- Irrigation and outdoor sink.
- Improvements to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal requirements including from the ADA, DSA, CEQA, and DTSC.

Project Budget: \$2,277,167

Project Schedule: Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2025 and be completed in Q2-2026.

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Exhibit A**

**Scope, Budget, and Schedule for Four Outdoor Learning Environment Projects**

**4. Weigand Avenue Elementary School Outdoor Learning Environment Project**

*Achievement Network Community of Schools, Region South, Board District 7 (Tanya Ortiz Franklin)*

Project Background and Scope: Weigand Avenue Elementary School serves students in transitional kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. As of the 2022-2023 E-CAR, the school served 316 students. The school is ranked #19 on the Greening Index.

The project includes, but is not limited to:

- Removal of one bungalow building (2 classrooms) and adjacent asphalt.
- Construction of an approximately 2,000-square-foot outdoor learning space.
- Landscaping including trees, pavers, and decomposed granite.
- Shaded seating areas.
- Shade structure.
- Internet connectivity.
- Irrigation and outdoor sink.
- Improvements to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal requirements including from the ADA, DSA, CEQA, and DTSC.

Project Budget: \$2,348,634

Project Schedule: Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2025 and be completed in Q2-2026.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Margaret Fuentes, Chair  
LAUSD Student Parent  
D. Michael Hamner, FAIA, Vice-Chair  
American Institute of Architects  
Jennifer McDowell, Secretary  
L.A. City Mayor's Office  
Scott Pansky, Executive Committee  
L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

Neelura Bell  
CA Charter School Association  
Robert Campbell  
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Jeffrey Fischbach  
CA Tax Reform Assn.  
Chris Hannan  
L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO  
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L.A. City Controller's Office  
Brian Mello  
Assoc. General Contractors of CA  
Dr. Clarence Monteclaro  
Tenth District PTSA

William O. Ross IV  
31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA  
Samantha Rowles  
LAUSD Student Parent  
Araceli Sandoval-Gonzalez  
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Dolores Sobalvarro  
AARP  
Celia Ayala (Alternate)  
Early Education Coalition  
Chad Boggio (Alternate)  
L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO  
Connie Yee (Alternate)  
L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office

Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel  
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP  
Lori Raineri and Keith Weaver – Oversight  
Consultants  
Government Financial Strategies Joint  
Powers Authority

Timothy Popejoy  
Bond Oversight Administrator  
Perla Zitle  
Bond Oversight Coordinator

RESOLUTION 2023-15

BOARD REPORT 279-22/23

RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL OF THE DEFINITION OF FOUR OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes that the Board of Education (Board) approve the definition of four outdoor learning environment projects at 2nd Street Elementary School, Christopher Dena Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, and Weigand Avenue Elementary School (Projects), as described in Exhibit A to Board Report No. 279-22/23, amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein, and authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s) to execute all instruments necessary, as legally permissible, to implement the projects including budget modifications; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Projects include, but are not limited to, removal of excess relocatable buildings and adjacent asphalt to provide additional green space on the school by constructing an approximately 2,000 square-foot-outdoor learning space with landscaping, shaded seating areas, shade structure, internet connectivity, sink if infrastructure is already in place, and accessibility improvements; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Projects are identified utilizing the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index (Greening Index) for a ranking of campuses with the greatest need for enhanced greening and the application of Electronic Capacity Assessment Review (ECAR) data to determine campuses with excess portable classrooms that can be removed without a demand to replace the classroom capacity; and

WHEREAS, The Greening Index was developed utilizing data measuring two types of need:

**RESOLUTION 2023-15****RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL OF THE DEFINITION OF FOUR OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

1. Community-based need was measured using data from the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, a comprehensive study of the diverse parks and recreation facilities throughout LA County's cities and unincorporated communities, prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. Los Angeles Unified's campus specific need was measured by the percentage of hardscape versus greenspace within each school site excluding high school athletic fields; and

WHEREAS, The combined budget for the four outdoor learning environment projects is \$9,323,069 and will be funded by Bond Program funds targeted in the School Upgrade Program for major modernizations, upgrades, and reconfigurations to school campuses; and

WHEREAS, District Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully complete the Facilities SEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of approve the definition of four outdoor learning environment projects at 2nd Street Elementary School, Christopher Dena Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, and Weigand Avenue Elementary School with a combined budget of \$9,323,069, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein, as described in Board Report No. 279-22/23, a copy of which is attached hereto in the form it was presented to the BOC and is incorporated herein by reference.
2. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Oversight Committee's website.
3. The District is directed to track the above recommendation and to report on the adoption, rejection, or pending status of the recommendations as provided in section 6.2 of the Charter and Memorandum of Understanding between the Oversight Committee and the District.

ADOPTED on May 18, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 10

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 5

*/Margaret Fuentes/*

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Margaret Fuentes  
Chair

*/Michael Hamner/*

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D. Michael Hamner  
Vice-Chair