



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-487-17/18, **Version:** 1

Amendment to the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Define and Approve 10 Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects

June 12, 2018

Facilities Services Division and Early Childhood Education Division

Action Proposed:

Staff proposes that the Board of Education amend the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve 10 Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom projects as listed on Attachment A. Staff further proposes that the Board authorize the (Interim) 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 proposed project, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials. The total combined budget for these projects is \$19,576,349.

Background:

Early Education Center (EEC) Outdoor Classrooms are designed to enable the District's youngest learners to acquire a deep intuitive understanding of the natural world through hands-on experiences. Each Outdoor Classroom project will include a number of learning stations with the following components:

- Large-motor activities learning station
- Climbing/crawling learning station
- Messy materials learning station
- Building block learning station
- Nature art learning station
- Music and movement learning station
- Planting garden/pathway through planting learning station
- Gathering learning station
- Materials storage learning station

Construction of these 10 EEC Outdoor Classroom projects will allow the District to convert part of existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments. The scope of work includes accessibility upgrades, and any other required improvements or mitigations to ensure compliance with local, State, and/or federal facilities requirements. (Please see Attachment A.)

The 10 proposed projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with the Local District and site administrators. Sites were selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, each center's proximity and access to existing green space, and evidence of parent, administrator and staff commitment to the success of the program. Other factors considered included income level, center enrollment, community interest and demographics.

Expected Outcomes:

Approval of this proposed action will enable staff to proceed with the design and construction of the ten proposed EEC Outdoor Classroom projects.

Board Options and Consequences:

Approval of the proposed action will enable staff to design and construct 10 EEC Outdoor Classroom projects. These projects will convert existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments.

If the proposed action is not approved, the design and construction of the 10 EEC Outdoor classroom projects will not be performed and access to any nature-based green space will remain limited.

Policy Implications:

This action is consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment.

Budget Impact:

The total combined budget for the 10 projects is \$19,576,349. The projects will be funded by Bond Program funds targeted in the School Upgrade Program for Early Childhood Education facilities.

Each project budget was prepared based on the current information known, and assumptions about, the project scope, site conditions, and market conditions. Individual 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 each project.

Student Impact:

Once completed, the outdoor classrooms will establish a nurturing, nature-based outdoor space. These projects encourage and support community, student and parent engagement through the creation of partnerships that help establish and maintain the newly developed garden spaces.

Children and their parents will be able to connect with the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and development in the areas that lack parks and green environments. Research has shown, such as in the study titled "*A Post-Occupancy Study of Nature-Based Outdoor Classrooms in Early Childhood Settings*" by Samuel F. Dennis, Jr., Alexandra Wells and Candace Bishop from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, that these natural spaces for children facilitate better social and physical development, improve fitness, motor-skills and well-being, support creativity and imaginative play, inspire collaboration and reduce violence and bullying. They reduce stress for staff, families and children, and create feelings of empathy for nature. Moreover, these spaces support whole-child development and learning across curriculum including: critical thinking, problem solving, science, language and literacy, visual-spatial learning, construction and engineering. Expected developmental outcomes include enhanced imaginative play, increased physical and mental well-being, and environmental stewardship.

Issues and Analysis:

The Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) is committed to providing a quality early education experience that will prepare students for success in school and life, while valuing and respecting the needs, languages and cultures of all students, families, staff, and the respective communities.

Over the past eight years, the ECED has worked closely with the Arbor Day Foundation, the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and Nature Explore, all non-profit organizations, to evaluate the benefits of implementing such a program at LAUSD. Past experience has demonstrated that children benefit most from these programs when the parents, administrators and center staff have received adequate training and support on the optimal use of outdoor classrooms. In order to maximize the potential benefits and ensure the success of the instructional program that will be made possible with the completion of these proposed projects, ECED in conjunction with the above listed non-profit organizations, will offer training on the use and maintenance of these outdoor classrooms to center administrators, staff and parents. They will also offer training to support learning in the natural environment, visual-spatial learning and sustaining the outdoor classroom. They will provide family training and activities for parents involving their children in nature and in the outdoor classroom. The classrooms support parent engagement as the children are learning.

Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation:

This item was considered by the BOC at its meeting on May 31, 2018. Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment will facilitate implementation of the Facilities SEP, and therefore, it will not adversely affect the District's ability to successfully complete the SEP.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Ten EEC Outdoor Classroom Projects
BOC Resolution

Informatives:

None.

Submitted:

5/25/18

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent

APPROVED & PRESENTED BY:



MARK HOVATTER
Chief Facilities Executive
Facilities Services Division

REVIEWED BY:



DAVID HOLMQUIST
General Counsel

APPROVED & PRESENTED BY:



DEAN S. TAGAWA
Executive Director
Early Childhood Education Division

Approved as to form.

REVIEWED BY:



CHERYL SIMPSON
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning

Approved as to budget impact statement.

ATTACHMENT A
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIVISION PROJECTS

Item	BD	LD	School	Project Description	Project Budget	Anticipated Construction Start	Anticipated Construction Completion
1	1	C	Normandie EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to seven activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 1,411,867	Q2-2020	Q1-2021
2	2	E	Evergreen EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to eight activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 2,233,252	Q3-2020	Q2-2021
3	2	E	Murchison EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to eight activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 1,837,232	Q3-2020	Q2-2021
4	4	NE	Toluca Lake EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to eleven activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 1,405,912	Q2-2020	Q1-2021
5	5	C	Monte Vista EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to nine activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 2,633,760	Q3-2020	Q2-2021
6	6	NE	Haddon EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to nine activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 1,907,463	Q3-2020	Q2-2021
7	6	NE	Vaughn EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to nine activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades, in addition to fire alarm upgrades.	\$ 2,584,246	Q2-2020	Q1-2021

ATTACHMENT A
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIVISION PROJECTS

Item	BD	LD	School	Project Description	Project Budget	Anticipated Construction Start	Anticipated Construction Completion
8	6	NW	Gledhill EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to nine activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 1,411,612	Q2-2020	Q1-2021
9	7	S	Locke EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to eight activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades.	\$ 2,760,469	Q2-2020	Q1-2021
10	7	S	Normont EEC	The main scope of the project is to develop outdoor learning spaces with up to eight activity areas. The project includes necessary accessibility upgrades, including restroom and drinking fountain upgrades, in addition to fire alarm upgrades.	\$ 1,390,536	Q2-2020	Q1-2021
TOTAL					\$ 19,576,349		

NOTE: Project budgets vary due to the size of the play area being developed at each school site.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Quynh Nguyen, Chair
LAUSD Student Parent
Susan Linschoten, Secretary
L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office
Stuart Magruder, Executive Committee
American Institute of Architects
Rachel Greene, Executive Committee
Tenth District PTSA

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CA Charter School Association
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L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO
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L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce
Dolores Sobalvarro
AARP
Kathryn Steinberg
31st District PTSA
Celia Ayala (Alternate)
Early Education Coalition
Arlene Barrera (Alternate)
L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office
(Vacant)
CA Tax Reform Assn.

Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
(Vacant)
Oversight Committee Consultant

Timothy Popejoy
Bond Oversight Administrator
Daniel Hwang
Asst. Administrative Analyst

RESOLUTION 2018-23

BOARD REPORT NO. 487-17/18

**AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE 10 EARLY EDUCATION
CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes that the Board of Education approve an amendment to the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve 10 Early Education Center (EEC) Outdoor Classroom projects with a combined budget of \$19,576,349 as described in Board Report 487-16/17 attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the 10 proposed projects were identified by Early Childhood Education in consultation with the Local District and site administrators; and sites were selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, each center's proximity and access to existing green space and evidence of parent, administrator and staff commitment to the success of the program; and other factors considered were: low income, center enrollment, community interest and demographics; and

WHEREAS, construction of these 10 EEC Outdoor Classroom projects will allow the District to convert part of existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments; and the scope of work includes accessibility upgrades, and any other required improvements or mitigations to ensure compliance with local, State, and/or federal facilities requirements; and

WHEREAS, this action is consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment.

**RESOLUTION 2018-23
AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE 10 EARLY EDUCATION CENTER
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, District Staff has concluded that the proposed SEP amendment will facilitate implementation of the FSD SEP, and therefore, it will not adversely affect the District's ability to successfully complete the FSD SEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School Construction Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Education adopt an amendment to the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve 10 Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects with a combined budget of \$19,576,349 as defined in Board Report 487-17/18, 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 31st, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: 9

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 5



Quynh Nguyen
Chair



Stuart Magruder
Executive Committee