



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-301-21/22, **Version:** 1

Define and Approve the 24th Street Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein June 14, 2022

Facilities Services Division and Early Childhood Education Division

Action Proposed:

Define and approve a project to provide an outdoor classroom and campus upgrades at 24th Street Early Education Center (EEC) and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein. The budget for this project is \$3,152,464.

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 proposed project, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials.

Background:

The Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified or District) School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled "Build New and Repair Aging Early Childhood Education Centers to Promote Learning for Youngest Students." Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan.

Staff's proposal will create dynamic, nature-based outdoor learning spaces and provide upgrades to school building/site systems that have reached or exceeded their service life at the 24th Street 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 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

The proposed project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 6,075 square feet. The scope of work includes Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility upgrades, and any other required improvements or mitigations to ensure compliance with local, state, and/or federal facilities requirements. Campus upgrades include new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning units, new roofing, fire alarm upgrades, a new shade fabric for the

existing shade structure, a new water bottle filling station, and new playground matting. Construction is anticipated to begin in the third quarter of 2024 and be completed in the fourth quarter of 2025.

24th Street EEC is located within the Manual Arts Vermont Square Community of Schools, Local District Central, and Board District 1 (Dr. George J. McKenna).

Expected Outcomes:

Staff anticipates the Board of Education will define and approve the 24th Street EEC Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein. Approval will authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of the proposed project.

Board Options and Consequences:

Adoption of the proposed action will authorize staff to proceed with the expenditure of Bond Program funds to implement the proposed project. If staff’s proposal is not approved, Bond funds will not be expended, access to green space will remain limited, and early education facilities needs will remain unaddressed.

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 budget for this project is \$3,152,464. The project will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions.

The project budget was prepared based on the current information known and assumptions about the project scope, site conditions, and market conditions. It 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 project.

Student Impact:

This project will establish nurturing outdoor spaces that support whole-child development and learning, as well as address early education facilities needs that are necessary to improve student health, safety, and educational quality.

Expected developmental outcomes include enhanced imaginative play, increased physical and mental well-being, and environmental stewardship. This outdoor classroom will encourage and support community, student, and parent engagement through the creation of partnerships that help establish and maintain the newly developed garden spaces. These spaces can also reduce stress for staff, families, and children. 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.

Over the past 12 years, the Early Childhood Education Division 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 programs at Los Angeles Unified. Experience has demonstrated that children benefit most from these programs when parents, administrators, and staff have received adequate training and support on the optimal use of outdoor classrooms. To maximize the potential benefits and ensure the success of the instructional programs, the Early Childhood Education Division, together with these non-profit organizations, will offer training on the use and maintenance of outdoor classrooms to

EEC administrators, staff, and parents. Training to support learning in the natural environment, visual-spatial learning, and sustaining the outdoor classroom will be offered. Family training and activities for parents, involving their children in nature and in the outdoor classroom, will also be provided.

Equity Impact:

Not applicable.

Issues and Analysis:

Staff's proposal supports the Early Childhood Education Division's commitment 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 respective communities.

The proposed project was identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. The site was selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, the center's proximity and access to existing community 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.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will evaluate the project proposal in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure compliance. If, through the planning and design process, it is determined the proposed project scope will not sufficiently address the facility needs identified, the project scope, schedule, and budget will be revised accordingly.

Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation:

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizen's Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on June 2, 2022. 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 implement the Facilities SEP.

Attachments:

Attachment A - BOC Resolution


Informatives:

Not applicable


Submitted:

5/20/22

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent

APPROVED BY:


MEGAN K. REILLY
Deputy Superintendent

REVIEWED BY:

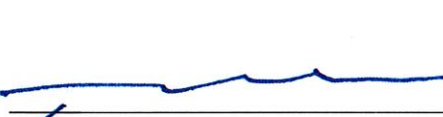

DEVORA NAVERA REED
General Counsel

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.

APPROVED BY:


DEAN S. TAGAWA, EdD
Executive Director
Early Childhood Education Division

PRESENTED BY:


ROBERT LAUGHTON
Director of Maintenance and Operations
Facilities Services Division

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Tenth District PTSA

Chris Hannan, Vice-Chair

L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO

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Early Education Coalition

Laura Baz

LAUSD Student Parent

Neelura Bell

CA Charter School Association

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CA Tax Reform Assn.

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American Institute of Architects

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L.A. City Controller's Office

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Early Education Coalition

Chad Boggio (Alternate)

L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO

Dr. Clarence Monteclaro (Alternate)

Tenth District PTSA

Samantha Rowles (Alternate)

LAUSD Student Parent

Connie Yee (Alternate)

L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office

Vacant

31st District PTSA

Vacant

Assoc. General Contractors of CA

Timothy Popejoy

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Bond Oversight Coordinator

Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel

Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Lori Raineri and Keith Weaver – Oversight Consultants

Government Financial Strategies

RESOLUTION 2022-30

BOARD REPORT NO. 301-21/22

RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE THE 24TH STREET EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECT AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN

WHEREAS, District staff proposes that the Board of Education (Board) define and approve a project to provide an outdoor classroom and campus upgrades at 24th Street Early Education Center (EEC), as described in Board Report No. 301-21/22, and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein; and

WHEREAS, District staff also requests that the Board authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s), to execute all instruments necessary to implement the Project, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials; and

WHEREAS, The School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled " *Early Childhood Education Facilities Upgrades and Expansions.*" Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities SEP; and

WHEREAS, Staff's proposal is for an outdoor classroom and campus upgrade project at 24th St. EEC. This project will convert existing asphalt and playground areas into dynamic, nature-based learning environments, as well as provide upgrades to school building/site systems (e.g., playground matting, roofing, HVAC systems) that have reached or exceeded their service life. Construction is anticipated to begin in the third quarter of 2024 and be completed in the fourth quarter of 2025; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project was identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. The site was selected based upon the

RESOLUTION 2022-30**RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE THE 24TH STREET EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECT AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, each center's proximity and access to existing community 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; and

WHEREAS, The budget for this project is \$3,152,464. The project will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions; and

WHEREAS, This action is consistent with the Los Angeles Unified School District's (Los Angeles Unified or District) commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment, as described in Los Angeles Unified local bond measures; 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 Education define and approve the 24th Street Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project, with a budget of \$3,152,464, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein, as described in Board Report No. 301-21/22, 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 June 2, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 9

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 4

/Rachel Greene/

Rachel Greene
Chair

/Chris Hannan/

Chris Hannan
Vice-Chair