



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-282-20/21, **Version:** 1

Amendment to the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Define and Approve Eight Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Projects and Cancel One Project April 13, 2021

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 eight Early Education Center (EEC) projects at the following schools to provide outdoor classrooms and campus upgrades as described in Attachment A. The total combined budget for these projects is \$28,879,403.

1. 75th Street EEC
2. Alexandria EEC
3. Crescent Heights EEC
4. Holmes Ave EEC
5. Laurel EEC
6. Northridge EEC
7. Telfair EEC
8. Vanalden EEC

Staff further proposes that the Board approve an amendment to the FSD-SEP to cancel a project for synthetic turf at Glassell Park EEC. The approved project budget is \$119,868.

Additionally, staff proposes that the Board 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 School Upgrade Program (SUP) was established to support the development of projects that would upgrade, build and repair school facilities to improve student health, safety and educational quality (Board Report No. 143-13/14). The SUP 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 includes eight Early Education Center (EEC) outdoor classrooms that will be 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

Construction of these eight EEC outdoor classrooms will 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.

The eight proposed outdoor classroom projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school 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.

In addition to outdoor classrooms, the proposed projects include campus upgrades to address aging, deteriorating systems that have reached and/or exceeded their service life. Upgrades include new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and roofing systems, fire alarm and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades and new playground matting. Attachment A provides additional details pertaining to the proposed projects.

Staff's proposal also includes the cancellation of a synthetic turf project at Glassell Park EEC that was previously approved on September 20, 2016 (Board Report No. 075-16/17) with a budget of \$119,868. The project is no longer needed; it had been originally requested by the school to address an issue that has since been resolved by other means.

Expected Outcomes:

Staff anticipates that the Board will adopt the proposed amendment to the Facilities SEP to define and approve the eight Early Education Center projects, as detailed in Attachment A, and cancel the project at Glassell Park EEC. Approval will authorize staff to proceed with the implementation 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 to provide outdoor classrooms and campus upgrades at eight EECs. These projects convert existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments as well as provide upgrades to playground matting, roofing, and HVAC systems that have reached or exceeded their service life. Adoption of staff's proposal will also provide for the cancellation of the project at Glassell Park EEC and return the funding allocated to the program targeted for Early Childhood Education facilities.

If the Board does not approve the proposal, staff will be unable to initiate the proposed projects to provide outdoor classrooms and campus upgrades. Access to nature-based green space will remain limited and EEC facilities needs will remain unaddressed. Additionally, the project at Glassell Park EEC will be placed on hold indefinitely and the funding allocated will not be returned to the program.

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 eight projects is \$28,879,403. 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.

The cancellation of the synthetic turf project at Glassell Park EEC (Project No. 10367993) will result in approximately \$119,868 of unspent funds being returned to the SUP Early Childhood Education category of capital need.

Student Impact:

Once completed, the outdoor classrooms will establish nurturing, nature-based outdoor spaces that 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. These outdoor classrooms 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.

In addition to the outdoor classrooms, the proposed campus upgrades will address early education facilities needs are necessary to improve student health, safety and educational quality.

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 eleven 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 Los Angeles Unified. 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. Additionally, they will provide family training and activities for parents involving their children in nature and in the outdoor classroom.

Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation:

This item was considered by the BOC at its meeting on April 1, 2021. 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 - Eight EEC Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Projects

Attachment B - BOC Resolution

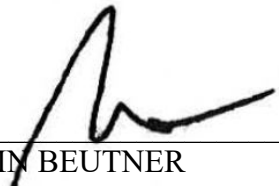
Informatives:

None.

Submitted:

3/26/21

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent

APPROVED BY:



MEGAN K. REILLY
Deputy Superintendent
Business Services & Operations

REVIEWED BY:



DEVORA NAVERA REED
Interim General Counsel

✓ Approved as to form.


APPROVED BY:



MARK HOVATTER
Chief Facilities Executive
Facilities Services Division


REVIEWED BY:

APPROVED BY:



TONY ATIENZA
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning

✓ Approved as to budget impact statement.



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
Board of Education Report
Attachment A

1. 75th Street Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District South, Board District 7 – Ortiz Franklin*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$3,148,876
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2023 and conclude in Q1-2024.

2. Alexandria Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District Central, Board District 2 – García*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$2,433,308
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2-2023 and conclude in Q2-2024.

3. Crescent Heights Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District West, Board District 1 – McKenna*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units, roofing and playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$4,221,387
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2-2023 and conclude in Q2-2024.

4. Holmes Early Education Center Project Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District East, Board District 5 – Goldberg*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system, including ADA accessibility upgrades as needed.
- *Project Budget* -- \$2,265,395
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2023 and conclude in Q1-2024.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Report
Attachment A

5. Laurel Early Education Center Project Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District West, Board District 4 – Melvoin*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units, roofing and playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$3,692,145
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2023 and conclude in Q1-2024.

6. Northridge Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District Northwest, Board District 3 – Schmerelson*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units, roofing and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$5,061,314
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1-2023 and conclude in Q1-2024.

7. Telfair Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District Northeast, Board District 6 – Gonez*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units and roofing, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$4,238,997
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2-2023 and conclude in Q2-2024.

8. Vanalden Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project

- *Local District Northwest, Board District 3 – Schmerelson*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with at least 10 learning stations, and will also provide new HVAC units and roofing, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel, as well as restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget* -- \$3,817,981
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2-2023 and conclude in Q2-2024.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Rachel Greene, Chair

Tenth District PTSA

Dr. Bevin Ashenmiller, Vice-Chair

LAUSD Student Parent

Chris Hannan, Secretary

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

Margaret Fuentes, Executive Committee

LAUSD Student Parent

Araceli Sandoval-Gonzalez, Executive Committee

Early Education Coalition

Tracy Bartley

31st District PTSA

Neelura Bell

CA Charter School Association

Jeffrey Fischbach

CA Tax Reform Assn.

Melanie Freeland

American Institute of Architects

Greg Good

L.A. City Mayor's Office

Karen Krygier

L.A. City Controller's Office

Dolores Sobalvarro

AARP

Alvin Trotter, Jr.

L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

Roger Uy

Assoc. General Contractors of CA

Guy Zelenski

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

Celia Ayala (Alternate)

Early Education Coalition

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Government Financial Strategies

Timothy Popejoy

Bond Oversight Administrator

Perla Zittle

Bond Oversight Coordinator

RESOLUTION 2021-12

BOARD REPORT NO. 282-20/21

AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE EIGHT EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECTS AND CANCEL ONE PROJECT

WHEREAS, District staff proposes that the Board of Education amend the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve eight Early Education Center (EEC) projects to provide outdoor classrooms and campus upgrades as described in Board Report No. 282-20/21 attached hereto, with a combined budget of \$28,879,403 at these schools:

1. 75th Street EEC
2. Alexandria EEC
3. Crescent Heights EEC
4. Holmes Ave EEC
5. Laurel EEC
6. Northridge EEC
7. Telfair EEC
8. Vanalden EEC; and

WHEREAS, Staff further proposes that the Board approve an amendment to the FSD-SEP to cancel a project for synthetic turf at Glassell Park EEC. The approved project budget is \$119,868; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Staff proposes that the Board authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s) to execute all instruments

**RESOLUTION 2021-12
AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE EIGHT EARLY EDUCATION
CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECTS
AND CANCEL ONE PROJECT**

necessary, as legally permissible, to implement the proposed project, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials; and

WHEREAS, The outdoor classroom projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with 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 included income level, center enrollment, community interest and demographics; and

WHEREAS, In addition to outdoor classrooms, the proposed projects include campus upgrades to address aging, deteriorating systems that have reached and/or exceeded their service life. Upgrades include new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and roofing systems, fire alarm and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades and new playground matting; and

WHEREAS, Staff's proposal includes the cancellation of a synthetic turf project at Glassell Park EEC that was previously approved on September 20, 2016 (Board Report No. 075-16/17) with a budget of \$119,868, but is no longer needed as the issue it was meant to address has been resolved by other means; and

WHEREAS, The proposed projects will allow the District to convert existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments as well as provide upgrades to playground matting, roofing, and HVAC systems that have reached or exceeded their service life; and

WHEREAS, The total combined budget for the eight projects is \$28,879,403. The projects will be funded by Bond Program funds targeted in the School Upgrade Program (SUP) for Early Childhood Education facilities; and

WHEREAS, The cancellation of the synthetic turf project at Glassell Park EEC (Project No. 10367993) will result in \$119,868 of unspent funds being returned to the SUP Early Childhood Education category of capital need, 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; and

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.

**RESOLUTION 2021-12
AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE EIGHT EARLY EDUCATION
CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECTS
AND CANCEL ONE PROJECT**

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 Eight Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Projects with a combined budget of \$28,879,403 and cancel one project at Glassell Park Early Education Center with a budget of \$119,868, as defined in Board Report 282-20/21, 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 April 1, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: 13

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 2

/Rachel Greene/

Rachel Greene
Chair

/Bevin Ashenmiller/

Dr. Bevin Ashenmiller
Vice-Chair