

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 8, 2007

Board Members Present:

Yolie Flores Aguilar, Chairperson
Mónica García, Member
Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, Member
Dr. Richard Vladovic, Member

District Staff Present:

Joseph Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive
Michelle King, Interim Deputy Chief
Instructional Officer Secondary

External Representative Present:

David Crippens, Bond Oversight Committee
Mary Najera, Parent Representative

The meeting convened at 10:12 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Flores Aguilar made brief remarks and introduced the first item to be discussed.

LAUSD FACILITIES PROGRAM GOALS AND STATUS REPORT

Mr. Joseph Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive, stated the applications for State funding had been filed on October 31, 2007. He provided an overview of the application process and recognized the Grants and Funding team for their great effort in preparing the applications.

Mr. Mehula provided an update on the District-sponsored Assembly Bill 1014. He stated that Assembly Bill 1014 was signed, allowing the District to be eligible for State funds. However Senate Bill 121 was vetoed, negating the effects of Assembly Bill 1014.

WE BUILD - PROJECT STABILIZATION AGREEMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2007 UPDATE

Ms. Veronica Soto, Director of Contractor Relations & Small Business Program, provided a detailed presentation of the We Build program. She discussed local worker participation and demographics. Ms. Soto presented a background of the program and listed program initiatives and partnerships.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar and Dr. Vladovic expressed their concern over the current low percentage of female and veteran construction workers. Chairperson Flores Aguilar recommended that more efforts be put in place to reach females, veterans and high school dropouts.

SCHOOLS IN PROXIMITY TO FREEWAYS

Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Director, Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS), provided a thorough presentation on schools in proximity to freeways. Mr. Bellomo's presentation consisted of a (i) Geo-hazard Assessment, (ii) Pipeline Safety Hazard Analysis, (iii) Rail Safety Analysis, (iv) Electro-Magnetic Fields Assessment, (v) Air Quality Risk Assessment, (vi) Traffic Impact and Pedestrian Safety Study, and (vii) Soil-Groundwater Contamination Assessment.

As a result of the above research, Mr. Bellomo concluded that freeways have significant adverse health impacts on communities as far as 1500 meters away. The research identified 90 existing LAUSD schools within the 500 feet of a freeway and 11 new schools approved since 2001. Mr. Bellomo stated that 60,000+ LAUSD students and staff living within 500' of a freeway are at risk of developing respiratory problems, due to air pollution which impacts, not only schools but entire communities situated along freeway corridors. He also stated that since 2005 the District has taken action against air pollution, but needs to collaborate with the regulatory partners at the State and Federal level to expedite clearer burning fuels and tougher air pollution standards.

Committee Members and External Representatives expressed concern over the effects of air pollution and acknowledged a need for further research.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar requested that OEHS provide monthly updates on strategies and mitigation efforts.

BOARD RESOLUTION ON SMALL SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Ms. Victoria Bergsagel, President, Architects of Achievement, gave a presentation on the benefits of small schools. Ms. Bergsagel discussed (i) how dropout rates affect our society, (ii) the biggest obstacles to small schools, (iii) characteristics of small schools, (iv) small, reasonable and mega size schools, and (v) construction costs.

Ms. Bergsagel concluded by stating that the District is in the midst of the largest public works initiative in history. She indicated that although the District has accomplished great work, there is much more to do, and to do so successfully, the District's key elements should be: Leadership, Instruction, Community, and Facilities.

Ms. Bergsagel and Mr. Mehula answered questions raised by Ms. LaMotte, with regards to the current District guiding principles. Committee Members and External Representatives express their views on the small schools movement and concluded with the need for integration of instruction with construction.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar asked that this item be kept on the agenda for the next meeting, and that an update be provided on the small schools to be built. In addition, Chairperson Flores Aguilar asked Ms. Michelle King, Interim Deputy Chief, Instructional Officer Secondary, to provide an informative indicating how a small school would work with students who are challenged.

SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on the above item:

Mr. Jose Arredondo
Ms. Bertha Horrostieta
Ms. Lorena Jaramillo

WORKFORCE HOUSING ON DISTRICT-OWNED LAND

Mr. John Creer, Director, Planning and Development, discussed the introductory policy of workforce housing on District-owned land. He also discussed some of the benefits to workforce housing, such as the ability to recruit and retain workforce, opportunity for site enhancements, and potential revenue. In addition, Mr. Creer explained the workforce housing process and listed the school districts that currently provide this benefit. He also provided demographics of Webster Middle School and how workforce housing would affect that campus and community.

Mr. Creer and Mr. Mehula answered questions addressed by the Committee Members.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar requested that the Facilities Committee be presented with specific criteria for site selection, site recommendations, and policies in progress. She also encouraged Mr. Creer to change the proposed timeline to a later date.

SPEAKERS

The follow speakers discussed their views on the above item:

Ms. Allison Goul

Mr. Eugene Selivanov

EXISTING FACILITIES – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Bruce Kendall, Deputy Chief Executive, Existing Facilities, briefly discussed the Board of Education's vote to approve the reallocation of \$790 million in Measure Y funds to New Construction and pointed out that Existing Facilities completed or initiated \$38 million worth of work.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Fred Smith, Interim Deputy Chief Facilities Executive, New Construction, commented on the following: (i) reallocation of the \$790 million, (ii) contract award for Phase II of the Ambassador project, which will be brought to the Board on November 27, 2007, and (iii) additional funding for defective, deficient and deteriorated work redone at the Vista Hermosa site.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Notes by: Janet Saavedra, Board Secretariat