

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, February 14, 2008

Board Members Present:

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

District Staff Present:

Joseph Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive  
Hector Madrigal, Director, Pupil Services  
Maribel Medina, Special Counsel to the  
Board of Education

External Representatives Present:

David Crippens, Bond Oversight Committee  
Robert Kladifko, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles  
Mary Najera, Parent Representative

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The meeting convened at 10:16 a.m.  
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OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Flores Aguilar made brief opening remarks.

LAUSD FACILITIES PROGRAM GOALS AND STATUS REPORT

Mr. Joseph Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive, discussed the Strategic Goals for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The goal for New Construction is to give all students the opportunity to attend two-semester neighborhood schools by 2012. To meet their goal; they must open 132 new schools and 65 additions. Of the 132 new schools, 69 have already been completed. The goals for Existing Facilities are to have \$550 million worth of modernizations completed each year and to have Small Learning Communities in every high school by 2012. Mr. Mehula stated that by May 2008, \$67.5 million worth of American with Disabilities Act projects must be documented and given to the Independent Monitor to comply with the Modified Consent Decree.

Mr. Mehula discussed improvements at school facilities, due to the implementation of the SPIRIT Program, which provides electrical, carpentry and other services for 3 weeks, at high priority schools. Consequently, service calls have decreased from 2,100 to 232 within 6 months and from 2,193 to 523 within 3 months. He stated that cleanliness standards have been established and inspections have taken place since January 2008. Additionally, he reported that the vacancy rates for Building & Grounds workers had decreased from 7% to 2%.

Mr. Mehula presented three additional goals for the current fiscal year. The first goal is to implement electronic invoicing and payment, to keep and attract new contractors. The second goal is to promote employee professional development by establishing apprentice programs and implementing technical training for trades to reduce trade vacancies. The third goal is to reduce water and energy usage by 10% and have renewable energy in place.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar and Committee Members expressed appreciation for the focus, service, and vision of the Facilities Services Division.

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Fred Smith, Interim Deputy Chief Facilities Executive, New Construction, provided a monthly status report. Mr. Smith stated that the program consists of 132 new school projects, of which, 69 have already been completed, 9 are pending preferred site selection, 11 are pending CEQA approval, 19 are pending construction contract award, and 24 are currently under construction. He presented an overview of three groundbreaking sites: Valley Region Elementary School No. 7, Valley Region Elementary School No. 9, and South Region Middle School No. 2.

Mr. Smith stated that John H. Liechty Middle School had been selected for the Project Achievement Award, Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists, and the Exceptional Award in Infrastructure, Western Council of Construction Consumers.

*Ms. García invited Mr. Smith to think of creative ways to celebrate and highlight awards.*

#### EXISTING FACILITIES – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Bruce Kendall, Deputy Chief Executive, Existing Facilities, discussed the monthly status report for the Repair and Modernization Program. He provided a breakdown of the funds allocated to BB Bond and Measure Y and stated that the goal for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 is to put \$550 million into construction. Mr. Kendall provided an overview of the high school campuses and athletic fields that currently have natural and artificial turf.

*Committee Members raised questions on the severity of injuries on artificial turf and on the durability of artificial turf under extreme weather.*

*Dr. Vladovic and Ms. LaMotte expressed their concern for the conditions of outdoor cafeterias. They requested that outdoor heaters and pigeon control be put on the repair and modernization priority list.*

#### SMALL SCHOOLS UPDATE

Mr. Ellis Kaufman, Director of Small Learning Communities and School Redesign, and Ms. Victoria Bergsagel, President, Architects of Achievement, provided an update on the Small Schools for Success Subcommittee. Mr. Kaufman stated that the goal of the Subcommittee was to clarify and guide the direction for the Board's Small Schools for Success Resolution, and to provide concrete direction for the implementation of a small schools policy. Ms. Bergsagel stated that the subcommittee agrees that, "Small schools – focused on success for all students – represent the best possible learning environments for pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade LAUSD students."

Committee Members and External Representatives expressed their appreciation and support for the Subcommittee's efforts.

*Chairperson Flores Aguilar stated that the Subcommittee would provide recommendations to the Facilities Committee on March 13, 2008.*

## SPEAKERS

Michelle Wong expressed her views on the above item.

## SCHOOL FACILITIES BY NONPROFIT GROUPS

Mr. Al Cortés, Assistant Superintendent, Beyond the Bell, provided an overview of Board Rule 1302, which allows for the collection of direct costs associated with the Civic Center Permit Program. The Board Rule was approved as of July 1, 2007; however, it was never fully implemented since the Civic Center Permit period is from March through June. He explained that the Board Rule allows the District to charge for direct costs only and not for wear and tear, and that the costs paid would go directly to utilities and District supervision. He also explained that the concept of charging for the use of facilities has been in place for many years. The District has charged adult groups full service fees for the past 3 years, but was the last school district in the area to charge youth groups for the use of school facilities.

Ms. Kathy Friedman, Principal Realty Agent, provided a review of the fee structure for the Civic Center Permits. Ms. Friedman explained that the Board Rule allows non-profit youth groups to have access to District facilities at (I) No Cost, if the group is meeting in classrooms, libraries, and auditoriums, (II) Reduced Direct Cost, if the group is conducting activities to promote youth and school activities and use the collected fees for the welfare of the pupils, or (III) Full Direct Cost, if the group collects fees or charges an admission (unless they qualify for the reduced direct cost).

Committee Members and External Representatives expressed their concern with regards to the criteria for determining costs. Mr. Cortés answered questions raised by Committee Members.

*At the request of Ms. LaMotte, Chairperson Flores Aguilar asked that Mr. Cortés develop a proposal to the Facilities Committee for an appeal process. In addition, Chairperson Flores Aguilar asked that Mr. Paul Escala, Director of Joint Use Development, assist in identifying more effective ways to partner with youth groups, such as Valley Youth Conference.*

## SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on the above item:

Mr. Lloyd Chapman  
Mr. John Carpenter  
Mr. Bill Speer  
Mr. Scott Corr  
Mr. Bob Bishop

## NEW CONSTRUCTION 2008 STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN

Mr. Smith presented an update on the 2008 Strategic Execution Plan. Mr. Smith provided a history of the program, listed achievements during 2007, and presented the goals for 2008. He provided financial details for the program and gave a breakdown of the \$12.6 billion required program uses and their funding source. Mr. Smith stated that 3 anticipated challenges are; access to State matching funds, price escalation, and program changes.

He also stated that the Vision 2012 is to have all schools operating on a 2-semester calendar, to have neighborhood schools for all, and all new secondary schools to be created with Small Learning Communities. The vision also includes eliminating the Concept 6 Calendar and involuntary busing. Mr. Madrigal, Director, Pupil Services, asked for a prospective of the decrease in involuntary busing. Mr. Smith reported that in 2002 approximately 15,000 students were involuntarily bused; currently, approximately 800 students are involuntarily bused.

*Ms. LaMotte requested that an update of the Vision 2012 be provided in the next Facilities Committee Meeting, on March 13, 2008.*

*Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that the Strategic Execution Plan would be forwarded to the Board of Education for action on February 26, 2008.*

### PREFERRED SITE DESIGNATION – SOUTH REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 11

Mr. Rod Hamilton, Regional Development Manager, provided an overview of the South Region Elementary School No. 11 project, which would consist of 32 classrooms and 800 seats. He identified the three schools that would be relieved. Loren Miller Elementary School would be one of the relieved schools and as a result would return to a two-semester calendar. Mr. Hamilton also identified the top two sites considered. The preferred site would affect 6 single-family residences, 59 multi-family units and 3 commercial sites.

*Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that the item would be forwarded to the Board of Education for action on February 26, 2008.*

### SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on the above item:

Ms. Sonia Flores  
Dr. Dolly Harris  
Ms. Rebeca Guzman  
Ms. Edilma Hermosillo

### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL NO. 3

Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of the South Los Angeles High School No. 3 project, which would consist of 75 classrooms and 2,025 seats. This project would allow Manual Arts High School to return to a two-semester calendar. The preferred site would affect 31 single-family residences, 81 multi-family units, and 5 commercial sites.

Ms. Randi Cooper, CEQA Manager, discussed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this item. The EIR determined that pedestrian safety and liquefaction would have a significant impact, but can be mitigated to below level. However, traffic circulation, noise, and air quality could not be mitigated to a less than significant level and therefore would require a statement of overriding considerations.

*Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that the item would be forwarded to the Board of Education for action on February 26, 2008.*

SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on the above item:

- Ms. Irma Galvez
- Ms. Estela Valenzuela
- Ms. Roselee Jackson

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL NO. 12

Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of the South Region High School No. 12, which would consist of 2,025 seats. This project would relieve overcrowding at Fremont High School, Locke High School and Jordan High School.

Ms. Cooper discussed the EIR for this item. The EIR determined that pedestrian safety, liquefaction, traffic circulation, asbestos and lead, and noise have a significant impact, but can be mitigated to below level. However, the air quality-localized impact and air emissions health risks cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level because the implementation of the mitigation measure is not under the direct control of the District. Ms. Cooper explained that the significant and unavoidable impacts were due to an existing furniture manufacturing facility, which presents potentially significant acute health risks and odor impacts to students and staff.

Ms. LaMotte asked for a legal opinion on the issue with the furniture manufacturing facility. Ms. Maribel Medina, Special Counsel to the Board, indicated that the issue would be discussed during the Closed Session meeting on February 19, 2008, and that a full briefing would be provided.

*Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that the item would be forwarded to the Board of Education for action on February 26, 2008.*

SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on the above item:

- Ms. Aracely Lino
- Ms. Ana Ortiz
- Ms. Sue Gorney
- Ms. Maria Isabel Rutledge
- Mr. Joe Turner

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The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.  
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Notes by: Janet Cotero-Saavedra, Board Secretariat