

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, March 13, 2008

Board Members Present:

Yolie Flores Aguilar, Chairperson
Tamar Galatzan
Mónica García
Marguerite P. LaMotte
Dr. Richard Vladovic

District Staff Present:

Joseph Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive
Hector Madrigal, Director Pupil Services
Dr. Shelley Weston, Assistant Superintendent,
Secondary Instruction

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The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

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OPENING REMARKS

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

CLOSED SCHOOLS MASTER PLAN

Mr. John Creer, Director, Planning and Development, presented the Closed Schools Master Plan. This was in response to the Master Planning for Instruction resolution passed by the Board on December 11, 2007. Mr. Creer identified the six schools that are currently closed and recommended that: (1) Oso Elementary School and Devonshire Elementary School be used as a Professional Development Center for Local Districts 1, 2 and 3; (2) Hughes Middle School and Collins Elementary School be used for Adult Education and Apprenticeship Programs; (3) Highlander Elementary School be used as a charter school or “incubator”; and (4) Platt Ranch Elementary School be used as a charter incubator or a small learning community for El Camino Real High School.

SPEAKERS

Ms. Yvette King-Berg, Regional Manager, California Charter Schools Association
Ms. Julie Herzog, West Valley Resident
Mr. Eugene Selivanov, Executive Director, Ivy Academia

SMALL SCHOOLS UPDATE

Mr. Ellis Kaufman, Director, Small Learning Communities and School Redesign, and Ms. Victoria Bergsagel, President of Architects of Achievement, provided an update on the Small Schools for Success Committee. Mr. Kaufman stated that the Small Schools for Success Resolution, dated July 10, 2007, calls for site sharing and for newly constructed K-12 schools to be configured as individual small schools. Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Bergsagel stated that an elementary or span school of 1,000 students would be broken up in two or more small schools, and a middle school of 1,500 student and a high school of 2,000 students would be broken up in four or more small schools.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar provided further clarification on site sharing by stating that a large school of 2,000 students would be broken up in four small schools of 500 students. All four schools would share facilities and resources, but would operate as individual schools with their own principals. She concluded by stating that the Small Schools for Success Committee would continue to meet with District Divisions and would request a study session in April 2008. In addition, the Committee would introduce a resolution at the Board Meeting of April 22, 2008, and for action on May 13, 2008.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Ryan Smith, Executive Director, Parents Union
Mr. David Rattray, UNITE Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Anela Freeman, California Charter Schools Association

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Ms. Rena Perez, Director, Master Planning Demographics, identified significant events that have changed the course of the District and provided enrollment data for both District and private schools. Ms. Perez stated that enrollment projections and assumptions were based on Los Angeles County birth rates, cohort survival rates, and other factors such as migration and immigration, new housing development, ethnic shifts, and the health of the economy.

Ms. Perez further stated that the Rand Corporation was commissioned to do an external review of master planning demographics in 2002 and that in 2003 DataTrends Inc., was commissioned to perform the study. Both studies reported favorably and recommended that a technical advisory committee be established to provide peer review, expand on the documentation developed, and report outcomes. The studies also recommended that additional staff be added to meet the request and requirements for statistical analysis. Ms. Perez indicated that all recommendations had been implemented or were ongoing.

Committee Members expressed concern for planning based on a projected 50% dropout rate.

Ms. García requested that the Facilities Services Division provide the Board with an analysis of what would happen if the District were to have a 100% graduation rate.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 5

Mr. Rod Hamilton, Regional Development Manager, provided an overview of the South Region Elementary School No. 5 project, which would consist of 950 seats and 38 classrooms. The project would be located in the City of Huntington Park at the intersection of Saturn and Plaska Avenue and is intended to relieve overcrowding at four elementary schools and one primary center. The proposed site would displace 26 single-family residences and 70 multi-family units.

Mr. John Anderson, Senior CEQA Project Manager, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, discussed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project. The EIR determined that construction and traffic noise have a significant impact and cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level. Mr. Anderson stated that one of the community's concerns was the fire emergency response time for the nearby Los Angeles County Fire Station. He stated that after several meetings, the Fire Station's Chiefs verbally endorsed the project and a written statement would be submitted by March 17, 2008.

Mr. Anderson stated that the community suggested an alternative site on Newell Street, near the intersection of State Street and Florence Avenue. He stated that this site had been examined, and that details could be made available.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar and Ms. García empathized with the public and committed to improving the outreach process by assisting the community with effective and respectful communication.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that this item would be on the Regular Calendar at the March 25, 2008 Board Meeting.

SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Ms. Carmen Martinez, Huntington Park Resident
Mr. Fernando Monteros, Huntington Park Resident
Mr. Wally Shidler, Walnut Park Resident
Mr. Guillermo Roacho, Huntington Park Resident
Ms. Leticia Ferrer, Cudahy Resident
Ms. Aurora Rodriguez, Huntington Park Resident
Ms. Maria Mejia, Huntington Park Resident
Mr. Frank Saldana, Huntington Park Resident
Ms. Maria Garcia, Huntington Park Resident
Ms. Maria Silva, Huntington Park Resident

PREFERRED SITE DESIGNATION – SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL NO. 8

Mr. Hamilton provided an overview of the South Region High School No. 8 project. The school would be located in the City of Maywood at the Northeast Corner of Walker Avenue and Randolph Street, and would consist of 1,215 seats and 45 classrooms. He stated that the project would relieve overcrowding at Bell High School and would allow it to return to a two-semester calendar. Mr. Hamilton identified the top five sites considered and stated that the preferred site would not displace any residences, however it would displace seven commercial properties.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that this item would be on the Regular Calendar at the March 25, 2008 Board Meeting.

SPEAKERS

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Mr. Enrique Martinez, Maywood Resident
Mr. Gustavo Villa, Maywood Resident
Mr. Salvador Contreras, Maywood Resident
Ms. Maria Sortiz, LAUSD Parent
Ms. Jacqueline Corral, Bell High School Student
Mr. Jeffrey Chavez, Bell High School Student
Mr. Hector Alvarado, Maywood Resident

REFERRED SITE DESIGNATION – VALLEY REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 13

Mr. Al Grazioli, Development Manager, presented an overview of the Valley Region Elementary School No. 13 project. He identified the seven schools that would be relieved and the top two sites considered. The preferred site would displace nine single-family residences and five commercial properties.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that this item would be on the Regular Calendar at the March 25, 2008 Board Meeting.

SPEAKERS

- Mr. Mitchell Dawson, Heller-Titus Owner
- Ms. Ana Elizabeth Ortiz, LAUSD Parent
- Ms. Teresa Solis, LAUSD Parent
- Ms. Maria Ramirez, LAUSD Parent
- Mr. Jose Perez, LAUSD Parent
- Mr. Adan Moreira, Cedars Avenue Resident
- Ms. Elia Tapia, Blythe Street Resident

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH 2008 STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN

Chairperson Flores Aguilar indicated that this item would be deferred to the Regular Calendar at the March 25, 2008 Board Meeting.

EXISTING FACILITIES – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Item postponed to the April 10, 2008 Facilities Committee Meeting.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Item postponed to the April 10, 2008 Facilities Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lorena Jaramillo, LAUSD Parent requested that the Committee focus on a 100% graduation rate. She stated that she supports the Facilities Construction Master Plan and asked that it be implemented.

Ms. Ava Shepherd, owner of property located across from Central Region Elementary School No. 13 requested that noise mitigation be provided, by means of dual pane windows.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Notes by: Janet Saavedra
Office of the Board Secretariat