

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, December 4, 2008

Board Members Present:

Yolie Flores Aguilar, Chairperson

District Staff Present:

Joseph A. Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive

External Representatives Present:

David Crippens, Bond Oversight Committee

Robert Kladifko, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

The meeting convened at 10:14 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Flores Aguilar made brief opening remarks and presented the first item for discussion.

SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Mr. Ellis Kaufman, Director of Small Learning Communities and School Redesign, provided an update on the Small Learning Communities. He stated that the facility of every middle school and high school being opened has been designed to be used as a small learning communities setting. Mr. Kaufman discussed the findings of the Public Works, Inc. evaluation, which indicated that small schools achieve higher average school attendance, have fewer 9th and 10th grade dropouts, a lower transiency rate, and more students pass the high school exit exams.

Chairperson Flores Aguilar requested that the evaluation by Public Works, Inc. be available on the LAUSD Website.

SPEAKER:

Mr. Terry Marcellus, Westchester Neighborhood Council, expressed his views on this item.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL NO. 7

Mr. Rod Hamilton, Regional Development Manager, discussed the South Region High School No. 7 project, which consists of 1,620 seats and 60 classrooms. The project would relieve overcrowding at Huntington Park High School and is required for Williams settlement compliance. Mr. Hamilton indicated that the project would be located on the northwest corner of Gage Avenue and Cottage Street, in the City of Huntington Park, and would displace 3 single-family residences, 15 multi-family units, and 1 commercial property. Ms. Randi Cooper, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, presented the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which determined that traffic congestion would pose significant and unavoidable impacts; and would therefore require a statement of overriding consideration.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL NO. 15

Mr. Hamilton discussed the South Region High School No. 15 project, which consists of 810 seats and 30 classrooms. The project would relieve overcrowding at San Pedro High School and is required for Williams settlement compliance. The project would be located in the community of San Pedro, in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Hamilton stated that the project exceeds California high performance environmental sustainability guidelines. Ms. Cooper presented the EIR, which determined that pedestrian safety, noise during construction and localized air quality would pose significant and unavoidable impacts and would therefore require a statement of overriding consideration. Mr. Chris Espinosa, Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Office, stated that his office is working collaboratively with the District to ensure that the public and students are in a safe environment.

SPEAKERS:

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Ms. Sylvia Delgado, Community Member
Ms. Isabel Cruz, Community Member
Mr. Cypriano Lopez, Community Member
Ms. Pam Meisel, Community Member
Mr. Bob De Pietro, Principal, San Pedro High School
Ms. Linda Del Cueto, Superintendent District 8
Mr. Steve Walters, Former Principal San Pedro High School
Mr. Gabriel Sanchez, San Pedro Skills Center Student

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND PROJECT APPROVAL – CENTRAL REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 20

Mr. Tom Calhoun, Regional Development Manager, discussed the Central Region Elementary School No. 20 project, which consists of 800 seats and 32 classrooms. It is located in the Wilshire Center neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles, adjacent to Virgil Middle School. The project would relieve overcrowding at White House Place Primary Center and Alexandria, Del Olmo, Cahuenga, and Kim Elementary Schools. Ms. Cooper discussed the EIR, which determined that noise and vibration during construction would pose significant and unavoidable impacts and would therefore require a statement of overriding consideration.

SPEAKERS:

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Ms. Aura Alvarado, White House Primary Center Parent
Ms. Janice E. Greenberg, White House Primary Center Staff
Ms. Lois Arkin, Los Angeles Eco-Village
Ms. Lara Morrison, Beverly Vermont Community Land Trust
Ms. Michelle Wong, Beverly Vermont Community Land Trust

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND PROJECT APPROVAL – SOUTH REGION MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 3

Mr. Hamilton discussed the South Region Middle School No. 3 project, which consists of 1,026 seats and 38 classrooms. The project would relieve overcrowding at Gage Middle School, and is required for Williams settlement compliance. The preferred site is located between Santa Fe and Marbrisa Avenue, and would displace 15 single-family residences, 37 multi-family units, and 10 commercial properties. Ms. Cooper presented the EIR, which determined that noise and vibration during construction pose significant and unavoidable impacts, and would therefore require a statement of overriding consideration.

SPEAKERS:

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Ms. Rosa Andresen, Parent
Ms. Irene Bandala, Parent
Mr. Fernando Gardea, Huntington Park Resident
Mr. Carlos Ramirez, Walnut Park Resident
Ms. Viviana Matamoros, Walnut Park Resident

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND PROJECT APPROVAL – VALLEY REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 13

Mr. Calhoun discussed the Valley Region Elementary School No. 13 project, which consists of 950 seats and 38 classrooms. The project is located in the community of Panorama City, and would relieve overcrowding at Valerio Primary Center and Burton, Chase, Noble, Panorama City, Ranchito and Valerio Elementary Schools. Ms. Cooper presented the EIR, which determined that pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and noise during construction would pose significant and unavoidable impacts and would therefore require a statement of overriding consideration.

SPEAKERS:

The following speakers expressed their views on this item:

Ms. Elia Tapia, Burton Elementary School Parent
Ms. Maria Carmen Lopez, Valerio Elementary School Parent

APPROVAL OF THE CANCELLATION OF VALLEY REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 14 PROJECT AND AMENDMENT TO THE NEW CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN

Mr. Calhoun discussed the cancellation of the Valley Region Elementary School No. 14 project. He indicated that due to shifting of enrollment, the project would no longer be needed. Chairperson Flores Aguilar highlighted that this item was reviewed and approved by the Bond Oversight Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE CANCELLATION OF MONTAGUE CHARTER ACADEMY ADDITION AND AMENDMENT TO THE NEW CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN

Mr. Calhoun discussed the cancellation of the Valley Montague Charter Academy Addition. He indicated that due to shifting of enrollment, the project would no longer be needed. Mr. Mehula stated that any dollars that were allocated to projects that have been cancelled would be returned to the overall fund,

which allows the Facilities Construction program to accomplish its goal of returning all schools to two-semester schools.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT

Mr. John Creer, Director of Planning and Development, discussed the proposal to amend the Strategic Execution Plan to provide \$6 million for a charter school expansion project, and to authorize staff to negotiate and enter into funding agreements with Stella Middle Charter Academy.

SPEAKER:

Mr. Jeff Hilger, Founder of Stella Middle School expressed his views on this item.

EXISTING FACILITIES – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Neil Gamble, Director of Maintenance and Operations, presented the monthly status report for the Repair and Modernization Program. Mr. Gamble indicated that projects under Proposition BB Bond were 95% complete. He identified upcoming projects, such as the Burbank Middle School, which will commence in April 2009 and the University High School project which will commence in June 2009.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Gary Baker, Director of Construction, New Construction, presented the monthly status report for the New Construction Program. Mr. Baker highlighted the substantial completion of the Central Los Angeles High School No. 9 (450 N. Grand), which would add 1,728 seats and relieve overcrowding at Belmont High School; Central Los Angeles Middle School No. 3, which would add 810 seats and relieve overcrowding at Berendo and Virgil Middle School; and Enadia Way Elementary School which would add 350 seats and relieve overcrowding at Canoga Park Elementary School. Mr. Baker indicated that of the 132 new school projects in the program, 76 were completed and 32 were currently under construction, and of the 65 addition projects in the program, 5 were pending completion.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Creer presented the Planning and Development monthly status update. He stated that Joint-Use funds consist of \$120 million, of which approximately \$58 million has been spent on 105 campuses. The remaining \$57 million in Measure K, R, and Y have been programmed for healthcare, fields and open spaces, aquatics, and youth centers. Mr. Creer stated that 20 mobile clinics have been completed and that a Mobile Health Care master plan was in the works. He concluded his presentation by providing an update on public private partnerships, such as community centers and teacher workforce housing at Gardena High School, Selma Elementary School and Glassell Park Early Education Center.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Notes by: Janet Saavedra
Office of the Board Secretariat