

Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-026-22/23, **Version:** 1

Define and Approve Two Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS) Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein
September 27, 2022
Facilities Services Division

Action Proposed:

Define and approve two Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS) projects at Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School, as described on Attachment A. The total combined budget for the two projects is \$200,000.

Background:

The SEEDS Program supports the development of projects that will enhance school sites by creating outdoor learning spaces in collaboration with school-based and community-led efforts. There are two components to the Program:

1. Development of the outdoor learning space constructed by Los Angeles Unified which includes capital investments, such as asphalt removal, installation of irrigation and utilities, and any associated testing and inspection.
2. Collaboration with a school site and/or partner organization that will outfit the outdoor learning space with the plant materials and landscaping features that align with the school's instructional vision and program. This component is essential to the success of each project.

Potential projects are identified through proposals submitted by schools, and or partners. A school site by itself, or in cooperation with a partner organization, may submit a SEEDS application to receive up to \$100,000 to create or improve an outdoor learning space. An additional \$50,000 ("SEEDS+" funding) is now available to schools ranked in the top 150 on the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index of schools in need of green space.

The Greening Index ranks Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School at 311 and 211, respectively, and therefore the project proposals contained in this Board Report do not include SEEDS+ funding.

District staff evaluates the proposals based on the specific criteria and requirements outlined in the SEEDS Program Guide to ensure each proposal meets the eligibility requirements. Proposals must include a written project narrative describing the project scope, an explanation of how the project will be integrated into the school's curriculum, and confirmation of the availability of resources to outfit and maintain the outdoor learning space. The recommended projects included in this Board Report have been reviewed and have been found to comply with the program requirements, including feasibility and equitable distribution throughout the District.

Expected Outcomes:

Approval of this proposed action will enable staff to proceed with the design and construction of these two projects. Approval of these greening projects will improve the learning environment for students, teachers, and staff, increase sustainability, and enhance the outdoor school environment.

Board Options and Consequences:

Approval of this proposed action will authorize staff to proceed with the expenditure of Bond Program funds to execute these projects that support educational programs related to nutrition, health, literacy, math, and science. If these projects are not approved, the school sites will not benefit from the creation of these outdoor learning spaces.

Policy Implications:

The proposed action is consistent with the District's long-term goal to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with safe and healthy learning environments. The action is also aligned with Board Resolutions that reiterate Los Angeles Unified's commitment to creating green learning spaces (*Expand Sustainable Schoolyards and Environmental Initiatives and Curriculum* Board Resolution adopted on April 16, 2013 and *Creating New School Gardens and Campus and Community-Shared Green Spaces to Provide Outdoor Learning Opportunities and Create Sustainable and Healthy Environments* adopted on February 9, 2021).

Budget Impact:

The combined project budget for the two proposed projects is \$200,000. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for school upgrades and reconfigurations to support wellness, health, athletics, learning, and efficiency.

Student Impact:

The proposed SEEDS projects at Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School will provide outdoor learning spaces that create environments for student-centered, experiential, and engaged learning. These SEEDS learning gardens will facilitate educational programs related to nutrition, health, literacy, math and science and may also be used during recess and lunch-time by the students. These projects also encourage and support community, student, and parent engagement through the creation of partnerships that help establish and maintain the newly developed garden spaces.

Equity Impact:

Potential projects are identified through proposals submitted by schools and/or partners. A school by itself or in cooperation with a partner organization may submit an application for a SEEDS project for up to \$100,000. Schools ranked in the top 150 on the Greening Index will receive an additional \$50,000 for their SEEDS project. The projects included in this Board Report do not qualify for this additional funding.

Issues and Analysis:

In order to ensure the long-term permanence of each SEEDS project, the school site and/or its partner organization must enter into a Maintenance Agreement that provides for the on-going maintenance of the proposed outdoor learning space.

Bond Oversight Committee Recommendations:

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizen's Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on September 1, 2022. Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment is in

alignment with BOC recommendations and will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully implement the Facilities SEP.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Two SEEDS Projects

Attachment B - BOC Resolution

Informatives:

None.

Submitted:

08/31/22

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

APPROVED BY:



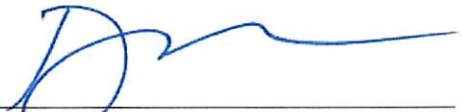
ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent



MEGAN K. REILLY
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REVIEWED BY:

APPROVED BY:



DEVORA NAVERA REED
General Counsel



MARK HOVATTER
Chief Facilities Executive
Facilities Services Division

☒ Approved as to form.

REVIEWED BY:

PRESENTED BY:



TONY ATIENZA
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning



INDIA R. GRIFFIN
Director of Maintenance and Operations
Facilities Services Division

☒ Approved as to budget impact statement.

Board of Education Report

ATTACHMENT A

Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS)

Local District	BD	School Name	Partner Organization	Project Description	Project Budget*	Est. Schedule	
						Start	Finish
Central	5	Allesandro Elementary School	Eco Urban Gardens	Construct an outdoor learning and edible garden space of approximately 3,316 square feet. The project includes the excavation of existing asphalt, new stabilized gravel and mulch, new irrigation connection and bubblers, log benches, and a rain garden. The school will install drip irrigation, fruit trees, native plants, raised garden beds, two greenhouses, potting tables, and compost tumblers.	\$100,000	Q4 2022	Q2 2023
West	4	Short Ave Elementary School	Elizabeth A. Lynn Foundation, and Friends of Short Ave (FOSA)	Construct an outdoor gathering space and grass play field of approximately 11,300 square feet. The project includes the excavation of existing asphalt, new irrigation, a concrete seat wall, concrete stage, grass berm, approximately 8,900 square feet of a new grass field, shade trees, native plants in the reading garden, and salvaged log benches. The school will install the sod, trees, and native shrubs.	\$100,000	Q4 2022	Q2 2023
TOTAL					\$200,000		

*Project budget reflects the design services and improvements undertaken by the District. The outfitting and maintenance of the outdoor learning space will be provided by the school site community and/or partner organization.

Greening Index:

Allesandro ES Index Rank No. 311

Short Ave ES Index Rank No. 211

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE****Margaret Fuentes, Chair**

LAUSD Student Parent

D. Michael Hamner, Vice-Chair

American Institute of Architects

Jennifer McDowell, Secretary

L.A. City Mayor's Office

Susan Linschoten, Executive Committee

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

Scott Pansky, Executive Committee

L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

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CA Charter School Association

Jeffrey Fischbach

CA Tax Reform Assn.

Chris Hannan

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

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Early Education Coalition

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RESOLUTION 2022-39**BOARD REPORT NO. 026-22/23****RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE TWO SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENT DEVELOPMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (SEEDS) PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes the Board of Education define and approve two Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS) projects at Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School, which have a total combined budget of \$200,000, and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein, as defined in Board Report No. 026-22/23, a copy of which is attached hereto in the form it was presented to the BOC and is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the SEEDS Program was established to support the development of projects that will enhance school sites by creating outdoor learning spaces in collaboration with school-based and community-led efforts; and

WHEREAS, potential projects are identified through proposals submitted by schools, and or partners. A school site by itself, or in cooperation with a partner organization, may submit a SEEDS application to receive up to \$100,000 to create or improve an outdoor learning space. An additional \$50,000 ("SEEDS+" funding) is now available to schools ranked in the top 150 on the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index of schools in need of green space; and

WHEREAS, District Staff evaluated proposals based on the specific criteria and requirements outlined in the SEEDS program guide to ensure each proposal meets the eligibility requirements and includes a written project narrative describing the project scope, an explanation of how the project will be integrated into the

RESOLUTION 2022-39**RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE TWO SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENT DEVELOPMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (SEEDS) PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

school's curriculum, and confirmation of the availability of resources to outfit and maintain the outdoor learning space, and the projects being recommended were reviewed and are found to be in compliance with the program requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index ranks Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School at 311 and 211, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School will receive \$100,000 for their SEEDS projects. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for school upgrades and reconfigurations to support wellness, health, athletics, learning, and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the long-term permanence of each SEEDS project, the school site and/or its partner organization must enter into a Maintenance Agreement that provides for the on-going maintenance of the proposed outdoor learning space; and

WHEREAS, District Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully complete the Facilities SEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School Construction Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee recommends the Board of Education define and approve two SEEDS projects at Allesandro Elementary School and Short Avenue Elementary School, with a total combined budget of \$200,000, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein, as defined in Board Report 026-22/23, 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 September 1, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 11

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 4

/Margaret Fuentes/

Margaret Fuentes
Chair

/Jennifer McDowell/

Jennifer McDowell
Secretary

Bond Oversight Committee

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