



## Board of Education Report

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**File #:** Rep-094-22/23, **Version:** 1

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### **Define and Approve Two Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein**

**December 13, 2022**

**Facilities Services Division and Early Childhood Education Division**

#### **Action Proposed:**

Define and approve two Early Education Center (EEC) outdoor classroom projects at the following schools and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein. The total combined budget for the projects, as described in Attachment A is \$824,957.

1. Gratts Early Education Center
2. Estrella Early Education Center

Authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s) to execute all instruments necessary, as legally permissible, to implement the proposed projects, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials.

#### **Background:**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified or District) School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled "Early Childhood Education Facilities Upgrades and Expansions." Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan.

The two outdoor classroom projects will create dynamic, nature-based outdoor learning spaces to enable the District's youngest learners to acquire a deep, intuitive understanding of the natural world through hands-on experiences. Each outdoor classroom may include a number of learning stations with the following components:

- Music and movement learning station
- Climbing and balance learning station
- Messy materials learning station
- Nature art learning station
- Water play learning station
- Sand play learning station
- Garden learning station
- Dirt Digging learning station
- Building materials learning station

**Expected Outcomes:**

Staff anticipates the Board of Education will define and approve two EEC outdoor classroom projects, as described in Attachment A, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein. Approval will authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of the proposed projects.

**Board Options and Consequences:**

Adoption of the proposed action will authorize staff to proceed with the expenditure of Bond Program funds to implement the proposed projects. If the proposal is not approved, Bond Program funds will not be expended, access to nature-based green space will remain limited, and early education facilities needs will remain unaddressed.

**Policy Implications:**

This action is consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment.

**Budget Impact:**

The total combined budget for the projects is \$824,957. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions.

Each project budget was prepared based on the current information known and assumptions about the project scope, site conditions, and market conditions. Individual project budgets will be reviewed throughout the planning, design, and construction phases as new information becomes known or unforeseen conditions arise and will be adjusted accordingly to enable the successful completion of each project.

**Student Impact:**

The two outdoor classroom projects will establish nurturing, nature-based outdoor spaces that support whole-child development and learning, as well as address early education facilities needs that are necessary to improve student health, safety, and educational quality to benefit approximately 183 students.

Expected developmental outcomes include enhanced imaginative play, increased physical and mental well-being, and environmental stewardship. These outdoor classrooms will encourage and support community, student, and parent engagement through the creation of partnerships that help establish and maintain the newly developed garden spaces. These spaces can also reduce stress for staff, families, and children. Children and their parents will be able to connect with the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and development in the areas that lack parks and green environments.

**Equity Impact:**

Not Applicable

**Issues and Analysis:**

Staff's proposal supports the Early Childhood Education Division's commitment to providing a quality early education experience that will prepare students for success in school and life, while valuing and respecting the needs, languages, and cultures of all students, families, staff, and respective communities.

The proposed projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. Sites were selected based upon each center's proximity and access to existing community green space, and evidence of parent, administrator, and staff commitment to the success of

the program. Other factors considered included income level, center enrollment, community interest, and demographics.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will evaluate the project proposals in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure compliance. If, through the planning and design process, it is determined that the proposed project scopes will not sufficiently address the facilities needs identified, the project scope, schedule, and budget will be revised accordingly.

**Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation:**

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on November 3, 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 Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects

Attachment B - BOC Resolution

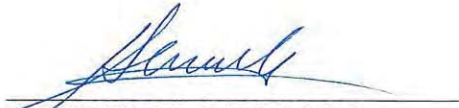
**Informatives:**

None

**Submitted:**

10/27/22


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
ALBERTO M. CARVALHO  
Superintendent

APPROVED BY:

  
PEDRO SALCIDO  
Deputy Superintendent,  
Business Services & Operations


REVIEWED BY:

  
DEVORA NAVERA REED  
General Counsel  
☒ Approved as to form.


APPROVED BY:

  
MARK HOVATTER  
Chief Facilities Executive  
Facilities Services Division

REVIEWED BY:

  
TONY ATIENZA  
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning  
☒ Approved as to budget impact statement.

APPROVED BY:

  
DEAN S. TAGAWA, EdD  
Executive Director  
Early Childhood Education Division

PRESENTED BY:

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



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Report**  
**Attachment A**

**Two Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects**

**1. Gratts Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Project**

- *Local District Central, Board District 2 – Rivas*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with learning stations, covering approximately 12,400 square feet. It will also provide solar reflective coating over the asphalt concrete and include the installation of shrubs, grass, and irrigation.
- *Project Budget:* \$474,707
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q4 2024

**2. Estrella Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Project**

- *Local District Central, Board District 7 – Ortiz Franklin*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom with learning stations, covering approximately 5,750 square feet. It will also provide solar reflective coating over the asphalt concrete and include the installation of shrubs, trees, grass, irrigation, and a tricycle path.
- *Project Budget:* \$350,250
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q4 2024

## 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

**Neelura Bell**

CA Charter School Association

**Jeffrey Fischbach**

CA Tax Reform Assn.

**Chris Hannan**

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

**Hyepin Im**

L.A. City Controller's Office

**Brian Mello**

Assoc. General Contractors of CA

**Dr. Clarence Montecarlo**

Tenth District PTSA

**William O. Ross, IV**31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA**Samantha Rowles**

LAUSD Student Parent

**Araceli Sandoval-Gonzalez**

Early Education Coalition

**Dolores Sobalvarro**

AARP

**Celia Ayala (Alternate)**

Early Education Coalition

**Chad Boggio (Alternate)**

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

**Peggy Robertson (Alternate)**

Assoc. General Contractors of CA

**Connie Yee (Alternate)**

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

**Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel**

Burke, Williams &amp; Sorensen, LLP

**Lori Raineri and Keith Weaver – Oversight Consultants**

Government Financial Strategies

**Timothy Popejoy**

Bond Oversight Administrator

**Perla Zitle**

Bond Oversight Coordinator

## RESOLUTION 2022-47

## BOARD REPORT NO. 094-22/23

**RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE TWO EARLY  
EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS AND AMEND THE  
FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO  
INCORPORATE THEREIN**

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes the Board of Education (Board) define and approve two Early Education Center (EEC) outdoor classroom projects, as described in Board Report No. 094-22/23, and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein; and

WHEREAS, District Staff also requests that the Board authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s), to execute all instruments necessary to implement the proposed projects, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials; and

WHEREAS, The School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled "Early Childhood Education Facilities Upgrades and Expansions." Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities SEP; and

WHEREAS, District Staff's proposal includes outdoor classroom projects at two school sites: Gratts EEC and Estrella EEC. These projects will convert existing asphalt and playground areas into dynamic nature-based learning environments; and

WHEREAS, The proposed projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. Sites were selected based upon each center's proximity and access to existing community green space, and evidence of parent,

**RESOLUTION 2022-47****RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE TWO EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

administrator, and staff commitment to the success of the program. Other factors considered included income level, center enrollment, community interest, and demographics; and

WHEREAS, The total combined budget for the projects is \$824,957. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions; and

WHEREAS, This action is consistent with the Los Angeles Unified School District's (Los Angeles Unified or District) commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment, as described in Los Angeles Unified local bond measures; 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 Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Education define and approve two EEC outdoor classroom projects, with a combined budget of \$824,957, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein, as described in Board Report No. 094-22/23, 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 November 3, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 10

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 5

/Margaret Fuentes/

Margaret Fuentes  
Chair

/Michael Hamner/

D. Michael Hamner  
Vice-Chair