



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-209-22/23, **Version:** 1

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

April 18, 2023

Facilities Services Division

Action Proposed:

Define and approve four Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS) projects at Braddock Drive Elementary School, Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology Magnet, Montara Avenue Elementary School, and Walter Reed Middle School, as described on Attachment A, and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein. The total combined budget for the four projects is \$500,000.

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 (Program). 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 is now available to schools ranked in the top 150 on the Los Angeles Unified Greening Index of schools in need of green space (Greening Index).

The Greening Index ranks the four schools by the following, Braddock Drive Elementary School (118), Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology Magnet (585), Montara Avenue Elementary School (120), and Walter Reed Middle School (663), and therefore Braddock Drive Elementary School and Montara Avenue Elementary School are eligible for the additional \$50,000 allocation.

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.

Bond Oversight Committee Recommendations:

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on March 16, 2023. 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.

Expected Outcomes:

Approval of this proposed action will enable staff to proceed with the design and construction of these four 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, 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, and Green Schools for All: Equitable Funding and Expansion of Green Spaces across District Campuses adopted on September 27, 2022).

Budget Impact:

The combined project budget for the four proposed projects is \$500,000. 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 Braddock Drive Elementary School, Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology Magnet, Montara Avenue Elementary School, and Walter Reed Middle 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 lunchtime by approximately 3,100 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. Two of the four projects included in this Board Report 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.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Four SEEDS Projects

Attachment B - BOC Resolution

Informatives:

None

Submitted:

03/08/2023

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent

APPROVED BY:



PEDRO SALCIDO
Deputy Superintendent, Business Services & Operations

REVIEWED BY:

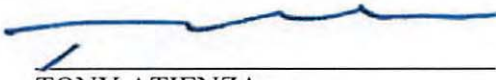

DEVORA NAVERA REED
General Counsel

☒ Approved as to form.

APPROVED BY:


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Chief Facilities Executive
Facilities Services Division

REVIEWED BY:


TONY ATIENZA
Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning

☒ Approved as to budget impact statement.

PRESENTED BY:


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

Board of Education Report

ATTACHMENT A

Sustainable Environment Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS)

Region	BD	School Name	Partner Organization	Project Description	Project Budget*	Est. Schedule	
						Start	Finish
West	4	Braddock Drive Elementary School	Supporters of Braddock Drive Elementary School	Construct an outdoor learning environment and performance stage of approximately 7,800 square feet. The project includes the removal of asphalt and adding new decomposed granite, a concrete stage and ramp, and native planting areas with shade trees. The school will provide the solar reflective painted path and shrubs.	\$150,000	Q1 2024	Q3 2024
North	3	Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology Magnet	School	Construct an outdoor learning environment and edible garden area of approximately 2,800 square feet. The project includes the removal of existing grass and adding new decomposed granite, raised planter beds, and native planting areas with shade trees. The school will provide the drought tolerant shrubs and edible garden plants.	\$100,000	Q1 2024	Q3 2024
East	5	Montara Avenue Elementary School	School	Construct an outdoor learning environment and habitat area of approximately 2,700 square feet. The project includes the removal of existing asphalt and adding decomposed granite, native planting areas with shade trees, and rock seating areas. The school will provide drought tolerant shrubs.	\$150,000	Q1 2024	Q3 2024
North	3	Walter Reed Middle School	Friends of Reed, Plant Grow Eat	Construct an outdoor learning environment and edible garden area of approximately 3,200 square feet. The project includes the removal of existing grass and adding new decomposed granite, raised planter beds, and planting areas with fruit trees. The school will provide the shrubs and edible garden plants.	\$100,000	Q1 2024	Q3 2024
				Total	\$500,000		

*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:

Braddock Drive Elementary School Index Rank No. 118

Mayall Academy of Arts & Technology Magnet Index Rank No. 585

Montara Avenue Elementary School Index Rank No. 120

Walter Reed Middle School Index Rank No. 663