

BUSD – Jefferson Elementary Expansion and Modernization Project
Community FAQ
February 27, 2012

1. Why is so much funding at Jefferson allocated to classroom building versus modernization and facilities improvement?
 - a. There is not enough space in the north zone causing hardship to families in that zone. Adding classrooms will ease this problem. Even with expansion, Jefferson will be slightly smaller than the other two schools in the zone (Rosa Parks and Thousand Oaks).
 - b. The modernization allowance for Jefferson is calculated in the same way as every other school in the District - based on building system lifecycle.

2. What is the plan and budget to ensure adequate yard supervision, usability and safety of students during and post-construction?

During construction:
All construction activities will be clearly separated from active school areas in order to maintain the safety of the children, staff and community. Site fencing and barricades will be used to designate construction areas and specified material drop off zones. Special consideration will be placed on making sure that adequate space is provided for the students activities in the play yard.

Post-construction:
Yard supervisors are funded by the BUSD and are based on enrollment numbers. Additional noon supervisors will be funded for Jefferson school as enrollment increases.

3. Is the district managing community-funded Measure I money intelligently? Our recent construction experience at Jefferson - adding only 2 classrooms to an existing building - showed significant overruns in budget (54%) and was double the planned construction time.

This is a mistake. Change orders are not 54% - change orders are 5.6%. Even that number is somewhat misleading as a large portion of that change was to replace electric wiring stolen from the school that was not a part of the construction project.

4. Does the district plan to send all the non-Berkeley students from surrounding areas to Jefferson.

No, the District needs the space so parents and students who live in Berkeley in the north zone aren't forced to leave the zone.

5. Will Jefferson become the overflow school for students being pulled out of the immersion program in other schools to be consolidated at Rosa Parks and causing an overflow at Rosa Parks?

No, the District has integrated almost all its children into regular classrooms, so we do not have any schools designated for developmental or other special needs.

6. What will the district do to ensure safe air quality and minimize noise during the construction period?

The safety and well being of the students, staff and community is the ultimate priority to the District, project team and the contractor. As standard on all projects, the contractor will be required to adhere to strict procedures in order to ensure the health and safety for all. These would include daily clean up, safety barriers, plastic containment setups, dust mitigation (e.g. watering down soil to minimize dust), and scheduling specific “dusty” activities during school breaks (summer, winter, etc.). In addition, the design will incorporate the use of specific construction materials to reduce and minimize potential environmental impacts, such as low VOC paints and adhesives, etc.

7. How will the project address impacts on parking and traffic flow in the neighborhood? Is there a plan/budget to increase crossing guards, implement a drop off plan or otherwise make parking and travel on Rose, Ada, Acton and Keoncrest safer? How can they address these concerns without an EIR?

An EIR is not required for this scale of project. The District takes all concerns about safety seriously and works with the City to mitigate concerns. We will study traffic flow and current traffic issues so we can implement safe and convenient procedures for student drop off and pick up. Crossing guards are provided by the City.

8. How will the project address noise, hours of construction, management of the playground, parking, materials deliveries, etc. during construction?

Construction hours are dictated by the noise ordinances set by the City of Berkeley. Typical work hours will be 7:00AM to 4:00PM on weekdays and 9:00AM to 6:00PM on weekends and holidays, if needed. The project team will make efforts to schedule the loudest activities during school breaks (summer, winter, etc.). All construction activities will be clearly separated from active school areas in order to maintain the safety of the children, staff and community. Site fencing and barricades will be used to designate construction areas and specified material drop off zones.

9. How will the multipurpose room support the added demands?

The after school program currently takes up a significant portion of the multipurpose room. The expansion project will alleviate some of the space constraints in the multipurpose room by reallocating existing spaces for the afterschool program.

10. Why is the modernization of the schoolyard not a component of this project?

Each of the elementary schools will have funds spent to improve play yards. BUSD has found that if we budget the yard improvement with the modernization and expansion, that the play yard portion often becomes an alternate when there

are budget challenges. By budgeting the play yard separately, the scope will not be reduced to fund the building. In addition, the play yard improvement is budgeted in Measure AA and the modernization and expansion is budgeted in Measure I.

11. Can BUSD provide the data that support their enrollment projections?

Currently, BUSD does not have sufficient space for all the children in the north zone. In the 2009-10 school year, BUSD hired Davis Demographics, a professional demographic firm, to help predict the student population for Berkeley. While the study did not address yearly fluctuation, it did predict the population by zone. The District has capacity for approximately 1,150 students in the north zone. The population is anticipated to be 1,264. The District either needed to move zone boundaries or to increase the capacity in the north zone. BUSD decided to increase the capacity in the north zone.

12. What is the yard/campus space per enrolled student at Jefferson?

Once the project is complete, the school will support 150 square feet per student of play yard space. The exterior square feet per student at Emerson and Oxford are each about 128 square feet per student. Historically, the Jefferson School supported a larger population than it does currently. In 1996 there were approximately 390 students and there were two portables on the site taking up an additional 4,000 square feet of play area.

13. How will recess and P.E. be managed during and post-construction?

All construction activities will be clearly separated from active school areas in order to maintain the safety of the children, staff and community. Site fencing and barricades will be used to designate construction areas and specified material drop off zones. Special consideration will be placed on making sure that adequate space is provided for the students activities in the play yard.
[Maggie to add from a PE & recess staff perspective]

14. Will the district provide emails etc for the Measure I Oversight Committee?

The Committee wants all correspondence to be directed to Chanita Stevenson at chanitastevenson@berkeley.net

15. When is the next community meeting? How will the District transmit information and accept questions on an ongoing basis? Do parents get a chance to give feedback on the proposed design?

The next community meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2012. Information regarding the project will be presented to the community at these meetings. All are welcome to provide comments at these meetings. The BUSD website will also be updated as information becomes available.

Please submit additional questions or comments to:

Mauricio Davila, Project Manager: madavila@tcco.com
Maggie Riddle, Principal: maggieriddle@berkeley.net

- 16.** Will the school maintain its current enrollment during construction or will some students have to be relocated.

There is no plan to relocate any of current Jefferson's students. New enrollment during construction may be reduced if required.

- 17.** Will there be portables on the play yard?

There is no plan to have portables placed at Jefferson.

- 18.** If a problem comes up during construction (like dust or noise making a child sick), what will the process be to stop the work and address the problem? Who has the final say on stopping the work or how many complaints would have to be made before work would be stopped? Is one kid getting sick reason enough to review and change how work is being done?

The safety and well being of the students, staff and community is the ultimate priority to the District, project team and the contractor. As standard on all projects, the contractor will be required to adhere to strict procedures in order to ensure the health and safety for all. Any specific issues that come up during construction will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

- 19.** If any hazardous substances are encountered during the demolition or construction while children are in school (asbestos, lead, VOCs) how will this be addressed? Is there funding for a special clean up team/service if needed?

The project will include survey and assessment of existing materials related to the scope of work. Abatement of these materials will be incorporated into the project scope as needed. The project team will work to schedule these activities during school breaks. An Industrial Hygienist will also determine the appropriate methods of removal to ensure the safety of children, staff, and community.