

Jefferson Elementary Expansion and Modernization Project

Comments addressed from the December 8th Community Meeting

Will lunch service be expanded? No, the school's current lunch schedule has ample capacity to accommodate additional students without adding another lunch shift.

How will traffic be addressed? It was noted that driveways are sometimes blocked and that damage to private property has occurred. 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.

Will there be an Environmental Impact Study? An EIR is not required for this scale of project.

Will trees be impacted? The redwood by the new classroom wing has been carefully considered and sits 14 feet away from the new construction. The design does not impact the redwood.

The new classroom building looks close to adjacent school, how will this impact the Crowden School of Music? Recently the Architects and Construction Manager have been in contact with the Crowden School of Music. They met with the school administrators and toured the school. This communication will aid the team in identifying ways to mitigate the effects of construction noise and dust on Crowden.

Will there be glazing at new classroom wing? In February the exterior design of the building was prepared. At this time, the design team determined that the windows on the new wing will reflect the windows on the existing classroom building. The new classroom wing is at a different orientation; however it will still be very well lit.

Staircase at new classroom wing – can we reduce impact on play yard? After community comment and feedback from the site committee, the team redesigned the stairs. The stairs have been tucked into the corridor rather than impeding on the play yard or sticking out from the addition. This reduces the impact on the yard. Being placed on the east side would isolate the corridor and make it difficult to monitor.

At the new classroom wing, can the hall be placed on the east side? The corridor will continue to be on the west side of the classrooms facing the play yard based on recommendations of the staff.

Request to improve yard. 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.

How much will the enrollment increase as a result of this project? What is the timeline for the additional students? The current thinking is that there will be an increase of up to 100 students over the course of three or four years.

Were alternate sites considered for expansion? Was Franklin considered? Was West Campus considered? Franklin is the location of our Adult School, an important part of our district. Sharing a site with adults and elementary students does not see wise. West Campus is the location of the high school charter, the administration and the Board Room.

Is any money allocated from the project to benefit the current student population? A portion of the construction budget is allocated towards a modernization and upgrade to certain utilities in the existing buildings.

How will health and safety be addressed during construction? 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. 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.

Will BUSD provide the data used for selecting Jefferson as the expansion school? Will the District redistribute the report used to determine expansion needs? The north zone currently has too many students for its population. 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 currently has capacity for approximately 1,180 students in the north zone. Davis Demographics suggested that we needed space for 1,264 students. The Admissions Office has stated that we currently have approximately 250 more elementary students who leave the north zone to attend Berkeley Schools in the other zones than there are students who attend north zone schools from the other elementary zones. Our current population numbers demonstrate that the Davis estimates were low for the north zone. The District either needs to expand its capacity in the north zone or modify its zones and increase the enrollment at other schools, most notably Malcolm X. The Board has chosen to keep the zones as configured. Rosa Parks currently has 420 students, Thousand Oaks currently has 430 students, Jefferson currently has 330 students. Expanding Jefferson helps equalize the population within the zone and helps minimize the number of students being forced out of the zone, but it does not completely solve the problem.

How will yard supervision be handled 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.

Noise control: trees can act as a buffer. The trees in the playground and along the north side of the building are not impacted by the design or construction of the project. The trees will continue to aid in the reduction of noise of the daily school operations.

Will the project include new furniture? Yes, to equip the new spaces.

Will the seismic integrity of the existing building be reviewed as part of this project? The project team will review the structural integrity of the existing buildings as part of this project

Can a 3rd floor be added in lieu of a new building? The team had originally looked at the possibility of a third floor to avoid impact to the play yard. There were two potential strategies. One was to add a floor to the 'knuckle' piece on the corner of Acton st. and Ada st. To add the needed four new classrooms the design would have to incorporate two additional stories on

top of the already two-story administration and library. Adding these floors would dwarf the surrounding community and current school. There was also a cost concern of incorporating a new elevator to reach all the floors. Since this seemed infeasible the team then looked at the second possibility of adding the four new classroom spaces on the existing building. This kind of heavy addition to the 1950's building would legally impose the need to structurally upgrade the entire building, posing a massive increase in budget. Therefore it was decided to go through the design options presented in the September portion of the timeline.

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

Will the existing stair at the east end be removed? Yes it can and will be removed. The new exiting route will be placed at the end of the corridor on the new wing.

Does the project budget include an allocation for art? The project does not include a budget allocation specifically for art.

Will the world map on the yard be saved? Unfortunately it will not. In September it was decided, with staff, that the location of the world map is the best location for the new classroom wing.

Incorporate covered walkway from the multi-purpose building. The floor plan iteration following the December meeting shows the doors moved under the covered walkway. This gives the doorway protection from the elements and ties into the existing circulation of the campus.

Is it possible to raise the Classroom wing to allow play underneath? The design team looked at this possibility in December. There was a financial concern about the cost of adding an elevator

since the wing would become a story higher than the existing building. Another concern was the shadow of a taller structure to Crowden's play yard and campus. The team determined that keeping the structure grounded is the best solution.

Will there be additional restrooms in the new classroom wing? There will be new restrooms placed at the eastern side of the existing building. One of the current learning center spaces will be converted to a girl's restroom. Also, a staff restroom adjacent to the new location of the learning center will be converted to a boy's restroom as new staff restrooms are added in the new administration area. These changes address all plumbing code requirements for this project and the population increase.

What will be the impact to the District and school if the project did not go forward? The District would need to revisit whether we put portables on the site or modify zones (previously rejected by the Board).

Will a computer lab be included as part of this project? The design currently incorporates a bank of computers in the library.

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.

How much square feet is the new construction? The December 8th plan showed the new construction at 11,600 sqft.

Remove 'abandoned' Ada St. entrance. The construction manager had looked at this area following the meeting and discovered that it is an access point for basement utilities and therefore will not be removed.

Additional Comments:

There were several comments complimenting the layout.

Request for more lights on Rose was countered with a comment suggesting there were already too many lights on Rose.

There was a comment stating that the design is thoughtful

There was a request to maintain Jefferson traditions through growth

Neighbor commented they were happy to have the opportunity to send their children to Jefferson.