

FAQ about the Sylvia Mendez Renovation Project:

Please note: This FAQ sheet is pertinent to Facilities and construction only. Some of the questions that have been submitted are programmatic questions that must be answered by the school's administrator, Principal Carriedo. Currently, Principal Carriedo is developing a plan to create a space where any questions can be answered and collaboration of staff and community can happen to ensure a smooth and successful project.

BUILDING PLANS:

Q: What happens to the courtyard garden during construction?

A: The interior courtyard garden will be inaccessible for the 24-25 school year. A renovated outdoor classroom will be available to staff and students by the start of the 25-26 school year. The garden next to the soccer field will be demolished during the summer of 2024. The replacement for this garden will be available for the 26-27 school year.

Q: How will you mitigate environmental impacts so the space is still safe for edibles in the future?

A: As a standard practice on all modernization projects, BUSD contracts with an industrial hygienist to be on-site during demolition and throughout construction. The hygienist continuously monitors air quality and also ensures that all CALOSHA guidelines as well as stringent best practices are followed to ensure a safe operating environment for everyone in and outside of the work areas. This also includes the areas of the garden to confirm that the soil is suitable for future edible gardens.

Q: Does the new plan of phasing the improvement to the existing building impact the improvements that will be able to be done as it is a more expensive construction project?

A: No scope has been removed from the project to the existing building. BUSD Facilities has always known that a phased construction schedule would be necessary.

Q: I would request that the actual plans that are in review with DSA be shared with the community for full transparency. From the conversations, it is not clear what changes are being made to the floor plans, what additional spaces we will have post renovations, or what changes are planned for the overall site.

A: BUSD cannot release incomplete plans to the public prior to the bidding process. The premature release of plans could lead to unfair advantages for prospective bidders and is a violation of the public code. To resolve this issue, Facilities has always shown individual pages and or renderings in all presentations and community meetings to address these questions.

Q: Is the dishwasher purchased with grant funds for zero waste located in a place that is not a classroom? Is there room and hookups for a second dishwasher? Is there room for racks to allow plates, cups, and silverware to dry?

A: This dishwasher will be installed in the future Family Resource Center. This room will be reserved for this function as well as any other role that the site administration deems necessary. The room will not include connections for a second dishwasher, but it will have ample countertop space for dish racks, etc.

Q: Post renovation is there a plan to maintain the planting around the school? Currently, our school's planting is very neglected, and concerned any new planting will end up in the same state if there is not a real maintenance plan to support it in such a high-use environment.

A: All new landscaping will feature modern, intelligent irrigation systems that will require much less maintenance over the life of the plants.

Q: Where is construction staging and storage happening? This will likely impact parking/drop-off for teachers/community and the parent volunteers who organize these activities should be made aware of how it is planned to work.

A: These details have yet to be solidified with the contractor. The goal is for them to utilize as much space as possible within the confines of the North wing while it is being renovated, during the 24-25 school year. The large existing blacktop will be utilized for staging during the 25-26 school year, as the new building is being constructed. We will ensure that a safe, functional drop-off/pick-up plan is coordinated with the site administration and communicated with the greater Sylvia Mendez Community prior to the start of the 24-25 school year.

Q: Where will kids and staff gather on-site in an emergency? The current location is the large asphalt area, which will be filled by portables. Afraid there is no open, clear, accessible assembly space large enough for the whole school in the interim condition.

A: Based on the configuration of portables, the Facilities Department recommends that the emergency gathering space will be the soccer field. These details will be reviewed

with site administration and confirmed with families and staff prior to the start of the 24-25 school year.

Q: I am writing to find out what your plan is for Science materials storage during the construction next school year. Currently, science supplies are stored in the Book Room and the hallways of the north wing of campus on a series of 7 carts. These materials serve almost 300 students in Grades 1 - 5.

A: During the modernization, science will remain a push-in subject that is done as it currently is off of mobile carts. The storage area for those carts is currently under review with the site administrator. Upon completion of the project, science will have a dedicated classroom.