

Berkeley Unified School District

Longfellow Update - District-Wide Moves

August 7, 2024

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Our Mission

Enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our world.

Excellence

Equity

Engagement

Enrichment

The Facilities Division is committed to supporting the Mission of BUSD by creating environments that promote a positive learning experience, creating safe and welcoming schools, and to afford our students, staff, and neighbors a community hub to embrace the four Es of BUSD.

Agenda

- Longfellow campus and findings
- Steps taken to ensure students can return
- Longfellow at San Pablo
- District-wide building safety

Longfellow MS - Curriculum Building

- Auditorium, prior to the Field Act, circa 1920
- Reconstruction in 1935 with additions and structural Compliance
- 1997 Limited Voluntary Seismic Upgrade
- 2023 Modernization



Construction Discovery

- 2021/2022 Destructive testing performed during design
- June 6th, 2024, extensive dry-rot was discovered by the contractor
- Structural deficiencies were observed
- Facilities and the design team was notified



Extensive Dry-Rot

- June 7th, Meeting on-site with Facilities, Structural Engineer, Architect, and Contractor
- Extensive investigation
- Dry-rot and resulting structural deficiencies were determined to be extensive
- Structural Engineer “red-tagged” the building



What is a red tag

- **Red-Tag is a term used in the construction industry when a building is deemed to be dangerous or unfit for occupancy.**
 - **In the instance of Longfellow, the red tag is intended for students and staff**
 - **Non-essential personnel cannot occupy the building**
 - **With prescribed and approved safety measures, construction personnel can occupy for the reconstruction of the building**

Spaces for Teaching and Learning

- As a result of the red-tag, the entire campus was closed for safety concerns due to close proximity of other buildings and space constraints.
 - Longfellow relocated to Berkeley Adult School
 - Berkeley Adult School relocated to King CDC, Longfellow Dining Commons, and the District Office
 - King CDC consolidated into Franklin CDC and Hopkins CDC
 - District Office PD and some offices relocated to Parker Street
 - Parker Street moving to new facility on Ninth Street

District-Wide Moves

- Facilities in collaboration with other District leaders and BUSD's partners at Van Pelt Construction Services developed relocation plan to operate schools and offices safely and effectively
- Two moving companies contracted to pack (most cases) and move contents and furniture
- More than 5,000 people hours used to complete moves
- Substantial completion of all moves occurred on Friday August 2nd

Longfellow at San Pablo

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- Space needs accommodated
 - Closed campus with access control on building entries
 - Pedestrian and bike access, rolling drop-off and pick-up location, and student loading locations all coordinated with site leadership and City staff to ensure student and staff safety
 - Additional cameras being installed at the site to align with needs of a middle school
 - Curtis Street parking lot (back lot) to remain locked at this time. Lot will be used for outdoor space
 - Facilities at James Kenney Park secured for Physical Education
 - Programs such as CTE, Cooking & Gardening, and PE to remain intact

District-Wide Structural Assessments

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- **There have been questions about if a structural assessment of the district is warranted**
 - **Structural assessments are triggered by large seismic events**
 - **Assessment was commissioned following Loma Prieta in 1989**
 - **All identified deficiencies were addressed following this assessment**
 - **All operational BUSD facilities are in compliance with the Field Act**
 - **No major seismic events have occurred since Loma Prieta**

**BUSD schools
are communities,
not buildings!**



Questions and Feedback

