



Facilities Subcommittee of the Board of Education

2515 Ninth Street. Berkeley, CA

Meeting Minutes

March, 27th 2025

Facilities Subcommittee of the Board of Education 2515 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2025

Subcommittee Members:

Board Director, Jennifer Shanoski

Board Director, Ka'Dijah Brown

District Staff: John Calise, Assistant Superintendent Chanita Stevenson, Planning Analyst Carol Pacheco, Executive Assistant

VPCS Staff: Kelli Jurgenson, Principal in Charge Kevin Wagner, Program Manager Ashley Del Rio, Assistant Program Manager

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

2. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve – [Jennifer]
- Second – [Ka'Dijah]
- Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.
- No corrections noted.

- Motion to approve – [Jennifer]
- Second – [Ka'Dijah]
- Approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment

Total of [5] community members addressed the committee:

- **Berkeley High Boys Tennis Coach:**
 - Spoke in favor of the tennis court project, emphasizing the need for five courts to meet competition standards.
 - Expressed frustration that the school has lacked adequate courts for 24 years, which impacts team performance and scheduling.
 - District response: The committee acknowledged the concerns and assured that efforts are being made to identify funding solutions to meet CIF competition standards.
- **Parent Representative from Sylvia Mendez Elementary:**
 - Expressed concerns over construction delays and safety measures.
 - Highlighted the need for clear communication from the district about expected disruptions and mitigation plans.
 - District response: Staff confirmed that additional audits have impacted timelines but efforts are underway to expedite the project while maintaining safety.
- **Teacher from Longfellow Middle School:**
 - Voiced frustration over the ongoing structural issues, particularly regarding seismic safety and its impact on students and staff.
 - Urged the district to prioritize repairs to ensure a safe learning environment.

- District response: Staff acknowledged the concerns and stated that seismic upgrades were being re-evaluated to address the most critical issues within budget constraints.
- **Community Member:**
 - Questioned the cancellation of the district-wide solar project, advocating for alternative renewable energy solutions.
 - Suggested revisiting solar funding through grants or partnerships.
 - District response: Staff confirmed that alternative sustainability initiatives are being explored and that solar remains a long-term goal.
- **Representative from Washington Elementary:**
 - Addressed modernization and security concerns.
 - Highlighted the need for improved entryway security and accessible facilities to support all students.
 - District response: Staff reassured that Washington modernization remains a priority and security enhancements are being planned.

5. Facilities Project Discussion - Presentations

- **Introduction:** Overview of ongoing and upcoming projects, with a focus on project modifications and funding challenges.
- **Financial Implications:** Discussion on cost overruns and cash flow adjustments to ensure project feasibility.
- **Key Projects:** Presentation on school projects, their progress, and projected completion timelines.

6. Bond Planning and Cash Flow Review

- **Measure G Fund Allocation:** Review of bond funds distribution among projects.

- **Cost Challenges:** Rising costs due to inflation, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages.
- **Priority Adjustments:** Discussion on shifting funds based on urgency and feasibility.
- **Committee Concerns:** Members discussed potential delays and the need for contingency plans.

7. Major Project Updates

- **Longfellow Middle School:**
 - Structural issues in the curriculum building require additional seismic upgrades, increasing project costs to \$68 million.
 - Committee concerns: Cost overruns and potential need for additional funding approval.
 - District action: Re-evaluating scope to focus on essential structural reinforcements first.
- **Sylvia Mendez Elementary:**
 - Two-week schedule delay due to additional safety audits.
 - Committee concerns: Impact on students and strategies to minimize delays.
 - District action: Implementing weekend and overtime work to maintain project timeline.
- **Berkeley High School:**
 - Expansion plans include nine new classrooms, CTE space, and restroom facilities.
 - Seismic upgrades required for the Little Theater.
 - Committee concerns: Budget limitations and alternative funding sources.
 - District action: Exploring phased construction to manage costs.

- **District-Wide Solar Project:**
 - Originally included in bond plan but now canceled due to financial concerns.
 - Committee concerns: Lack of progress in sustainability initiatives.
 - District action: Investigating alternative funding for future energy-efficient projects.

8. Future Project Considerations

- **Deferral of Non-Urgent Projects:**
 - Emerson Elementary and Berkeley Arts Magnet projects postponed due to budget constraints.
 - Berkeley Adult School project deferred to 2029.
 - Committee concerns: Equity in project prioritization.
 - District response: Prioritization based on health, safety, and infrastructure needs.
- **Infrastructure and Safety Priorities:**
 - Washington modernization for security and accessibility improvements.
 - Continued assessment of facilities for necessary upgrades.
 - Committee concerns: Expedited improvements for security-sensitive campuses.
 - District response: A phased security upgrade plan is in development.

9. Summary of Recommendations

- Longfellow and Sylvia Mendez projects remain on track, with revised scopes.
- Berkeley High expansion timeline adjusted due to financial considerations.

- Solar project canceled in favor of alternative sustainability initiatives.
- Washington modernization and security enhancements prioritized.
- Emerson, Berkeley Arts Magnet, and Berkeley Adult School projects deferred.
- Additional funding sources to be explored for tennis courts and sustainability efforts.

10. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at [6:00].
