

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION 2024-26

APPOINTMENT OF A BOC AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE (TASK FORCE) REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT'S GREEN SCHOOLYARDS FOR ALL RESOLUTION AND PLAN

WHEREAS, The District's school bond construction program since its modern inception with Prop BB in 1998 has supported projects and campus investments that increase the addition and sustainability of natural elements such as natural grass and ground coverings, trees, vegetation and "open space" for the health of students and their communities;¹

WHEREAS, many of the District's policies supporting such investment are based in large scale public policy objectives that include becoming more climate resilient by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and other forms of air pollution, managing earth surface temperatures, utilizing energy-efficient building technologies, reducing energy consumption and improving water conservation;

WHEREAS, the LAUSD School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) has a clear and express duty to oversee and ensure bond program funds are appropriately and effectively utilized for the environmental purposes outlined in District policy;

WHEREAS, the BOC Charter and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Section 2.1 specifically provides:

The shared vision of the Committee and the District is to build, modernize, repair, and maintain schools that promote the full development of the child, are educationally and environmentally sound, enhance their neighborhoods through design and programming as centers of community, and reflect the wise and efficient use of limited land and public resources;

Proposition BB construction program included approximately 93 "greening" projects and an additional 28 cool school" DWP projects. *Blue Ribbon Citizens' Oversight Committee Briefing Report*, Bond BB School Repair and Construction Program, LAUSD Facilities Services Division, 3D/International – O'Brien Kreitzberg Joint Venture Program Manager, December 16, 1998.

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WHEREAS, most of the current bond funds available for construction and technology projects in the School Upgrade Program (SUP) were provided through the \$7B Measure RR in 2020. The District adopted an *Implementation Plan* in August 2021 outlining the categories of uses and types of projects for which these funds should be allocated;

WHEREAS, the BOC also conducted a *Measure RR Planning Review Task Force* resulting in a set of recommendations mostly related to the equitable use of bond funds across the District consistent with Board of Education policies, including principles of environmental justice;²

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2022, the LAUSD Board of Education adopted the *Green Schools for All: Equitable Funding and Expansion of Green Spaces Across District Campuses*. The primary objective of the resolution is “... to create environments where students feel safe, welcome, and excited to learn, and to a strategy that includes developing safe and sustainable green spaces, outdoor learning environments, and shaded areas at each school.”

WHEREAS, the resolution also established a “30 percent” target for green/natural spaces on campuses as a minimum standard utilizing the District’s 2022 ‘Greening index’ to measure success and planning accordingly. The resolution also mandated the preparation of an implementation plan aimed at converting at least 30 percent of the existing hard-surface schoolyards into safe and sustainable green space at all schools by 2035.

WHEREAS, in April 2024, in response to the above recommendations in the resolution, the District adopted its *Green Schoolyards for All Plan* and established the Office of Eco-Sustainability also in support of the initiative among others.

WHEREAS, in December 2023, the District adopted a *Capital Plan* that approved a Certificates of Participation (COPs) Planning target of \$50M and COPs Authorization of \$25M to finance greening projects. The purpose would be to fund projects that support District priorities, including the *Green Schoolyards for All Plan* but which are not eligible for bond funding or for which there are not enough bond funds currently available.

WHEREAS, the BOC has an interest in understanding the management, budgeting, financial and project reporting, and coordination of greening and related projects. Questions and concerns may include:

1. What parts of the District organization are responsible for ensuring all projects are executed consistently with all District policies related to greening and the Measure RR Implementation Plan?³ This includes priorities related to educational equity, black student achievement, and other policy priorities.⁴

²<https://www.lausd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=76606&dataid=128064&FileName=2022%20Measure%20RR%20Taskforce%20Report%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>

³ See *BOC Measure RR Planning Task Force Report* for list of related Board of Education policies.
<https://www.lausd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=76606&dataid=128064&FileName=2022%20Measure%20RR%20Taskforce%20Report%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>

⁴ Measure RR priorities include: environmental sustainability, clean renewable energy improvements, accessibility to the community, wellness, athletic/recreational opportunities, more efficient energy/water environment, outdoor learning classrooms, and meeting 21st Century environmental and safety standards.

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2. What is the process for review of all projects for consistency with *Green Schools for All* resolution? How do projects from different District departments coordinate to implement the *Green Schoolyards* policy? What are the design review and construction execution coordination issues? By example, a current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) project at Carthay Elementary School resulted in the removal of several mature trees that provided shade, character and shelter at the campus to make way for an elevator tower and other elements of construction for the ADA project. The execution of this project did not seem to follow the policy guidance of the *Green Schoolyards for All* resolution.⁵ This is an example of how well-intentioned projects can detrimentally impact school campuses.
3. What reporting or metrics will be published to track progress on the resolution and plan targets? Has the District established targets for each school site for carbon capture, degrees cooled, water captured and conserved, etc.? The BOC would anticipate comprehensive project reporting that will include progress on metrics by school, project type and sorted by funding source.
4. How does the District calculate the 30 percent green schoolyards metric? What are examples of criteria and design elements? i.e. athletic fields, paved surface under a shade tree canopy.
5. Are bond funded resources and staff being used to execute COPs or Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) projects?
6. What criteria does the District use to determine what types of greening projects can be bond funded compared to the criteria for COPs or other sources of funding?
7. How do the District's various indices for school buildings and grounds (Facilities Condition Index), Greening Index (2022) and Green Schoolyards Index (2024), diversity (SENI – School Equity Needs Index) etc., work in coordination to prioritize projects and comprehensively implement overlapping District policies at the project level?
8. Are there macro planning and analytical design tools that can be used to support greening analysis?
9. How can the District increase the speed of the implementation of greening projects? Simplify project scopes? What strategies might be available?
10. What are additional funding options for greening projects? State bond funds? Partnerships? Federal infrastructure funds?

⁵ “Resolved further, that any facilities projects that necessitate the disruption of existing concrete, asphalt paving or other hardscape, including asphalt replacement/paving, portable building removal projects, and future Major Modernizations, also include the addition of green space or a natural space with the requisite shading to ensure measurable progress towards the District's adopted aforementioned minimum green space standard...”

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School Construction Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee hereby establishes an Ad Hoc Subcommittee pursuant to BOC Bylaws Art. V, Sec. 3, denominated the “Task Force Regarding Green Schoolyards for All Resolution and Plan” (the “Task Force”), to be composed of not more than six active BOC members (inclusive of the BOC Chair as ex-officio member).
2. The BOC Chair shall appoint a Task Force Chair from one of its members.
3. The Task Force will work collaboratively with BOC staff and District staff to address its questions and concerns as defined by the LAUSD Board of Education adopted resolution *Green Schools for All: Equitable Funding and Expansion of Green Spaces Across District Campuses*, *LAUSD Green Schoolyards for All Plan*, Measure RR Implementation Plan, MOU and other relevant District policy, State law, and the District’s practices with respect to bond program and project implementation.
4. A final Task Force report will include a set of recommendations or regularized requests for pertinent information and analysis from District staff regarding projects that the BOC considers as part of its regular business.
5. The Task Force will be asked to provide an initial report to the full Committee at its October 10, 2024, regular meeting.
6. The Task Force’s work shall be completed, and its authority shall sunset, not later than January 31, 2025, unless extended by further action of the Committee. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Oversight Committee’s website.
7. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Bond Oversight Committee’s website.
8. The District is directed to track the above recommendation and to report on the adoption, rejection, or pending status of the recommendations as provided in section 6.2 of the BOC Charter and Memorandum of Understanding.

ADOPTED on August 1, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: 8

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 5

/Michael Hamner/

D. Michael Hamner
Chair

/Robert Campbell/

Robert Campbell
Vice-Chair