SCHOOLS WITH TOMORROW INSIDE
FACILITIES TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

“Student learning and, specifically setting the right tone for learning, begins the moment a student enters the school building.” - Anonymous

Consequent to the passage of Measure X in November 2018, the Board of Trustees authorized in 2019 contracts with Greystone West for facilities construction management services and HY Architects for the design of the new Allen Elementary School. Both firms provided an update to the Board of Trustees at the September 2019 meeting.

In developing a comprehensive phased plan to modernize aging school facilities (50-76 years old), the District’s focus has been on addressing the most critical needs first. The phased transformation began in the fall of 2017. Facilities transformation will be guided by the $79 million Measure X bond combined with the District’s Deferred Maintenance budget plus proceeds leveraged from disposition of surplus property and any state funding for which the District may be eligible. Currently, $13 million was realized from the sale of the El Crystal site. The District Office also sits on property that is designated as surplus as is the Rollingwood Elementary School site which is currently fully operational.

*Schools with Tomorrow Inside* facilities modernization/transformation is addressing the following:

- Repair or replacement of leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing, and faulty electrical systems where needed;
- Upgrade of classrooms, libraries, and science labs, to keep pace with technology;
- Improving campus security systems including lighting, emergency communications systems, fire alarms and sprinklers;
- Improving access to school facilities for students with disabilities;
- Installing heating and ventilation systems at each school; and
- Replacing aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain.

Todd Lee, representing Greystone West reported to the Board on the firm’s recent facilities needs analysis. Based on site observations and historical data, he reported on a list of short-term repairs at each site, reflective of the bullet points listed above. Their analysis is exclusive of testing. Greystone West’s recommendation to the Board was that $30.55 million be reserved for the completion of items identified in the project list until more definitive programming emerges. As additional funding becomes available, additional options may emerge for shifting projects to higher or lower priorities, or for combining projects.

Marcus Hibser is HY Architects lead on the Allen Elementary School design. His report commended the progress made within the Allen committee appointed to advise on school needs and design as well as positive interaction on behalf of the District at the City level. Designs are preliminary and ultimately dependent on CEQA studies that will address parking, entrance and exit,
and so forth. Transforming Allen into a “school with tomorrow inside” will be guided by the work done in 2018 with the District’s Educational Facilities Visioning Committee who developed guiding principles to be followed when planning for new or modernized spaces and buildings:

1. *Classrooms accommodate different types of learning:* Design spaces that allow for experiential, hands-on learning and space for collaboration and that accommodate a variety of programs including art, science and music.

2. *Spaces should be large and flexible:* Classrooms should have the ability to be modified to suit differing needs.

3. *Provide space for staff-training and collaboration.*

4. *Allow for the creation of both public and private zones,* both within the classroom and the campus as a whole.

5. *Teach to the student:* Teaching to standards and not to grade levels, allowing flexibility in staffing and mentoring are important to the success of students.

6. *Technology should be robust* to allow for blended learning pedagogies in order to meet 21st century teaching principles and to allow for future growth and change.

7. *Indoor/outdoor connections:* Take advantage of the climate and create useful connections between indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate multiple learning styles and expand the educational opportunities afforded by outdoor environments.

8. *Provide space for the community:* Opportunity should be created for bringing the community into our schools in a secure way while also providing useful space for wraparound services.

9. *Schools should be safe havens for students and staff.*

10. *Respect for the environment:* Facilities should consider the total environmental footprint by developing efficient buildings that reduce the need for maintenance and replacement with durable materials and robust systems.

As the construction of Allen Elementary School moves forward with an expected completion of Fall of 2021, concurrently the Board of Trustees will continue to pursue needed maintenance repairs and modernization. These are exciting times for San Bruno Park School District. We have much to look forward to with facilities and educational transformation to keep pace with 21st century teaching and learning.
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