

APRIL REPORT TO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FROM PROJECT TEAM FOR FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

This report is written and being submitted somewhat earlier than usual this month due to the District's spring break. We also have learned that the second monthly School Board meeting has been cancelled, and so our report is being sent in for this Friday's Board packet as a way of keeping the Board informed of the FMP's progress.

Led by Concordia, the Project Team held its second community-wide Workshop on Saturday, March 25, at John L. Webster Elementary School in Malibu. Following the previous workshop, which was held in Santa Monica, the Project Team announced that the Community Planning Committee, the organized group of citizens who have agreed to participate in an ongoing manner, now consists of 126 sign-ups, considerably above the stated goal of 100 people. The Project Team knew, however, that it was likely that there would be fewer participants in the Malibu workshop. Indeed, there were, with 63 sign-ups which, combined with District participants such as Malibu Principal Mark Kelly, came to an estimated 75 people. Still, this was a very active workshop, with particularly solid involvement by Malibu schools, and the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee seemed happy with the turnout and activity.

The workshop opened with a presentation by Rebecca Newman of Sidewalk Studio covering the second community survey, which focused on middle school and high school students. As mentioned in our last report, the survey respondents numbered 538 and Ms. Newman began by announcing the eight contest winners, which was used to encourage student participation. Ms. Newman then presented highlights from the survey:

Transportation to school - cars are the dominant mode, although there is somewhat more bus riding and walking in the afternoon.

Safety - despite recent events, students at Samohi seemed no more concerned with campus safety than students at other schools.

Overcrowding - a higher percentage of Samohi students reported feeling overcrowded (principally in classrooms) than did students from other schools.

Technology - a surprising 96% of respondents to the survey had computer access at home. These students used home computers regularly to do school work, but they used computers considerably less at school.

Potential Joint Use - students identified a range of possible locations for off-site educational programs, among the most popular being the beach, Santa Monica Pier, UCLA/USC, and the Third Street Promenade.

Priorities for Facility Improvement - at nearly all schools, students ranked bathrooms as a top priority for improvement, followed by lockers, cafeterias, and water fountains.

The entire survey, in graph form, may be found on the project website at www.ourschoolplan.com. Meanwhile, the third survey is currently underway, which is community-wide and involves both online and paper dissemination.

Ms. Newman's presentation was followed by that of Mott Smith, a consultant engaged by Harley Ellis Devereaux. Mr. Smith's firm, Civic Enterprise Associates (CEA) specializes on joint-use projects and when Mr. Smith worked in the public sector he was in charge of the private and public sector efforts for the LAUSD \$1.6B Phase II construction program. Mr. Smith noted that there are a variety of types of joint use projects, including community use, program partnerships, mixed-use, joint planning, and joint development. The goal here was to provide workshop participants with a vocabulary to discuss this kind of cooperative use.

Mr. Smith advised that while it is not easy to create and succeed with joint-use projects, the reasons for doing them are multiple:

- If they result in more efficient use of capital funds
- If they result in more efficient use of operating funds
- If they create better programs for the public
- If they address an unmet community need
- If they help realize a broader community or city plan
- If they reduce negative impacts or enhance positive impacts of public projects on communities.

Mr. Smith's presentation is also online. Meanwhile, the bulk of the workshop was devoted to a number of working sub-committees. These groups were given the objective of coming up with 3-5 possible partnerships for joint development that would improve the schools, but also to focus in on one partnership that would have the most impact. While the flood of ideas among the groups is too numerous to mention here, as an example, the Malibu H.S. group settled on working with the City of Malibu to develop some needed infrastructure and forming a Steering Committee comprised of a number of key community groups and individuals. Its purpose would be to try to develop a political consensus, even with potentially opposing community groups, so that all pertinent stakeholders would get something they wanted out of improving the schools. (All of the comments by all the sub-committees have been captured by Concordia and are being prepared for posting on the website in the near future.)

Currently, planning is underway for Workshop #3, which will be held April 29 at Samohi. In preparation, the project architects, from both HED and Concordia are meeting to do a "*charette*" based on the facility assessments, survey responses, and the group ideas. The results of this *charette* will be to generate a number of specific ideas that will be presented at the next workshop. In addition, HED is in progress of its square footage analysis of the existing space in the schools relative to District and State Standards. Also, HED is moving along the writing of software and the gathering of information that will comprise the facilities database that will be completed in June. The Preliminary Database information has been reviewed by the District and HED is also finalizing the architectural and engineering draft surveys of the High Schools, District

Offices, and Child Care facilities, which should be ready shortly for submission to the District for review. All of the Elementary and Middle School reports are currently under District review. Finally, Schoolworks is due to submit, by this week's end, its baseline enrollment projection to HED and it will be evaluated in light of all other data.

In terms of communications, the fourth newsletter is approved and is currently being prepared for printing. The website continues to be updated regularly and it now contains numerous pages and documents. Also, the introductory video is online in flash format, so no download or buffering is required and the video plays immediately. The Spanish version of the video is available online, too.

Finally, the Project Team and the District are in discussions regarding the elongation of the FMP schedule and the additional services involved. It first will be necessary to devise a mutually agreed upon schedule, so that the Project Team can forecast its services based on the additional time required. Also, certain factors, such as the creation of the requested interim cost estimate and the exact nature of the CEQA work that is required, will affect the specifics of the cost of these additional services.

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