

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Michele Lawrence, Superintendent
FROM: Lew Jones, Director of Facilities
DATE: September 19, 2007
SUBJECT: Approve of a Resolution Adopting Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Standards for BUSD Construction Projects

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board adopted an energy design standards policy and a material/indoor air quality policy on June 15, 1994. Those policies defined goals for exceeding the State Energy Code (contained in Title 24), and defined goals to improve indoor air quality in renovations and to study lifecycle cost of materials to be utilized in construction projects. When adopted, BUSD was probably the only public schools in the country to adopt such policies. Staff has been implementing those policies in major construction projects. As time has passed, more and more school districts were attempting to solve the same issues addressed in those policies. In 1998, a certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) was created. In 2000, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) was as an outgrowth of LEED to provide a unified framework for school design.

On several occasions in the past few years, the Board suggested that the Construction Committee review the Materials and Indoor Air Quality Policy to bring it up to date. In the spring, the Committee began its review of the CHPS standards as a viable approach. The Committee worked on this matter over the course of the past few meetings and has made the following statement.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Construction Committee would like to recommend to the Board that the School District adopt the CHPS standards for green building for capital projects. CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) is both a rating system and the most recognized integrated approach to building design oriented specifically to school construction.

The Office of Public School Construction is negotiating with CHPS to adopt its framework in whole or in part to evaluate eligibility for disbursing \$100 million in Proposition 1D funds. These funds will be allocated to school modernization and new construction projects that demonstrate high environmental performance. Many of the state's school districts are moving toward adopting the standards; San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles have all adopted CHPS criteria as a mandatory design standard. Locally, West Contra Costa Unified is using CHPS for guiding its new school construction.

We believe there is an environmental imperative to ensure that new construction and modernization greatly improve on features such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and enhanced use of daylighting. By adopting the CHPS standards, we can provide an example to our students and other districts by putting teeth in the concept of sustainable design.

Furthermore, in 2006, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly passed Measure G, and called for aggressive local action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By adopting CHPS, BUSD will help the City of Berkeley attain Measure G's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by the year 2050.

The CHPS rating system is flexible enough to allow variability in design, and stringent enough to ensure improved energy efficiency and sustainability of materials. These standards need not lead to higher construction costs. Where higher costs are indicated, they typically represent less than a 5% increase and often pay for themselves in better energy efficiency and durability of materials.

The Committee has previously discussed the need for district-wide standards for materials and equipment to facilitate easier and less costly maintenance over time. Adoption of the CHPS standards will establish parameters for choosing these components through its performance criteria and accessible lists of conforming products.

The Committee believes the arguments for mandating CHPS criteria are compelling and rewarding. CHPS is part of a broader movement that is raising the bar in more integrated sustainable design and construction. Its practical impact will be felt for years to come.

Staff supports the Committee's recommendation. The CHPS system is based on an analysis of possibilities during the design process. CHPS does not mandate any particular design solution. Depending on the choices made during design, the project receives points. Points can be achieved by improving indoor air quality, improving daylighting, reducing energy consumption, improving recycling and similar efforts. The District has embedded most of the approach in its current practices, but not based upon the CHPS structure. Under CHPS, Districts receive one point for passing a Board resolution. Attached to this item is a resolution based on the CHPS requirements.

When the design is completed, the total number of points is calculated. If the final project includes enough points, the District may be eligible for financing from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC). Generally, the project must be new construction or a large-scale modernization to be worth the effort required to receive enough points to qualify for any funding.

POLICY/CODE

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost impact is minimal; all costs to be paid from the General Obligation Bond.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Committee's recommendation and the attached resolution adopting the CHPS standards.

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 08-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, ADOPTING A STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, Students and staff are entitled to a safe and healthy school environment, and studies have indicated that student achievement is greater and attendance higher, and teacher and staff retention is improved, when the learning environment is naturally lit, comfortable and well maintained; and,

WHEREAS, Schools should employ design, construction and operation strategies that minimize operating costs, in particular for energy and water use as studies show that new facility energy costs, for example, can be reduced by 25 percent or more; and,

WHEREAS, Schools that follow sustainable design principals can contribute to our community's environment by minimizing waste and air and water pollution; and,

WHEREAS, the District's program to build new schools and renovate existing ones provides a unique opportunity to move beyond standard designs; and,

WHEREAS, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) has developed comprehensive design criteria based on the latest available information on sustainable school design, construction, and operation; and,

WHEREAS, Schools designed to meet the CHPS criteria incorporate environmental features that provide a context for learning,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the School Board recognizes the progress already made by the District's staff and design teams to incorporate sustainable design criteria into the District's school construction program; and,

THAT the Board directs staff to expand this effort to ensure that every new school, new building and modernization project, from the beginning of the design process, incorporate CHPS criteria and best practices to the extent feasible; that the next round of construction projects minimally meet the CHPS qualifying criteria; and that the focus be on criteria in the following priority

areas, such as Student performance and staff health through measures such as daylighting, the use of non toxic emitting materials, and sound insulation or isolation to minimize noise and enhance classroom acoustical quality; operating cost minimization, through resource efficiency; minimizing the impact of District operations on the environment; and the taking advantage of financial incentive programs; and,

THAT the Board of Education directs staff to follow the CHPS Roadmap and scorecard to ensure the efficient and complete implementation of CHPS, including creating a performance tracking system to ensure the effective implementation of the CHPS criteria throughout the design, construction and operation; and,

THAT the Board of Education endorses District participation in and directs staff to pursue partnerships that further the goal of high performance schools, including Federal, State and utility programs that provide sustainable design financial incentives; and,

THAT the Board of Education directs staff, during the design phase of the remaining projects in the current construction and modernization program and all such future projects, to require architects and staff to verify that their District projects (s) have met or exceeded the minimum requirements for CHPS certification, and report the scores for all of the CHPS categories.

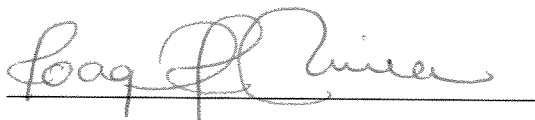
ADOPTED and issued this 19th day of September, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Rivera, Selawsky, Riddle, Issel and Hemphill

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAIN: none



Joaquin J. Rivera, President
Board of Education



Michele B. Lawrence, Superintendent
and Secretary, Board of Education