

Resolution on Sustainability & the Design & Construction of High Performance Schools

Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

Adopted October 28, 2003

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

Whereas, Schools should employ design and construction strategies that minimize operating costs, including energy and water efficiency;

Whereas, As one of the largest property owners in Southern California, the Los Angeles Unified School District has a large impact on the Los Angeles regional environment, including air quality through vehicle use and power generation, and water through potable and irrigation uses and stormwater runoff into creeks, rivers, beaches and the Pacific Ocean;

Whereas, Schools that are designed to meet the above criteria incorporate environmental design features that provide a context for learning;

Whereas, On February 13, 2001, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a motion supporting the Blue Ribbon Citizens' Committee recommendation to develop sustainable design criteria for the construction of new and the expansion and renovation of existing District schools and campuses, and directed the head of the Facilities Division, in consultation with the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, to develop these criteria in consultation with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS);

Whereas, The Implementation Plan submitted by staff to the Board on May 15, 2001, presented strategies for incorporating in all new construction and renovation projects, the six CHPS categories (site, water, energy, materials, indoor environmental quality and district resolutions), and proposed requiring certification by architects that their District projects have met or exceeded the minimum requirement for CHPS certification;

Whereas, Over 80 District new school and school addition projects have been rated against the CHPS criteria and found to be in substantial conformance, and the Facilities Division is working to incorporate additional CHPS criteria as standard practice in all District construction projects with the goal of ensuring that every project qualifies as a CHPS school; and

Whereas, The District continues to be supported in this effort by the District High Performance Schools Working Group, whose members represent Federal and State agencies, local utilities and other interested parties; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles recognizes the work of the Facilities Division and the Office of Environmental Health & Safety to incorporate CHPS criteria into the

District's school construction program, and commends the District's architects for their efforts in meeting the CHPS criteria; and

Resolved further, That the Board directs staff to continue its effort to ensure that every District new school and modernization project, from the beginning of the design process, incorporate CHPS criteria to the extent feasible; that the next round of new schools minimally meet the CHPS qualifying level (28 points) and preferably achieve at least 32 points; and that the focus be on criteria in the following priority areas:

- a. Student performance and staff health and well being, through measures such as daylighting, use of non toxic-emitting materials and sound insulation or isolation to minimize noise and enhance acoustical quality in the classroom;
- b. Operating cost minimization, through energy and water efficiency; and
- c. Minimizing the impact of District operations on the environment, through, for example, the installation or purchase of renewable energy resources such as solar power, and maximizing the beneficial use of stormwater runoff; and

Resolved further, 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, specifically:

- a. The Los Angeles Sustainable Collaborative, whose goal is to further the adoption of sustainable design in the region and whose other members are agencies that have also adopted sustainable design requirements, including the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Community College District, and the City of Santa Monica;
- b. The City of Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan and the County of Los Angeles Watershed Management Division, whose goal is to encourage the efficient use of water resources; and
- c. The utility-sponsored Savings By Design program, and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Education directs staff to report to the Board annually on the progress of this program, and provide quarterly summary statistics on: the number of new schools and modernization projects designed and the percentage which have incorporated CHPS design criteria, and other statistics useful in assessing the progress of this effort.