



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.6

Meeting Date: April 18, 2024

Subject: Earth Day Recognition and Sustainability Update

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Facility Support Services

Recommendation: To honor Earth Day and receive updates on how Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) is mitigating and adapting to climate change through projects and programming focused on buildings and energy, restorative schoolyards, waste reduction, and transportation.

Background/Rationale: SCUSD schools are becoming healthier and more sustainable learning environments for students and staff due to the vision of our Board of Education and the hard work of countless employees, parents, students, and community partners. In honor of Earth Day, we will update the community on our efforts to decarbonize our buildings and make them more energy efficient, rethink our schoolyards to make them more climate resilient and better equipped for diverse forms of play, reduce waste and greenhouse gases through food waste diversion and food recovery, and electrify our buses and decrease barriers to active transportation.

Financial Considerations: This is a general update on Sustainability Projects. Active projects presented in this update with financial implications have already been submitted and approved by the Board.

LCAP Goal(s): College, Career and Life Ready Graduates; Safe, Emotionally Healthy and Engaged Students; Family and Community Engagement; Operational Excellence.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 Minute Presentation

Submitted by: Chamberlain Segrest, Environmental Sustainability Manager
Nathaniel Browning, Director of Facilities

Approved by: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services
Janea Marking, Chief Business and Operations Officer
Lisa Allen, Interim Superintendent

Board of Education Executive Summary

Facilities Support Services

Earth Day Recognition and Sustainability Update

April 18, 2024



I. Overview/History of Department or Program:

Earth Day was created in 1970 in response to increasing air and water pollution created by unregulated industrialization. This led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and new environmental regulations, but it was not an inclusive movement. This resulted in increased environmental benefits in more affluent, predominately white communities across the United States, which was often coupled with increased pollution and deregulation in less affluent communities predominantly consisting of higher percentages of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC).

As stated in its Vision Statement, Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) vigilantly works to interrupt systemic inequities and level the playing field. This includes the facilities department where we use an equity index to reinvest capital dollars in historically marginalized communities and schools. All students deserve a healthy and supportive learning environment, and added attention must be given to communities harmed by historical inequities.

In 2011, SCUSD hired a full time Sustainability Manager to oversee Project Green, an education program that taught staff and students about resource conservation through environmental education. This evolved into participating schools applying for, or opting in to, sustainability projects, like rain gardens, on their campuses. The position of Sustainability Manager was vacant from 2020-2023 and Facilities used this time to update the job description to a more systems level, District-wide approach, to ensure that all students and staff are experiencing the benefits of increasingly efficient and healthy schools. This system's level work currently includes Energy and buildings, Resilient and restorative schoolyards, Waste reduction and food capture, and Energy and transportation.

II. Driving Governance:

- California Executive Order B-55-18, 2018
- California Senate Bill 1383, 2016
- SCUSD Carbon Neutral Goals and Guidelines, resolution approved 2023
- SCUSD Facilities Master Plan, approved 2021

III. Budget:

Money for this work will come from:

- General Obligation Bonds
- Routine Restricted Maintenance
- Grants
- Nutrition Services Cafeteria Fund

Board of Education Executive Summary

Facilities Support Services

Earth Day Recognition and Sustainability Update

April 18, 2024



IV. Goals, Objectives, and Measures:

We recognize that the impacts of climate change and other environmental harms are not experienced equally across demographics. It is our goal to provide safe, environmentally adaptable, environmentally sustainable, modern schools and systems for all students, with additional attention in communities harmed by historical inequities.

V. Major Initiatives:

The sustainability department is spearheading the following efforts, broken down into four (4) sustainability pillars:

- Energy and Buildings:
 - Building Electrification
 - Energy efficiency and conservation measures
 - Renewable energy
 - Indoor Air Quality
- Restorative and Resilient Schoolyards:
 - Schoolyard forest pilot program
 - Gardens and outdoor classrooms
 - Nature play
- Waste
 - Food diversion during mealtimes and in kitchens
 - Food sharing and recovery
 - Source reduction
- Transportation
 - Electrification of bus and white fleet
 - Installation of EV charging stations
 - Increasing access to active transportation

VI. Results:

To mitigate and adapt to our changing climate by making our schools and systems healthier and more efficient for all students and staff, while prioritizing benefits to communities impacted by climate change and other environmental harms the most.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

Facilities staff will continue to present and update the Board as projects and policies are implemented.