



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.4

**Meeting Date:** March 15, 2012

**Subject:** Center for Green Schools UTC Green School Fellow

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

**Division:** Capital Asset Management Services

**Recommendation:** Support Green School Fellow's work and provide feedback on Sustainability Vision Statement

**Background/Rationale:**

In the Spring of 2011 the Board was notified that Sacramento City Unified School District was one of two districts in the nation to receive a Center for Green Schools United Technology Corporation Fellow to support green school initiatives for a three year term. The Center for Green Schools Fellowship Program is a unique initiative that provides partner school districts with a dedicated expert who collaborates with district leadership to bring sustainable and environmentally responsible practices into schools.

A green school creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money. Since the fellowship began on June 27, 2011, work has begun in several departments, with leaders at our school sites, inspired parent volunteers and engaged students to help create a more sustainable District. The Fellow is managing many projects throughout the District; including managing Project Green, expanding recycling programs, increasing school gardens, advising green modular retrofits, and connecting with local organizations that support green schools. With support for the Center for Green Schools at the US Green Building Council, the Fellow will help Sacramento City Unified School District reach our sustainability goals outlined in the Sustainability Vision Statement.

**Financial Considerations:**

Fellow salary for 2011-2013 school years funded through Center for Green Schools by United Technology Corporation.

Retrofits, modernization and upgrades funded through Reallocated Measure I Bond funds.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Executive Summary
2. Sustainability Vision Statement

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 15 minutes

**Submitted by:** Farah McDill, Center for Green School Fellow

**Approved by:** Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

# Board of Education Executive Summary

## Capital Asset Management Services

Center for Green Schools Fellow

March 15, 2012



### I. Overview/History of Department or Program

Introduction to Farah McDill: personal and professional information about the Center for Green Schools Fellow.

In an effort to effectively and rapidly transform the environments in which our children learn, The US Green Building Council launched the Center for Green Schools Fellowship program, which began placing full-time sustainability officers in school districts across the country in July 2011. The Green Schools Fellowship Program is a unique initiative providing partner school districts with a dedicated expert who collaborates with district leadership to change the culture of the district from the inside out by providing clear direction, comprehensive training and valuable resources. A green school creates a healthy environment, conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money.

#### Characteristics of a Green School

- Conserves energy and natural resources
- Saves taxpayer money
- Improves indoor air quality
- Removes toxic materials from places where children learn and play
- Employs daylighting strategies and improves classroom acoustics
- Employs sustainable purchasing and green cleaning practices
- Improves environmental literacy in students
- Decreases the burden on municipal water and wastewater treatment
- Encourages waste management efforts to benefit the local community and region
- Conserves fresh drinking water and helps manage stormwater runoff
- Encourages recycling
- Promotes habitat protection
- Reduces demand on local landfills

In the Spring 2011, the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education was notified that the District received one of two Green School Fellows from the Center for Green Schools at the US Green Building Council. Superintendent Raymond announced Project Green at the Theodore Judah Elementary at the April 2011 Earth Day event. Farah McDill began her three year fellowship with the District on June 27, 2011, supporting Superintendent Raymond's vision to Green our schools.

McDill currently manages Sacramento City Unified School District's Project Green, where student-led teams are conducting green school audits. Teams will vie for a portion of the \$5 million reallocated Bond funds to implement recommendations. Along with engaging our

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students in the transition of a sustainable district, McDill works with various departments to develop a District-level green team which supports the grassroots efforts at each school. She is also working to develop District school garden specifications, supported by M&O Supervisors. McDill provides green design guidance for the modular classroom relocation and retrofit projects, along with expansion of the recycling program and green cleaning practices.

There are many departments and individuals across the Sacramento City Unified School District that are leading the way and supporting the vision to be a green school district. Nutrition Services, with support from the Healthy Foods Task Force, has overhauled the meal programs to provide healthy locally sources food. The Transportation Department has installed particulate traps on all school busses and is changing all equipment to run on 5% bio-diesel. The Capital Assets Management Service Department is supporting the greening of our schools, while also evaluating general maintenance practices.

### II. Driving Governance:

Board Policy 3511 Grimes-Kennedy Green and Grid Neutral Model Schools Policy Initiative

### III. Budget:

\$5 million of reallocated bond funds to implement student recommended green school projects. Project funding to be allocated by a panel of local community green schools professionals.

### IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

Sustainability, as a goal, is a broad and complicated matter that must be broken down into manageable components and subsequently broken down further into tactical initiatives. As a first step, Sacramento City Unified School District has identified the following key components as being instrumental to achieving sustainability:

- Encourage students, faculty, staff and the community to be active partners in the development and implementation of District sustainability initiatives.
- Encourage partnership opportunities with the greater Sacramento community on sustainability initiatives.
- Develop a sustainability stewardship program that educates, promotes participation, and rewards the efforts and accomplishments of deserving participants.
- Pursue a comprehensive waste stream management program focused on source reduction and landfill diversion.
- Establish procurement policies and practices that don't rely exclusively on initial cost, but rather take into account other factors such as total cost of ownership (life cycle

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costing) and environmental impact (Energy Star, grown locally, etc.). Note that any procurement policy adopted must be consistent with documented State or other regulatory agency guidelines.

- Pursue a transportation plan that encourages and supports efficient forms of transportation for students, faculty, and staff including but not limited to carpooling, after school activities and regular bus routes.
- At a minimum, Sacramento City Unified School District will adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal regulations regarding chemical procurement, storage, use, and disposition, including, but not limited to those enforced by the Federal and California Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA).
- Pursue dining practices that minimize waste, take advantage of locally grown produce and explore composting and organic gardening opportunities.
- Develop a comprehensive utility management program (electricity, natural gas, water) that maximizes conservation of natural resources, ensures optimal mechanical efficiency, and utilizes inexpensive available sources to fund conservation projects.
- Incorporate "green" thinking into all new projects and renovations that encourage renewable energy sources, maintenance free components, maximum insulating efficiency, use of recycled materials, and take advantage of environmental factors that help conservation efforts.
- Develop meaningful performance metrics that help benchmark, monitor, and track sustainability objectives and accomplishments.
- Provide opportunities for identified faculty, staff and student sustainability leaders to learn about sustainability best practices.
- Encourage faculty to incorporate sustainability principles into their academic disciplines and across disciplines. Incorporate sustainability principles into all areas of student life.

### V. Major Initiatives:

- Implementation of student Project Green recommendations
- Expand a comprehensive recycling program
- Partner with local organization to analyze indoor air quality in classrooms across the District
- Expand outdoor education by increasing the number of school gardens and expanding schoolyard natural habitats

### VI. Results:

- The District-level Green Team has held two meetings, October 12, 2011 and January 18, 2012, and will continue to meet quarterly.

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- Kim Williams, a Washington Elementary teacher, was selected to represent the USGBC on an expedition to Antarctica with the 2041 Foundation, as “The Coolest Teacher in the World”.
- Theodore Judah Elementary was nominated to the California Department of Education Green Ribbon School Program.
- Seventeen student-led school teams will present Green School recommendations at the April Project Green event.

#### VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Across the District, at every level, employees are extremely busy. It is hard to find time to educate in order to create change. McDill appreciates the time staff has given thus far, however access to staff has been very challenging.
- Project Green Event, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Connect with local hospitals regarding indoor air quality analysis
- Supply more information to school sites and District staff about recycling program



### **Introduction:**

The Sacramento City Unified School District Board-adopted Strategic Plan promises the community that our students will “graduate as globally competitive life-long learners, prepared to succeed in a career and higher education institution of their choice to secure gainful employment and contribute to society.”

While preparing students for the 21st century, Sacramento City Unified School District is also working to ensure that the world students inherit is clean, healthy and safe. The heart of this work is Project Green, a grassroots, green school movement that is student-centered.

One of the most challenging issues the global community faces is to create a sustainable culture that promotes on-going prosperity without sacrificing the long-term well-being of our planet for future generations. In order to meet the economic needs of an expanding global community with limited resources, society must efficiently use existing and alternative resources while focusing on the development of new technologies that allow for greater efficiency in the production and consumption of goods and services that the global economy demands. As a member of the pre K-12 education community, Sacramento City Unified School District is in a position to instill a culture of sustainability to a steady stream of society’s future leaders; a culture that emphasizes the importance of being responsible environmental stewards. By building a foundation of sustainability principles that will guide the school district’s programs, and by incorporating those principles and programs into the daily lives of students, faculty and staff, Sacramento City Unified School District can make a difference now that will transcend the future.

The purpose of this vision statement is to establish a common understanding of what defines Sacramento City Unified School District’s sustainability goals and objectives. Sacramento City Unified School District believes sustainability is a commitment to using resources efficiently and in a manner that ensures their continued availability. At the same time, however, Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes its responsibility to consider the financial implications of each project or program before recommendation for implementation.

### **Goals & Objectives:**

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