

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of State Administrator

April 30, 2008

Legislative File

File ID No.: 08-0822

Introduction Date: 04/30/08

Enactment No.: _____

Enactment Date: _____

By: _____

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Vincent Matthews, State Administrator (Superintendent of Schools)
Kirsten Vital, Chief of Community Accountability
Timothy White, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Planning & Management

SUBJECT: Temporary Location and Facilities Review Analysis for Life Academy

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval by Board of Education of Resolution No. 0708-0190 for the temporary relocation of Life Academy for the 2008-2009 School Year to [name/location of District, or other facility, determined by Board of Education], for a facilities review analysis of whether Life Academy complies with the Field Act, or if not, can be made compliant with the Field Act and related activities.

DISCUSSION

In late 2007, Life Academy began the process of applying for a Career Technology grant for a new Industrial Arts Lab Facilities. In order to determine the feasibility of obtaining a grant at the Life Academy site, the Legal Department was asked in January 2008 to render an opinion regarding the Facility's general compliance the Field Act. Compliance is required by the Division of State Architect ("DSA"). DSA is the jurisdictional authority within California that oversees the construction of public schools. The Field Act establishes minimum structural standards for the design and construction of K-12 school buildings. Under the Field Act, school buildings are required to be built to more stringent seismic safety requirements than standard buildings, and are subject to review by the DSA, as well as rigorous inspections throughout the construction process.

The District has determined that there is a strong probability that the facility current housing Life Academy (2111 International Boulevard) does not comply with the "Field Act" because the facility was originally built as a commercial structure and not as a school building. The Life Academy building was constructed in the 1960's as the Oakland headquarters of the Red Cross.

Because it is likely that the Life Academy facility does not comply with the Field Act, staff recommends that Life Academy be temporarily moved to another location for the 2008-2009 school year. On April 2, 2008, a meeting was held with the Life Academy community to describe the current situation and possible alternatives. Subsequent to this meeting, Life Academy families were offered the opportunity to provide input on the best alternative temporary location for Life Academy in the event that relocation for the 2008-2009 school year was necessary.

Based on input from the Life Academy community and a facility analysis of available space that would meet Life Academy's needs, staff recommends that Life Academy be moved to a District facility determined by the Board of Education.

During the 2008-2009 school year, a long-term plan for Life Academy's location will be created through a significant process of community engagement. This process shall include:

- The evaluation of the long-term facilities needs;

- Evaluation of the specific shortcomings around potential Field Act non-compliance of the 2111 International Boulevard building;
- Evaluation of the feasibility of and cost estimate for retro-fitting the current location to meet Field Act requirements;
- Evaluation of the feasibility of constructing a new school in the neighborhood of 2111 International Boulevard; and
- Review of other possible long-term locations for Life Academy, in the event that the 2111 International Boulevard building cannot be retro-fitted and/or the cost of retro-fitting for compliance with the Field Act is prohibitive.

BUDGET IMPACT

- The cost of temporarily moving Life Academy to another District facility will be determined.
- The cost of conducting a review of Field Act non-compliance and possible retrofitting analysis will be approximately \$150,000 and may take up to 18 months, though the District will make every endeavor to have the analysis completed prior to that time.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval by Board of Education of Resolution No. 0708-0190 for the temporary relocation of Life Academy for the 2008-2009 School Year to [name/location of District, or other facility, determined by Board of Education], for a facilities review analysis of whether Life Academy complies with the Field Act, or if not, can be made compliant with the Field Act and related activities.

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**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Life Academy - Temporary Location and Facilities Review Analysis

Resolution 0708-0190

WHEREAS, the Oakland Unified School District is first and foremost responsible for the safety of all students being educated within district schools; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong probability that the building currently being occupied by Life Academy, located at 2111 International Boulevard, does not comply with Field Act; and

WHEREAS, the review of Field Act compliance and possible structural plans for retrofitting the facility is estimated to may take up to 18 months,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Life Academy shall be temporarily located [name/location of District, or other facility, determined by Board of Education] for the 2008-2009 school year or until further determination by the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that District shall immediately contract with a structural engineer to determine: (i) the specific short comings around Field Act non-compliance of the 2111 International Boulevard building, (ii) feasibility of retro-fitting 2111 International Boulevard for Field Act Compliance and (iii) the cost and time estimate for retro-fitting 2111 International Boulevard for Field Act Compliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's final decision about the long-term placement of Life Academy shall be made only after a significant process of community engagement. This process shall include:

- The evaluation of the long-term facilities needs;
- Evaluation of the specific shortcomings around potential Field Act non-compliance of the 2111 International Boulevard building;
- Evaluation of the feasibility of and cost estimate for retro-fitting the current location to meet Field Act requirements;
- Evaluation of the feasibility of constructing a new school in the neighborhood of 2111 International Boulevard; and
- Review of other possible long-term locations for Life Academy, in the event that the 2111 International Boulevard building cannot be retro-fitted and/or the cost of retro-fitting for compliance with the Field Act is prohibitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's final decision about the long-term placement of Life Academy shall be made by [time/date to be inserted as determined by the Board of Education].

Passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted, at a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District held on April 30, 2009.

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary, Board of Education