

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Facilities

BP 7113

Vision and Goals for General Obligation Bond Program

Rationale

The District has benefitted for decades from the generosity of Oakland voters toward District school facilities. While OUSD has created many beautiful buildings for students, the bond program has also been criticized for inefficient use of resources and delays and cost overruns. As a result, there have been calls for the Board of Education to exercise stronger oversight of OUSD's bond program.

This policy is intended to support the Board in providing stronger oversight by providing clear direction to the Superintendent on the vision and goals of the Board with respect to the use of OUSD's bond funds.

Additionally, this policy is intended to complement existing Board Policies pertaining to the District's bond program.

(cf. 7112 - General Obligation Bond Prioritization)

The OUSD Board of Education prioritizes the following uses for bond funds in the following order:

Educational Uses

As a government entity tasked with student success and achievement, the Board places a higher priority on educational purposes rather than other allowable uses of bond dollars. While recognizing that OUSD employees need safe and functional workspaces, the Board believes that the District should first pursue other options to house staff, including (but not limited to) renovating existing OUSD buildings, work-from-home options, and consolidation of existing staff workspaces prior to considering the use of bond dollars to build new office spaces for staff. Similarly, the Board believes that the District should first pursue other options to store District equipment, materials, and supplies.

Maximize the Number of School Upgrades

The Board is committed to completing all the projects listed on the bond measure project list, but also seeks to be able to make improvements at the largest feasible number of schools.

Workforce Development

The Board of Education supports the use of bond funds to develop Oakland's future workforce, including the expansion of apprenticeship programs that train students and the continued use of local hire requirements on projects and local businesses on bond projects.

(cf. 7115 - Capital Program / Construction Related Local, Small Local and Small Local Resident Business Enterprise Program)

(cf. 7116 - Workforce Development - Establishment of Construction and Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program)

School Improvement in Low-Income Neighborhoods

The Board seeks to ensure that schools in low-income neighborhoods in the District are prioritized for the use of bond funds in order to support school improvement efforts in such neighborhoods that need more quality school facilities.

Environmental Stewardship

OUSD is a leader in green building standards and the Board seeks to continue to lead the way among Bay Area school districts. The Board encourages the Superintendent and her team to continue the work to build green and create safe and environmentally sustainable learning spaces for students using our bond dollars.

(cf. 7110.1 - Development of Living Schoolyards)

Strengthening Oversight of Our Bond Program

The Board has taken steps to enhance the oversight role of the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee ("CBOC") and values its expertise as a support to the Board in overseeing District bond dollars and the District's bond program. Specifically, the Board recognizes a need to better scope out projects, avoid unnecessary expenses so that the District can fund and complete more projects, better monitor projects once begun to anticipate problems and make adjustments and to ensure that OUSD's program management is strong. The Board values the assistance of the CBOC with monitoring these aspects of the District's bond program.

Implementation

This policy shall go into effect on the date it is adopted by the Board and shall be used in producing spending plans for Measure Y and any future OUSD bond measures.

(cf. 3470 - Debt Issuance and Management Policy)

2/24/21