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**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Community Schools, Thriving Students

# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Measures B, J, and Y Independent Citizens' School Facilities Bond Oversight Committee

**From** Denise Saddler, Ed. D., Interim Superintendent  
Preston Thomas, Chief Systems & Services Officer  
Pranita Ranbhise, Director, Facilities Planning & Management

**Meeting Date** December 8, 2025

**Subject** Progress Updates - Resolution No. 2425-0132 Declaring an Emergency And Authorizing District Staff to Enter Into Contracts for Emergency Construction Services for the Repair of Dangerous Conditions at Various Sites Via Demolition of Existing Structures

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**Ask of the Committee** This item provides an update for discussion. No action is needed at this time.

**Background** On June 25, 2025, the Board approved Resolution No. 2425-0132 in response to escalating health and safety concerns at four vacant District-owned sites:

- Hillside Academy
- Ralph J. Bunche Academy
- Paul Robeson Administration Building
- Ethel Moore Memorial Building

These facilities were structurally unsound, lacked functioning fire and life-safety systems, and had become sites of repeated trespassing, vandalism, and dangerous activity, including major fires in 2024 and 2025. Summer months historically increase activity at these sites, heightening the risk of further fires, injuries, and environmental hazards.

**Discussion** This presentation provides an update on the progress made under the emergency resolution passed by the Board to address several vacant and unsafe district-owned properties. Since the Board's action earlier this summer on June 25, 2025, the Facilities and Operations team has moved quickly to prioritize safety, secure hazardous sites, and begin necessary demolition and/or abatement work on the three properties identified within the resolution. This has included active coordination with city agencies, environmental consultants, contractors, and site-based teams.

**Hillside at Castlemont** – Demolition fully completed ahead of the 2025-26 school year. All structures and debris have been removed, eliminating significant safety hazards adjacent to two active school campuses.

**Ralph J. Bunche Academy** – Demolition mobilization underway. Based on the age of the facility, abatement was required on one portable, requiring a specialized remediation plan that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Full demolition is expected within 3–4 weeks.

**Ethel Moore Building (1025 2nd Ave. site)** – Fire-damaged and structurally unsafe. The building has been red-tagged by the Fire Department. Interim stabilization measures (securing lower levels, sealing entry points, removing fire escape) are underway while structural assessments continue to inform rehabilitation vs. demolition decision.

**Paul Robeson Building (1025 2nd Ave.)** – Encampment engagement and voluntary relocation efforts reduced occupants from over 20 to 8–9 individuals. Site stabilization and formal notices issued; legal action pending. Interior conditions remain severely compromised, with extensive vandalism, debris, and safety hazards.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Board allocated \$4 million from Measure Y to initiate environmental assessments, preliminary site work, and demolition, with additional funding (\$7.23 million) redirected from Phase 3 Solar Projects to fully fund the \$11.23 million demolition program. With the current pace and contracts, the projects are coming significantly under budget.

**Attachment(s)**

Presentation - Updates to Emergency Resolution: Emergency Construction Services for the Repair of Dangerous Conditions.

# **Asset Management**

## **Updates to Emergency Resolution: Emergency Construction Services for the Repair of Dangerous Conditions**

Measures B, J, and Y Independent Citizens' School  
Facilities Bond Oversight Committee  
September 23, 2025



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

## Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

## Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



# Agenda

1. Provide progress report on emergency stabilization and demolition projects authorized June 25, 2025
2. Highlight completed work, in-progress activities, and challenges
3. Outline next steps and continued Board actions needed

# Proposed Board Guiding Principles

Meet our enrollment and programmatic needs

- Plan and design spaces to support Oakland's long term enrollment trends and educational programs needs..
- Ensure spaces can easily adapt to changing needs and uses.
- Incorporate multipurpose, reconfigurable spaces

Inclusive and transparent planning

- Ensure the needs of special populations are considered in all planning phases.
- Maintain a transparent process for all asset management decisions, keeping community informed and engaged

Data-driven decisions and understanding existing conditions

- Use data to guide space planning and allocation, updating regularly for current and future needs.
- Increase knowledge of current facilities and their conditions to better plan improvements and changes

Public good through community engagement

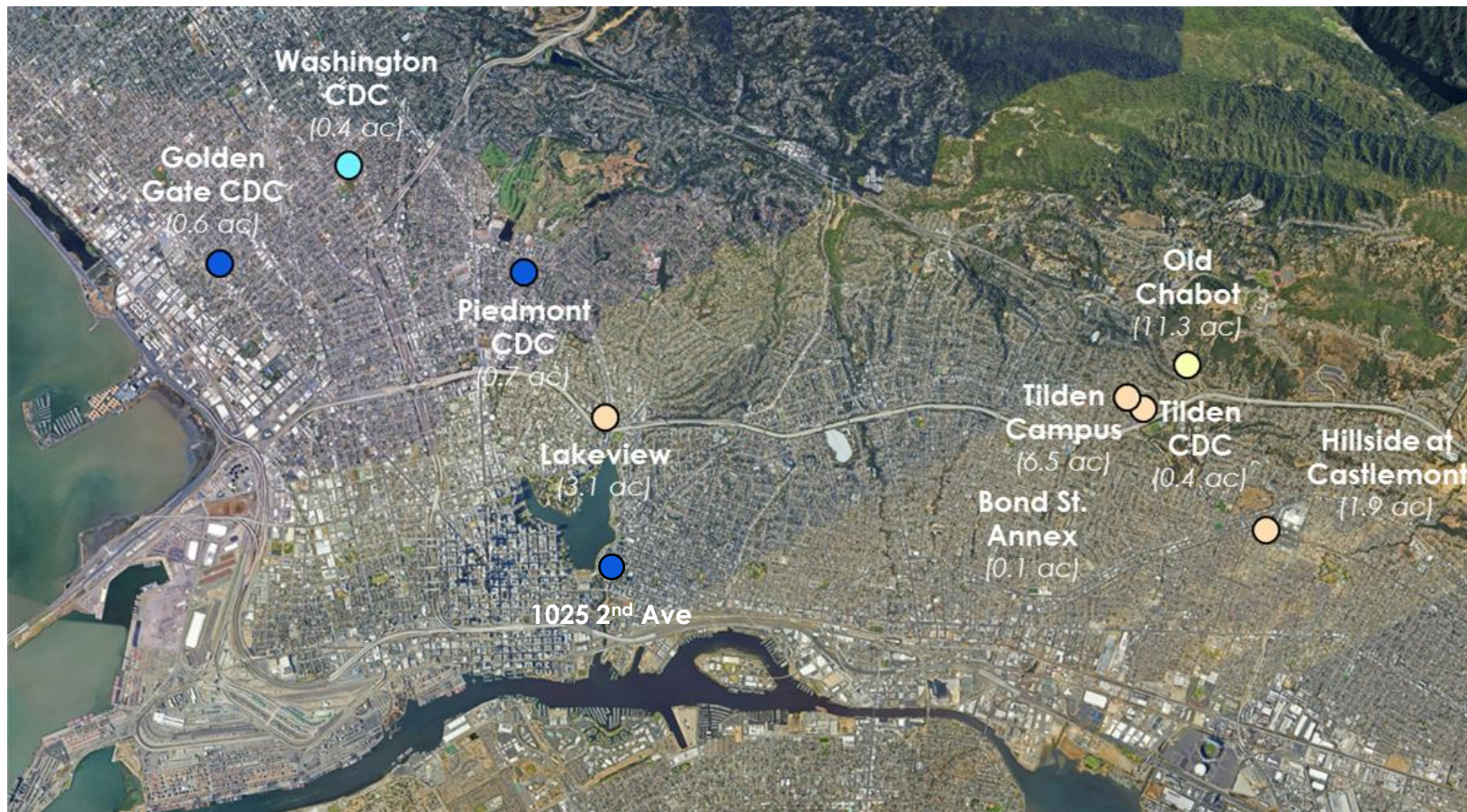
- Use public lands to benefit the community or the districts mission and vision, prioritizing spaces that serve educational and social needs.
- Actively involve the community developing needs assessment that informs our decision-making processes

Collaboration with public agencies

- Work closely with the City of Oakland and other public agencies to address shared property issues and streamline processes.
- Seek collaborative solutions for permit approvals and other bureaucratic challenges

# OUSD Vacant, Leased, or Underutilized Sites

● Vacant ● District Use ● Leased ● Pre/TK Expansion



# Introductions & Purpose

- As a follow-up to the friendly amendment on Amendment No. 3, Measure Y Spending Plan - October 2024 - Facilities Planning and Management, March 12, 2025
- Address urgent safety, legal, and cost concerns at four vacant sites:
  - 1025 2nd Ave (Paul Robeson & Ethel Moore)
  - Edward Shands - 2455 Church St.
  - Ralph Bunche - 1240 18th St.
  - Hillside at Castlemont- 2369 84th Ave.
- **Ongoing issues:** encampments, fire risks, vandalism, theft, and neighborhood complaints
  - Current security measures (fencing, patrols) have proven ineffective

# Introductions & Purpose

- Resolution No. 2425-0132 authorized demolition of unsafe structures at:
  - Hillside Campus
  - Ralph J. Bunche Academy
  - 1025 2nd Ave (Ethel Moore & Paul Robeson buildings)
- **Goal:** Mitigate hazardous conditions, improve safety, reduce liability
- Emergency contracting allowed under Public Contract Code § 22050

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| Enactment Date                                  | 6/25/2025 er |



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Community Schools, Thinking Students*

## Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Preston Thomas, Chief Systems and Services Officer  
Pranita Ranbise, Director of Facilities and Planning **ADOPTED, AS AMENDED**

**Meeting Date** June 25, 2025

**Subject** Resolution No. 2425-0132 Declaring an Emergency And Authorizing District Staff to Enter Into Contracts for Emergency Construction Services for the Repair of Dangerous Conditions at Various Sites Via Demolition of Existing Structures.

**Ask of the Board** Approval by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2425-0132, which will declare an emergency pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22050 and authorize District staff to enter into one or more contracts for demolition and related construction services without competitive bidding in order to abate hazardous conditions at several vacant District-owned sites.

**Background** The District owns several abandoned and unoccupied facilities, including the Paul Robeson Administration Building, Ethel Moore Memorial Building, Ralph J. Bunche Academy, and Hillside Academy (all as more specifically defined in Exhibit A to the Resolution and referred to herein as the "Sites"). These sites are structurally unsound, are not ADA compliant, and have no functioning electricity, fire alarms, or fire suppression systems.

Despite efforts to secure and maintain the sites through fencing, security patrols, and other measures, these Sites have seen a recent increase in people trespassing on these sites. These unauthorized entries and encampments create ongoing safety risks for the people inside the sites, the community, and the District's property.

Two of these buildings were already set on fire in 2024, causing extensive damage and further compromising the safety of the structures. In April 2024, a report to the District's Facilities Committee indicated ongoing trespassing and illegal activity occurring at the Sites despite the District's efforts to secure them. This increase in illegal activity, coupled with the absence of functioning fire alarm or fire suppression systems, has significantly increased the risk of future fires and increased the threat to public health and safety. Future fires could ignite and spread rapidly, placing not only District property at risk but also nearby neighborhoods and first responders.

It is likely that there will be an increase in access to these sites in the summer months, thereby increasing the risks posed by the Sites. The only practical way to repair these



# Progress Updates

# Hillside at Castlemont (Partial): 2369 84th Ave

- **Facility age:** 23 years
- **Area:** 116,290 SF (1.9 acres)
- **General Plan:** Institutional
- **Year closed:** 2014
- **Context:** This portion of the Castlemont campus served as Hillside Academy until 2014 and shortly served as the Rudsdale Newcomer campus until the end of the SY 2020-21. This portion of the campus is made up of 6 portables.



# Hillside at Castlemont (Partial): Previous Conditions



April 2024



November 2024 - OAK 311

Trash and abandoned vehicles can be seen collecting along the street in front of the former Hillside Academy. Overgrown grass and weeds. Damage to the exterior portable walls.

# Hillside at Castlemont (Partial): Previous Conditions



March 2025



All electrical lines, telephone, intrusion, and alarm system wiring have been removed, and most related equipment has been removed or damaged. Interior walls have been compromised, allowing access to every portable from the inside (classroom to classroom). Ceiling tiles and other items have been removed and destroyed throughout the portables.

# Current Progress: Hillside Campus Demolition (Complete)

## Prioritization Rationale

- Simplest scope and site conditions allowed for rapid execution on a compressed timeline
- Proximity to a large student population made addressing safety hazards urgent

## Completion Highlights

- All structures demolished; debris fully removed as August 1, 2025
- Adjacent to Castlemont High School & Leadership Public Schools – enhanced safety for 1,000+ students
- Finished ahead of school start

## Impact

- Eliminates long-standing safety hazards on campus
- Removes blighted, vandalized structures and associated hazards



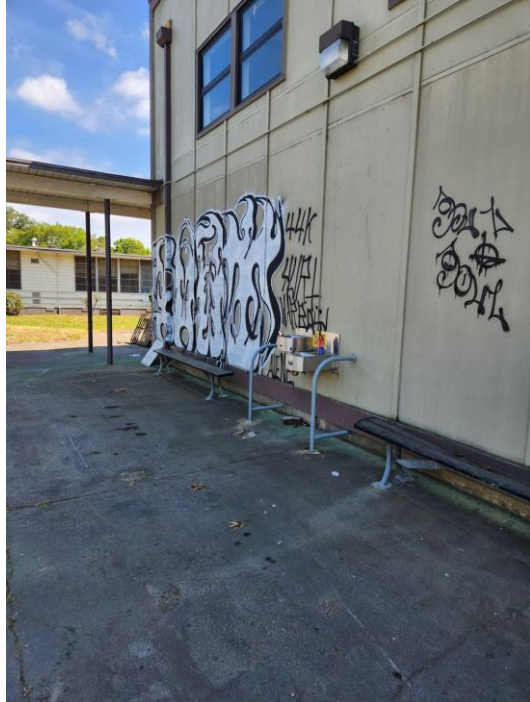
Initial Demolition and Separating Metals, Cement for Recycling (Complete)

# Ralph J. Bunche Academy: 1240 18th St, Oakland, CA 94607

- **Facility age:** 46 years
- **Area:** 135,424 SF (3.11 acres)
- **General Plan (Zoning):** Institutional
- **Year closed:** 2020
- **Reason:** In April 2021, The Board of Education passed Resolution Number [2021-0045](#), which ratified the decision to temporarily locate Bunche Academy at the West Oakland Middle school (WOMS) campus, located at 991 14th Street, and authorized keeping Bunche Academy at the WOMS campus through the end of the SY 2023-24.



# Ralph J. Bunche Academy - Previous Conditions



Graffiti now covers the buildings. The site is partly being used as storage.

# Ralph J. Bunche Academy: Previous Conditions



April 2025 - Photos from OAK 311

# Progress: Ralph J. Bunche Campus Demolition

## *(In Progress)*

### Completion Highlights

- Demolition activities underway
- Initial focus on abatement of asbestos, loose lead paint, and burned debris from fires disposed as hazardous materials
- Work follows all California Health & Safety Code and California Code Regulations requirements
- Based on age of the facility, abatement was required on one portable, requiring a specialized remediation plan that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### Next Steps

- Abatement completed first, followed by full demolition
- Total project duration estimated at 3–4 weeks

### Impact

- Progress toward removing unsafe property and reducing community risk
- Removes blighted, vandalized structures and associated hazards



Hazmat Abatement and Beginning Demolition of the former Ralph Bunche Buildings

# Former Administrative Building: 1025 2nd Ave, Oakland, CA 94606

- **Alternate Name(s):** Paul Robeson Building and Ethel Moore Annex
- **Age:** 100+ years
- **Area:** 65,484 SF (1.5 acres)
- **General Plan (Zoning):** Urban Residential
- **Year Closed:** 2013
- **Context:** The property had been used, in whole or in part, for the main office of the District prior to the flood in January 2013, at which point the buildings stopped being used for District purposes.



#### Sources:

1. OUSD Facilities Master Plan 2020, April 2020.
2. California Department of General Services, California Construction Cost Index.

# Former Administrative Building: Previous Conditions



November 2024 - OAK 311



February 2025 - OAK 311

# Ethel Moore: Current Conditions

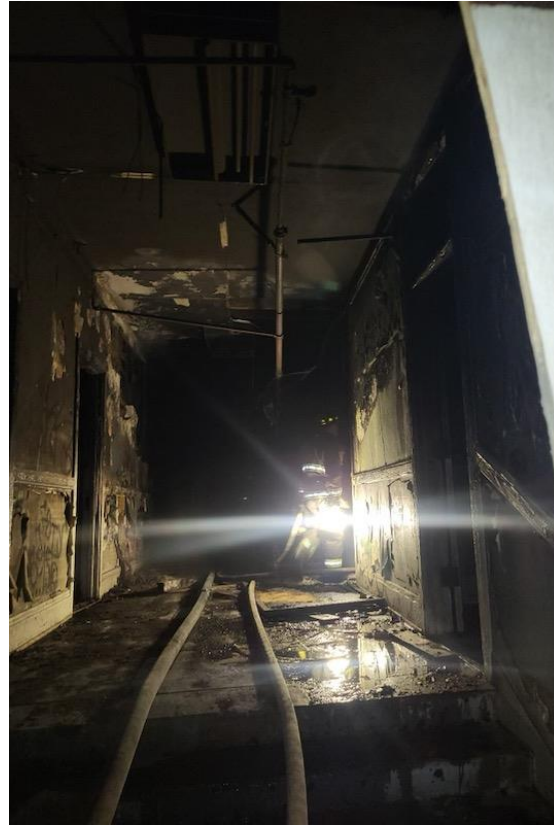


February 2025 - Front of building  
facing Dewey

July 2024 - Morning after encampment fire, rear of  
building



# Former Administrative Building: Current Conditions



July 2024 - Interior of building after fire

# Progress: Ethel Moore Building (1025 2nd Ave) Demolition *(In Progress)*

## Current Condition

- Sustained severe fire damage earlier this year; structural reports confirm extensive internal infrastructure loss
- Officially red-tagged by the fire department—building legally uninhabitable and unsafe to enter
- Assessment teams reported near-collapse risk on upper floors

## Immediate Safety Actions

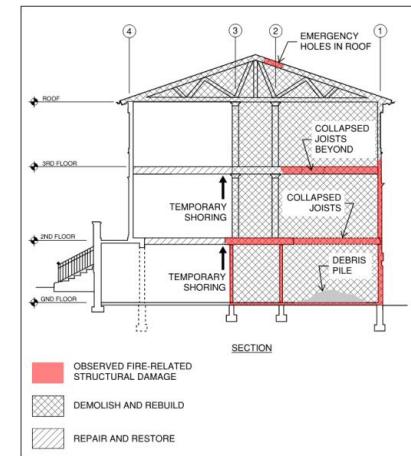
- Sealing lower-level entry points with metal and stucco
- Removing fire escape to prevent unauthorized access
- Coordinating with city agencies to ensure compliance with safety protocols

## Next Steps

- Complete structural soundness assessment
- Determine need for CEQA environmental review if demolition is pursued, given historical designation

## Impact

- Protects public and first responders from unsafe conditions
- Positions District to make informed decision on rehabilitation vs. demolition



Fire damage and repair replacement recommendations

(Section)

## **Successes**

- Achieved key milestones within identified timeframes
- Delivered work significantly under budget
- Maintained strong coordination across multiple agencies

## **Challenges**

- Hazardous materials and unstable structures
- Active encampments with slow external response
- Historical designations creating potential CEQA review requirements
- Ongoing safety risks for staff and contractors

## **Next Steps**

- Continue demolition at Bunche and stabilization at 1025 2nd Ave
- Finalize contracts for remaining emergency work
- Sustain multi-agency coordination for encampment management
- Maintain on-site security services

# THANK YOU

## Any Questions?

Additionally, for more information, please reach out:

OUSD Facilities Planning & Management

Preston Thomas, Chief of Systems & Services

Pranita Ranbhise, Executive Director of Planning

Mary Ledezma, Project Manager

# Appendix

# Site History, Context, and Current Conditions

## History & Context

- **1025 2nd Ave:** Flooded in 2013, 2 alarm fire in 2024, red tagged by OFD
  - Ethel Moore: Also damaged in the 2024 fire, unsafe, mold/lead, not ADA compliant
- **Edward Shands:** Closed 2010, long-term ground lease signed in 2021
  - Under the management of Eagle Environmental Construction & Development
- **Ralph Bunche:** Facility was not suitable for students due to ongoing pest infestation, dry rot, access compliance concerns, alarm deficiencies, lead paint, and trace amounts of lead in soil, and many of the systems—including mechanical, plumbing, sewer, and electrical—are also at their end-of-life and need to be replaced
- **Hillside:** Extensive theft of safety infrastructure, electrical and vandalism (\$500K to restore)

## Current Conditions

- Abandoned, unsafe, attract illegal activity
- Security, fencing and ongoing maintenance is ineffective
- Repeated damage, trespassing, and costly upkeep
- Blight and public safety hazard