long beach unified school district

BUILDING ON SUCCESS - SCHOOLS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

MEASURE K BOND PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Last Modified: October 21, 2009

EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL - THEMATIC SCHOOL #1

PROJECT TEAM:

Architect
LPA Inc.
Preconstruction Services
Sundt Construction Inc.

OVERVIEW

ECATS (Early College Academic and Technical School) is the first of several thematic high schools listed as priorities in the Facility Master Plan. This thematic high school will provide an innovative program introducing 9th – 12th grade students to academic and technical experiences provided by Long Beach Unified School District, Regional Occupational Program, Long Beach City College and Cal State University Long Beach coursework and partnerships with local business and industry. Curriculum pathways at this thematic high school include Health/Medical, Law Enforcement/Legal Services/Forensics and Engineering.

LBUSD VISION:

EVERY STUDENT A RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN IN A DIVERSE AND COMPETITIVE WORLD.

The site identified in the Facility Master Plan for this thematic high school is the current Cecil B. DeMille Middle School. The current buildings at the 24-acre Cecil B. DeMille Middle School site would be demolished and replaced with new buildings, parking and recreation areas. A compact and efficient campus layout is proposed to minimize site impact, and to create an intimate atmosphere focused on career technical academics. This new high school will have 43 classrooms in seven buildings for a proposed school enrollment of 1,080 students. The buildings are oriented around an internal campus promenade referred to as “Main Street”, which will act as the school’s main circulation corridor. There is an administration building (with a library on the second floor), a science building, two multi-story classroom buildings, a gymnasium, lecture hall and food services facility. Classes will have hi-tech commercial, industrial, and computer equipment, and students will work in spaces outfitted with flexible furniture, allowing them to develop skills demanded by today’s rapidly evolving and technical workplace. The main entrance will continue to be along Parkcrest Street but will be closer to Los Coyotes Diagonal.

The school district prepared the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) report, which will allow the Board of Education to determine the viability of locating the new school at DeMille. The complete report has been posted for public review and comment.

LOCATION:

At the existing Cecil B. DeMille Middle School at 7025 E. Parkcrest Street in Long Beach.

PROJECT VALUE:

- Meets the school district's *Academic and Career Success for all Students Initiative* with the focus of the curriculum as career technical education in conjunction with college readiness.
- Is a smaller high school compared to 4,000-plus students at our existing high schools.
- Is designed to be ecologically-friendly, following guidelines for the national CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) program, increasing energy and resource efficiency and reducing peak electric loads.
- Incorporates specialized classroom labs and a new lecture hall into the new school design.
- Provides appropriate student and visitor parking spaces along with a student drop-off area. Has separate bus drop-off and faculty parking areas.
- Incorporates, through collaboration with the City of Long Beach, a signal modification at the intersection of Los Coyotes Diagonal and Parkcrest Street for improved traffic circulation, as well as public and student safety.
- Will prepare students for high-demand, high-paying careers and is likely to have a waiting list for enrollment.
- Modern attractive design and high-demand program will be a neighborhood asset.

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET:

$75,000,000 (estimated)

FUNDING SOURCES:

Measure A
Measure K
School Facility Program (SFP) Modernization

SCHEDULE:

The Division of the State Architect's Office (DSA) is currently reviewing design plans.
Estimated Construction Start - Summer 2010.
Estimated Opening - Fall 2012.

BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE/SIZE:

Approximately 150,000 square feet

ECO-FRIENDLY FEATURES:

The LBUSD is committed to incorporating environmentally sound practices within its projects. Key sustainable components of this project include:

- Reclaimed water for campus irrigation.
- High-efficiency plumbing fixtures to conserve water.
- Operable windows to conserve energy and take advantage of mild-weather days.
- High-efficiency light fixtures equipped with sensors to maximize natural light.
- Recycled, low- and no-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) materials specified.
- Recycling of 70% of construction and demolition debris.
- Designed to be Photovoltaic (PV)-ready (solar power capable).
- Storm water allowed to percolate into the playfields for groundwater regeneration and cleansing instead of directly entering the public storm drain system.
- Buildings oriented to take advantage of northern daylight.
- High-efficiency building insulation to reduce heating and cooling demands.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is ECATS?

ECATS stands for Early College Academic Technical School and is the first new thematic high school being planned as a result of the needs outlined in the District's Facility Master Plan approved by the Board of Educaton in January 2008 (also known as the School Building Improvement Plan).

What is a thematic high school?

A thematic high school provides an academically focused program that allows students to engage in specific, themed courses of study that provides opportunities for both college and career readiness.

Why is ECATS needed?

As part of the feedback the District received in the development of the Facility Master Plan, stakeholders acknowledged that high schools are large in enrollment (with over 4,000 students on a single high school campus) and wanted smaller high schools to relieve overcrowding. The development of other small high schools is planned throughout the District.

In 2007, a Planning Advisory Committee was formed to develop the concept for ECATS; and in September 2007, the Board of Education approved the District's *Academic and Career Success For All Students Initiative*. This new school supports the Board's initiative as well as the Seamless Education partnership with Long Beach City College and Cal State University Long Beach to expand career education and technically focused programs that provide opportunities for both college and career readiness for students.

What are some of the design features of the project?

The buildings are located along a main corridor to create a "Main Street" on the campus. The project has been designed in consideration of CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) guidelines. By incorporating these design features, buildings are energy and resource efficient, healthy, comfortable, well lit, and contain appropriate amenities for a high-quality education. There is improved on-site drainage, more on-site parking, separate drop-off areas, and circulation improvements which create safer paths of travel for both students and vehicles.

How is the project addressing community concerns?

The buildings are set back from the street and have been moved to the north of the property to reduce impact along the street. Parking has been increased on-site and improved student and bus drop-offs have been planned. The District is funding a signal modification to improve the current traffic circulation and has incorporated this as a design feature of the project. Open space will be placed between the neighborhood and the new high school, and the existing canopy of trees are designed to remain, which will maintain the site's character.

How will this new school impact the community?

The District is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to study potential impacts associated with a project. Following the studies for this new school, a mitigated negative declaration report has been prepared and is currently available for public review and comment. A mitigated negative declaration report means that a project does not result in any significant environmental impacts that cannot be eliminated or reduced below significant levels through its design and construction. Appropriate construction mitigation measures will be followed to ensure public and worker safety.

How will this project affect traffic?

A Traffic Impact Analysis has concluded that the vehicular circulation will not increase as a result of converting the site from a middle school to a high school. Visitor parking, student parking and bus drop-off areas have been relocated closer to Los Coyotes Diagonal so that vehicles do not need to travel further east on Parkcrest, thus reducing the impact to the surrounding neighborhood. In coordination with the City of Long Beach, the left southbound lane of Los Coyotes Diagonal will become a left turn lane, which will be signalized to reduce congestion and improve public and student safety.

Who has the authority to approve the project?

The Board of Education.

When is ECATS anticipated to open?

The District estimates that the new school would open Fall of 2012. The schedule is tentative and subject to change due to outside agency reviews and approvals.

For more information, please go to
www.lbschools.net<http://www.lbschools.net>
and click on Measure K Bond Program in the A-Z index.