NOTES

The meeting began at 2:01 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Scott Schmerelson, Chairperson, announced that only Dr. Richard Vladovic and Dr. George Mckenna will be attending this Committee due to a restructure of all committees.

Mr. Schmerelson provided a brief overview of the items at the previous meeting and summarized the topics to be discussed at this meeting: Modified Consent Decree (MCD) Requirements: Making Schools, Services, Programs and Activities Accessible to special education children, Update on Barrier Removal Projects, and Report on 2016-2017 Opening of School and Preparations for 2017-2018 School Opening. He introduced Ms. Beth Kauffman, Special Education Division, who briefly highlighted the topics to be presented at this meeting.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: MODIFIED CONSENT DECREED REQUIREMENTS (MCD): MAKING SCHOOLS, SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE

Ms. Kauffman introduced Ms. Deneen Cox, Associate General Counsel. Ms. Cox noted that this presentation is a continuation of the previous Special Ed Ad Hoc committee discussion regarding the Modified Consent Decree (MCD) 18 Performance Outcomes designed to make District schools, programs, and activities accessible to students with disabilities. Ms. Cox noted that the District has met 17 of the 18 MCD outcomes; Outcome 13, which addresses service delivery, remains unmet. In addition, she said there are compliance requirements pertaining to meeting the IDEA and ADA related to facilities and programs accessibility. Mr. Hovatter will provide an overview of these requirements later in the meeting.

Ms. Cox discussed a summary of the MCD requirements contained in Sections 10, 11, and 17. She said that the MCD Section 10 requirements include: 1) that all new construction and renovation or repairs done by the District comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); 2) that the District’s binding commitments to expend at least $67.5 million on accessibility renovations or repairs to existing schools sites be consistent with Section 504 and the ADA; and 3) the establishment of a unit to address “on demand” requests related to students with disabilities physical access to District programs, for which the District must expend up to $20 million. Ms. Cox noted that the District has established a unit to address on demand requests, and pointed out that the District renamed the program from “on demand” to “Rapid Access Program” in 2011-2012. Ms. Cox highlighted that the MCD
stipulations in Section 11 require the District develop and implement an Integrated Student Information System (MiSiS). The MCD requires that the use of MiSiS is binding on all public schools authorized by the District, including charters, magnet, and alternative schools. She said Ms. Diane Pappas will present an update regarding this requirement at this meeting. Finally, Ms. Cox briefly talked about the MCD Section 17 requirements. In regards to facilities, Ms. Cox mentioned that the District is working on putting into place and updating its District wide transition plan. She explained that a transition plan is a requirement of Title II of the ADA where the District surveys its sites and identifies access barriers and determines a schedule and a plan for removing those barriers. She noted that Mr. Hovatter would address these points in his presentation later in the meeting.

Ms. Cox concluded her presentation by announcing that the District has planned public listening sessions to obtain public input regarding accessibility issues from community members and parents of students with disability.

**BARRIER REMOVAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Ms. Cox introduced Mr. Mark Hovatter, Chief Facilities Executive. Mr. Hovatter provided an update of the accessibility enhancement projects at various LAUSD school sites to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He talked about Access Compliance, Access Compliance Unit, Rapid Access Program (RAP), Critical Repair Projects and construction and barrier removal projects. The barrier removal project includes upgrading and removing accessibility barriers, improving school-site accessibility to bathrooms, parking lots, existing ramps and handrails, path of travel, installation of new accessible lunch tables, restrooms, drinking fountains, passenger loading zones and parking.

Mr. Hovatter also provided a brief historical overview of the program. He said that approximately $650 million has been spent since 1998 building and modernizing schools. In addition to the $650 million, another $600 million was added to the plan and dedicated to solely make the District schools accessible to special education children. He said the District has completed five phases of the program begun in 2014. He indicated that approximately $100 million of the $600 million has been spent on improvements at 64 schools. He also said $492 million remains for 499 schools, Facilities expects to complete 50 to 60 schools per year for the next eight to nine years. Mr. Hovatter reviewed a few PowerPoint slides showing some of the improvements made or to be completed at the first nine schools. He briefly explained the work done, and the costs associated with each of these schools: Avalon Gardens Elementary School, Northridge Middle School, Edison Middle School, Grand View Elementary School, Irving Middle School, Kennedy Elementary School, Pio Pico Middle School, Reseda High School, and Van Ness Elementary School. He also reported that the Access Compliance Unit was created as required by the Consent Decree to oversee these types of projects, and talked about the scope, organization, functions, and responsibilities of this unit.

Additionally, Mr. Hovatter briefly talked about the Transition Plan, Rapid Access Program (RAP), which was created to do small, quick projects; Critical Repair Projects; Construction Projects, new construction and modernization; and the Barrier Removal Program.

**ADA TITLE II PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS**

Mr. Hovatter introduced Ms. Lorena Padilla-Melendez, Director, Community Relations Department and Small Business, We Build Facilities Services Division, who provided a brief update on the Transition Plan and upcoming community meetings to collect public comment on drafting the Transition Plan. She also said that an awareness campaign has been established asking parents of special education students to participate in these meetings and the process. There will be two meetings in each Local District, one in the
Ms. Padilla-Melendez highlighted the formation of a robotic student competition to provide innovative ideas for improving school-site accessibility. This winter we engaged students already participating in robotics programs at their schools. Mr. Hovatter explained the proposed robotic competition process. He said that several schools submitted proposals and seventeen were accepted. The following schools made a presentation on their innovative design ideas: Banning, Foshay, Legacy STEAM, and Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (SOCES). The Facilities Division is in the process of testing some of these proposed designs, such as a wheelchair that will actually climb stairs, and a cane that beeps when there is an obstacle in front.

Mr. Hovatter finalized this presentation by sharing a short video clip he prepared for the School Construction Bond Oversight Committee as part of Facilities monthly report.

Mr. Hovatter Responded to questions from Committee.

REPORT ON 2016-2017 OPENING OF SCHOOL AND PREPARATIONS FOR 2017-2018 OPENING

Mr. Schmerelson introduced Ms. Diane Pappas, Chief Executive Officer, Project Management & Digital Innovation. Ms. Pappas provided an update and an overview on the MiSiS project related to the 2016-2017 school opening and preparations for the 2017-2018 school opening. The update included project timelines and strategic initiatives, such as Ad Hoc Reporting, online gradebook, parent portal, charter schools integration, and certify data tool. She said the Division set up a MiSiS command center to ensure a fluid transition for the 2016-2017 school opening, and explained the process. The MiSiS team provided resources to schools, such as posting daily and weekly reports to the MiSiS website; meeting with the Superintendent’s Office staff, Human Resources staff and Local District Superintendents; providing MiSiS Playbook to schools outlining resources; testing the system; visiting all schools and checking for connectivity; and providing Microcomputer Support Assistants (MCSAs) to schools. Ms. Pappas noted that the call volume for the MiSiS center was reduced 30% from last year. The MiSiS team is currently meeting on a weekly basis in preparation for the 2017-2018 school year opening.

Ms. Pappas highlighted some added functionality to the MiSiS system since 2014: bug fixes and enhancements; added student photos; improved the graduation screens for tracking GPAs and student programs, such as English Language Learners (EL) and Special Education and SPED, A-G and LAUSD requirements; and developed the Success Library Card linking local libraries with LAUSD. In addition, new features were added to the Ad Hoc Reporting, a Dashboard, allowing schools to customize their own reports, and also schools and central offices obtain student data on a real time basis. Ms. Pappas indicated that the MiSiS Office provides trainings to Dashboard users, currently they have 201 users and 81 users are enrolled for future trainings. Also, a new Ad Hoc report was added for 504 Plan reporting and for the Individualized Graduation Plan communication for families. She also said that more student data is being loaded into MiSiS from Welligent, which is helping schools make scheduling decisions for special education students.

Ms. Pappas briefly talked about the online gradebook, PASSport, charter schools, and certify tools initiatives. She informed that initially they had 54 schools on the online gradebook, currently 89 more were added. The plan, she said, is to mandate secondary use of the new gradebook in the fall. In terms of the PASSport, she reported that the system has 15,000 users.
Mr. Schmerelson asked about PASSport parent training at schools. Ms. Pappas responded that the MiSiS Office is working on this issue. There are concerns regarding budget and some parents not having an email address, which is needed to access the Parent Portal.

Ms. Pappas noted that the District recently contracted with an application manager. This company will ultimately have the responsibility for maintaining the MiSiS System.

She finalized her presentation by saying the MiSiS team is working in collaboration with the Office of the Independent Monitor to receive a sign off by July 2017 that the core functionality of the MiSiS system is completed. Ms. Cox commented that the sign off will require the agreement from the Independent Monitor and the Modified Consent Decree (MCD) plaintiff’s counsel.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.