



## FAQ from Melrose Leadership Academy Community Feedback Session

- 1. Are there any plans to make more bathrooms all-gender at either campus/have the stalls fully enclosed so kids can't peer into one another's stalls?**
- 2. Would the addition of gender-neutral bathrooms and bathroom improvements in the main building only be possible in Option 1?**

The District is considering the design feature of installing individual and private restrooms for new construction projects. The District can consider this for modernization projects as well, although it is more complex and costly. It will be included in the list of items for architects to take into account.

- 3. Can you give us the cost of what was already done?**

Approximately \$3.3 Million (M) has been allocated at Maxwell Park for a Living Schoolyard project in the summer of 2023.

- 4. Has a shade analysis been done of exterior windows?**

A shade study has not been completed at this time for the existing windows. This is a typical analysis that the architectural team reviews to mitigate unnecessary heat gain to achieve Collaborative for High-Performance Schools (CHPS) and Title 24 Building Code requirements. The shading for exterior windows will be dependent on the scope option selected.

- 5. The bathroom is a concern at Maxwell. Multiple times a student has voiced concern about middle school age students intimidating 3rd and 4th graders in the bathroom. Are there plans to separate elementary and middle school bathrooms?**

New restrooms are included in the proposed Option 2 - Middle School Building and Option 3 - Multipurpose Building.

- 6. What does alternative housing mean? Different location? Portables?**
- 7. Can you remind which options require students be housed in a temporary space.**

Alternative housing or interim housing is the temporary space created for students and staff throughout the construction period. This temporary space is typically created through installation of temporary portables. Following the project's conclusion, these portables would subsequently be removed. For this project, the portable units/interim housing will be installed on the Maxwell campus throughout the construction period. It's important to note that there will be associated costs for this additional requirement.

Option 1 - Modernization and Option 3 - Multipurpose Building, will require interim housing.  
Option 2 - Middle School Building, will not require interim housing.

- 8. Who is voting on these options?**



## FAQ from Melrose Leadership Academy Community Feedback Session

Families, students, teachers/staff, and community members will have the chance to offer their input on the scope options through a ranking system, which will play a crucial role in shaping the District's ultimate decision.

### 9. Can you give an estimate of how long each option would take?

We will have more definitive dates and durations when the design is near completion. The objective is to commence construction in the summer of 2025. We anticipate:

Option 1 - Modernization to take longer than 36 months for completion due to the need for interim housing for accommodating students and staff.

Option 2 - Middle School Building, to take approximately 36 months for completion.

Option 3 - Multipurpose Building, to take approximately 36 months for completion.

### 10. How was it decided these were the three options?

The Board approved in June 2023 to reduce the project for Sherman by \$13 M, from \$49.5 M to \$36.5 M, to account for the escalation of costs across district initiatives. Following the Board's approval, a District Liaison was designated to oversee all budget and construction project decisions for MLA. The Liaison, in collaboration with the Facilities Department, site leadership, and the Project Advisory Committee, has been actively involved in discussions aimed at proposing viable options that fall within the Board's approved budget. The options presented to the community have been identified by these groups as potentially offering the most benefits in terms of the school's operational needs.

### 11. Is it possible to get a copy of the options and what's included in each option to be able to think about it further?

Yes. The presentation including the scope options that are being considered are being posted on the OUSD Current Major Capital Projects webpage. Please visit [www.ousd.org/projects](http://www.ousd.org/projects) to find the latest project information.

### 12. What is included for Sherman Campus in the case that we build the middle school?

The information discussed at the community meeting on October 5, 2023, is available in the presentation posted on the OUSD Current Major Capital Projects webpage. Please visit [www.ousd.org/projects](http://www.ousd.org/projects) to find the latest project information. It is important to note that the District is dedicated to providing additional investments to the Sherman Campus. These investments do not utilize Bond funds and will not impact the funding of any Bond project.

### 13. For Option 1, Modernization, would the current building also get the energy efficiency improvements?



## FAQ from Melrose Leadership Academy Community Feedback Session

### 14. Does the budget allow for envelope improvement?

Option 1 - Modernization, includes many layers of energy efficiency improvements to the school building envelope including roofing, windows, and shades. Additionally, the building's electrical system will be upgraded to prepare the building to become 100% electric in the future. This includes upgrading the electrical capacity of the building to accept future options like heat pump technology, solar panels, and non-fossil fuel-dependent mechanical equipment.

Option 2 - Middle School Building and Option 3 - Multipurpose Building, may be the more energy-efficient options (limited only to the new additions) since they would include the newest building technology.

### 15. Will solar be installed on Option 1, the Modernization:

No. Installation of solar would require additional upgrades to the main building and there is not enough budget to cover those costs.

### 16. Do you have an online place to sign the student petition?

Please visit [www.ousd.org/projects](http://www.ousd.org/projects) to find the latest project information and a link to the student petition.

### 17. Where did the money go, since the merger of the two campuses is not going to happen?

When the bond was originally passed the world did not have the impact of major financial altering events. Due to the pandemic, supply shortages resulting from the pandemic, and impacts to the world economy due to geopolitical issues, there has been a significant increase in cost to do construction. This is referred to as "inflation" or "escalation." The same factors that impact the District's families at the grocery store and at the gas pump impact the construction industry.

The Board was presented with an approximate \$200M cost exposure due to escalation, about 28% increase in costs. The Board had to make difficult decisions about project funding. Even with the prior budget allocation, the total budget would not have provided enough funding to merge the two campuses without making the school smaller in total enrollment. Based on the declining enrollment across the district and the high demand for the program, this was not an option we were willing to explore.

### 18. How can we get this for this who are virtual on their phone?

Information will be posted at [www.ousd.org/projects](http://www.ousd.org/projects) and an email distribution will occur to participants that left an email in the chat.

### 19. If we decide on an option, are there no more budgeted improvements for our school?



## FAQ from Melrose Leadership Academy Community Feedback Session

The community's feedback is shared with the District, and the Board makes the final decision based on staff recommendations. This engagement process is of utmost importance. Additionally, we will conduct an additional round of discussions with the administrative team and the teachers, given their intimate knowledge of the campus' instructional requirements.

The District operates a Deferred Maintenance Program that tracks repair requests through a work order system. However, for a district encompassing 78 schools, the Program is underfunded, resulting in potentially significant delays for substantial maintenance projects.

**20. It feels like the way the 3 options are framed, the choice is skewed against Option 2 - Middle School Building, given that the majority of the enrollment and community is elementary. How can the input process include a more equitable perspective on Middle School needs and impact beyond a majority vote or poll?**

The District's objective is not to favor any specific options; we are actively working on improving the way these options are presented provided your feedback.

It is important to note that, irrespective of the chosen option, there is a base scope of \$9.5 million allocated to enhance the educational environment of the campus for the benefit of all students.

There is a continuum from Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through grade 8. Option 2 - Middle School Building, will serve all students during the 6th-8th grade experience at MLA. Sherman will serve students in TK - grade 2.

Option 1 - Modernization will focus on the students during grades 3-5.

**21. How many square feet does Option #1 cover? What is the size of the existing Maxwell building?**

Option 1 - Modernization, covers the existing building, approximately 34,241 square feet (existing Portables are not included.)

**22. Does OUSD purchase all its electricity from PG&E?**

Yes. The only other source of electricity is from the solar installations that are happening across the district. PG&E strongly supports California's clean energy policies and delivers some of the cleanest energy in the world. These goals are in alignment with the Climate Emergency Action Resolution passed by the Board.

*For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/MLAInfo>*