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## School district adopts facilities master plan

By: Julie Drake

PALMDALE - Palmdale School District's governing board unanimously adopted a "student-centric" facilities master plan Tuesday that says it seeks to create "globally competitive" schools for all students.

The plan says it is driven by the district's guiding principles, which include high-level academic preparation, technological fluency, and social, civic and environmental responsibility.

"The facilities master plan is a vision; it's going to bring our schools into the 21st century," Superintendent Raul Maldonado said after the meeting.

The plan features an assessment of each campus, rating each on factors such as site and building conditions, building and site functionality and building key performance indicators.

The combined assessment ranks each school site.

Schools that were built prior to 2000 scored lower. The highest scoring school was David G. Millen Middle School. The school, which opened two years ago, had a combined assessment score of 73 points.

The lowest scoring school was Chaparral Elementary School, which was built in 1988. Chaparral had a combined assessment score of 34 points.

Seventeen schools scored below 50 points; 10 schools scored above 50 points.

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"We're going to bring all of the schools up to the 50-point mark, which brings equity," Maldonado said.

Schools that scored below 50 points were Chaparral, Summerwind, Joshua Hills, Desert Rose, Palmdale Discovery Center, Yucca, Ocotillo, Manzanita, Tamarisk, Site 18, Cactus, Tumbleweed, Palm Tree, Cimarron, Desert Willow, Mesquite and SAGE Academy.

Schools that scored 50 points or higher were Shadow Hills, Oak Tree Community Day, Buena Vista, Los Amigos, Golden Poppy, Yellen Learning Center, Palmdale Learning Plaza, Barrel Springs, Quail Valley and David G. Millen.

The district will use funds from Measure PSD, the \$80 million bond measure passed by voters last November, and the remainder of Measure DD, the \$220 million bond measure approved by voters in November 2012.

The average building function score across the district was 58 points. Building function looked at areas such as size, technology, storage, and special utilities. The average building conditions score districtwide was 48 points. Building conditions looked at areas such as windows, flooring, doors, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The average building key performing indicators, which included ventilation, lighting, views, and furniture, was 43 points. The district's schools scored an average of 45 points for site functionality, which looked at parking spaces, drop-off, grass fields, and bikes and walkability.

For site condition, which assessed fields, walkways, paving, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, the average score across the district was 39 points.

The district projected a \$70.9 million budget for phase one of the facilities master plan, which includes Safety and Community Pride Projects and Mid-size project.

Safety and Community Pride Projects, also known as quick-start projects, cover about \$16.3 million. Those include painting, playground and field upgrades, landscape improvements and digital marquees.

Mid-size projects, budgeted at a projected \$54.6 million, include modernizing building footprints, create science labs at the district's five middle schools, create shade for outdoor eating, and create parent rooms. The goal is to create projects buildable within a three-year period that meet the guiding principles and may qualify for additional funding.

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Future long-term projects are projected to cost about \$672 million with the goal to developing all schools to an 80-point combined score level. Long-term projects identified in the report include modernization of all permanent structures, construction of new administration and multi-purpose rooms, and replacement of portable classrooms.

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