

SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 3, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Alan Oshima, Chairperson

Harold Edwards

Bettina Mehnert

L. Candy Suiso

**Staff Present:**

Chad Keone Farias, SFA Executive Director

Alison Kunishige, SFA Deputy Executive Director

Cindy Watarida, SFA Business Manager

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Alan Oshima called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Chairperson Oshima and Members Edwards, Bettina Mehnert, and L. Candy Suiso were present at roll call. Quorum was established.

**III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Move to approve the August 1, 2023 and September 5, 2023 meeting minutes (Edwards/Suiso). 4 Ayes (Oshima, Edwards, Mehnert, Suiso), 0 Nos, 0 Abstentions. Motion carries; minutes are approved.**

**IV. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony.

**V. Update from the SFA Executive Director**

## A. Expanding Pre-Kindergarten Access

1. DOE. ED Farias reported that SFA completed 11 classrooms in partnership with DOE, on DOE campuses for the 2023-2024 School Year. All 11 classrooms are open and operating. Nine of these classrooms are at full capacity and a few of those classrooms have a wait list of at least 20-30 applicants. Two of these classrooms are under-enrolled.
  - a) ED Farias reported that SFA is working with EOEL to complete construction on some classrooms earlier in the school year.
  - b) ED Farias reported that there are 33 classrooms identified for the next round of renovations. He stated that the list may fluctuate due to external variables, but at this point there are three classrooms in the construction bidding phase, five in the design phase, 21 in the planning phase, and 4 that still need to be assessed.
  - c) ED Farias reported that since the last Board meeting, 90% of responsibilities have been transferred from DOE to the SFA, however, the DOE would remain involved as projects would impact their campuses.
  
2. Charter Schools. ED Farias reported that the State Public Charter School Commission began its application process for interested Charters and entities interested in becoming a Charter to expanding pre-kindergarten access on charter school campuses.
  - a) University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH). ED Farias reported that the Imiloa Astronomy Center is interested in building a Hawaiian immersion pre-kindergarten center located on the UHH campus. He stated that there is a wait list of 100 interested applicants and the plan is for SFA to build three classrooms to help reduce the wait list. ED Farias explained that the pre-kindergarten center would be operated under the charter of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, LPCS.
  - b) Waialae Elementary Public Charter School (Waialae). ED Farias reported that SFA conducted a site visit to Waialae with a representative from the Lieutenant Governor's office. He explained that Waialae is a conversion charter school and that the land is owned by the DOE. ED Farias reported that Waiale has a wait list of 100 applicants for its pre-kindergarten program. He explained that the site visit included a walkthrough of the potential pre-kindergarten classrooms and outside spaces. ED Farias reported that SFA would work with

DOE's Office of Facilities and Operations and Office of Hawaiian Education on Waialae's project.

3. University of Hawaii at Manoa - Children's Center. ED Farias reported that the ground breaking ceremony for the University of Hawaii at Manoa's housing project located on the former NOAA site is tomorrow. Board Chair Oshima and ED Farias plan to attend the ceremony on behalf of SFA.
4. Kealakehe High School - Education Academy Pathway. ED Farias reported that SFA and DOE are in negotiations to purchase the Maile Learning Center building located on Kealakehe High School campus. The plan is for SFA to purchase and renovate the building for pre-kindergarten use and that DOE would integrate the pre-kindergarten program with its pre-kindergarten teacher academy program.
  - a) Chair Oshima asked for more detail on the purchase. ED Farias stated that the building is located on the Kealakehe High School campus, but owned by the non-profit organization LaiOpua. He explained that because the organization is no longer using the building, the DOE wanted to purchase the building to complete its portfolio and expand its academy program.

#### **B. New Schools**

1. Central Maui New Elementary and Middle School: ED Farias reported SFA is working to get data on areas of capacity and need.
2. West Maui new school. ED Farias provided the following updates on a school in West Maui.
  - a) DOE plans to establish a temporary campus for King Kamehameha III Elementary students at Princess Nahienaena Elementary.
  - b) DOE intends to build a temporary school for King Kamehameha III students in Pulelehua, Maui.
  - c) DOE is currently leading both activities in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SFA would stand ready to support, if necessary.
3. East Kapolei High School, feasibility study. ED Farias reported that SFA was appropriated \$100,000 in 2022 legislation and \$15,000,000 in 2023 legislative session. ED Farias confirmed SFA has partnered with

UHCDC on carrying out its feasibility study.

**C. Education Workforce Housing**

1. Maui County. ED Faris reported that SFA is planning on issuing an RFP of an RFQ for teacher housing on Maui either ending October 2023 or early November 2023.
  - a) Chair Oshima suggested further insight and processes are needed in making determinations related to ground rules for teacher housing. He stated that such determinations should be made by SFA or a task force. ED Farias stated that he would pursue a task force, which includes HSTA and DOE to discuss teacher housing.
  
2. Waipahu High School. ED Farias reported that he visited Waipahu High School and met with the school's principal to get an understanding of the school's current use of the property, site control, and potential restrictions given the proximity of the school to Pearl Harbor.

**D. Operations**

1. Office Space: Oahu. ED Faris reported that DAGs and the property broker were engaged in the leasing process and that SFA should be able to move into the space by mid-November.
  
2. Personnel. ED Farias reported that SFA completed interviews for two project manager positions and made offers to two candidates. He stated that SFA continues to work with DOE's Office of Talent Management and the Department of Human Resources Development in establishing and hiring for the remaining positions, an IT/data position, office assistant, a purchasing specialist, land agent, and planner.
  - a) Board Member Suiso asked for position titles and the individuals in these positions. ED Farias responded with the following positions and names:
    - (1) Executive Director, Chad K. Farias
    - (2) Deputy, Alison Kunishige
    - (3) Business Manager, Cindy Watarida
    - (4) Policy and Program Officer, Kenyon Tam
    - (5) Project Manager, Greg Zabinski

**E. Strategic Planning**

ED Farias reported that SFA continues to work with its consultants on drafting

the strategic plan and meeting with stakeholders to get feedback on initial drafts. He stated that the goal is to have a strategic plan posted and shared with the public prior to the legislative session.

**VI. Additional Public Testimony**

There was no additional testimony.

**VII. Presentation on status of Request for Qualifications for Maui education workforce housing project**

ED Farias stated that he covered details of the RFQ in his Report of the School Facilities Authority Executive Director and stated that SFA would work with the SFA Board on the creation of specific rules relating to teacher housing and the process to create these rules.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting (Mehnert/Edwards). 4 Ayes (Oshima, Edwards, Mehnert, Suiso), 0 Nos, 0 Abstention. Motion carries; meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.**