School District Perspective

or

…been down so long it looks like up to me…

Re-Visioning School Facility Planning and Design for the 21st Century
California Department of Education
October 16, 2008
Overview

- Still working on the 20th Century…
  - Still trying for safe, warm, and dry
- The reality of modernizing and reconstructing existing District facilities
- Changing School District culture
- Remember the lag-time—changing concepts to building schools
- Finally, do facilities really matter?

October 16, 2008  CDE Revisioining School Facilities Conference
WCCUSD Background

- Bay Area along I-80 Corridor from Hercules to El Cerrito
- 30,000 (=/-) ADA
- 45% Latino, 25% African American
- Wide income range—hills to flats
- 5 cities, unincorporated areas of county
- Industrial base, working class communities
- Suburban emerging areas
- A sometimes uneasy collection of communities…
- 52 Schools over 60 properties
Still working on the 20th Century…
Still working on the 20th Century…

Dover Elementary
San Pablo, CA

Original Construction

23 Portables added to site

An urban school model found throughout the state

Lost playground space

Unirrigated field
How about just safe, warm, and dry...
Reconstruction of existing facilities

- Existing facilities are the new frontier
- Preserving our investment in schools
- Challenges of modernizing California schools
- Funding is far below need
  - State grants cover 12-15% of cost of full renovation or reconstruction
- What does it really take?
Downer Elementary School

AB 300 List Seismic Most Vulnerable Buildings in State
Reconstruction of existing facilities

Edward M. Downer Elementary School  San Pablo, CA
Changing School District culture

- Teachers
  - Changing the guard
- Administrators
  - Just say no!
  - Overwhelmed daily
  - Cutbacks
- Classified staff
  - We’ve always done it this way!
  - Cleaning more with fewer custodians
- Families
  - Turn off the tv!
  - Cellphones
- Communities
  - What are you doing for me lately?
  - Districts an easy target
- Dealing with our history
  - Once scorned never loved again…
Factors in student achievement

- Racial & ethnic backgrounds of students
- Income levels of families
- Teacher effectiveness
- Home and family stability
- Curriculum
Do facilities matter? They do.