



THE CENTER

Central Kitchen,
Instructional Farm,
and Education Center

PARDON OUR DUST...WHILE WE BUILD THE CENTER!

OUSD held a community meeting on Saturday, Nov. 12 to provide updated information about construction of The Center. The meeting was held at Hoover Elementary School which is located near the construction site and future home of the Center. OUSD Superintendent Antwan Wilson and Board of Education Directors joined the meeting organized by OUSD staff and community and District partners.

“This project puts ‘students first’ which is one of our core values in OUSD,” said Superintendent Wilson. “Ensuring that we are doing everything we can to take care of the whole child is paramount; that includes ensuring that our students have access to high quality food.”

Recently re-elected District 3 Board of Education Director Hinton Hodge reminded all in attendance that the Center “has been a long time coming. This is a historic project that must be done for our children”, she said.

John Esposito, OUSD Construction Project Manager, shared details about construction progress including the removal of contaminated soil, and how the ground was prepared for a new foundation.



Community Meeting Panel: Director Hinton Hodge, OUSD Community Engagement Specialist Charles Cole, Superintendent Wilson, Cesar Monterrosa, OUSD Facilities, Shonda Scott, 360 Total Concept, and John Esposito, OUSD Facilities.

What is the Center?

Through a state-of-the-art Central Kitchen, Instructional Farm and Education Center, The Center in West Oakland aims to give kids the healthy food they deserve. Among other features, The Center will provide:

- Roughly 30,000 square feet of space housing a new OUSD Central Kitchen
- A teaching kitchen and instructional space to support Linked Learning career pathways in agriculture, culinary arts, botany and related fields
- A one acre instructional urban farm, greenhouse and produce market

Construction activity over the next few months is expected to include raising the walls of the building and installing the roof. The interior of the building is expected to be built-out starting in Spring 2017, and the project is on track for completion during Winter 2017-18.

OUSD also had representatives from the Talent Department on hand to assist interested residents in applying for employment with the District. Likewise, staff from 360 Total Concept were also in attendance to assist individuals interested in applying for construction opportunities at The Center.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Angelic, a 5th grade student at Hoover, and her dad Mr. Escalante, a Parent Coordinator, provided a fun and informative tour of the garden at Hoover Elementary. It was incredible to witness the joy all experienced as they listened attentively to Angelic talk about her experiences volunteering in the garden since kindergarten.

Tours of the future home of The Center, located at 2850 West Street, take place on the third Wednesday each month at 9:00 a.m. To learn more about the project and to see a time-lapsed video of construction, visit www.ousdthecenter.org.