



CONSENT CALENDAR
April 29, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author) Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral Funding Afterschool Program Expansion

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$300,000 to fund afterschool program expansion to the Fiscal Year 26 Mid-Biennial Budget Update.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$300,000 and staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Community members have reached out to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) and the 2x2 Committee about insufficient aftercare. With the demand exceeding supply, students and families are subject to competitive enrollment and waitlists. In August, our office was informed by school board directors that there were 25 staff vacancies and hundreds of students on waitlists. With no guaranteed universal childcare, limited subsidized options, and a lack of adequate after school care, low- and middle-income families struggle to meet their childcare needs. This can cause immense and undue stress, put needed jobs at risk, and force desperate families to turn to substandard childcare arrangements. No family in Berkeley should have to sacrifice security for lack of high quality, affordable childcare.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley provides quality elementary afterschool programs at multiple locations that currently serve 245 BUSD youth. The programs are subsidized by the General Fund and offer 50% and 100% scholarships to those who need them. The programs are staffed by full- and part-time employees in the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department's Recreation Division.

The city's current afterschool program is at the following sites:

Live Oak Community Center (60)
James Kenney Community Center (75, includes Therapeutic Recreation Program)
Frances Albrier Community Center (65)
Willard Clubhouse (45)

The current cost per pupil is just under \$3,000 per school year. With the new Willard Clubhouse, the planned MLK Jr. Youth Services Center expansion, and an additional \$300,000, the city can serve an additional 100 elementary age youth.

Live Oak Community Center (80)
James Kenney Community Center (85, includes Therapeutic Recreation Program)
Frances Albrier Community Center (75)
Willard Clubhouse (65)
MLK Jr. Youth Services Center (40)

Additionally, the city would need to come up with a plan to expand its transportation program in order to ensure students can get from their school to the program site. Attached is a press release from Zum, a student transportation provider, who announced in August that they deployed an all-electric fleet of school buses in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), making it the first major school district in the U.S. to transition to a 100% electrified school bus system.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

N/A.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin, District 2, 510-981-7120.

Attachments:

1 - Press Release: Zum Deploys Nation's First 100% Electric School Bus Fleet in Oakland, California for the 2024-2025 School Year

We're hiring bus drivers and attendants for St Louis, MO and Millard, NE. Apply now!



Press Release

Share:



Zum Deploys Nation's First 100% Electric School Bus Fleet in Oakland,

California for the 2024-2025 School Year

By: Zum Community Team | August 27, 2024

Historic achievement in Oakland Unified School District will improve children's health and return energy to the grid

Oakland, Calif., August 27, 2024 – Zum, the leader in modern student transportation, today announced that it has deployed an all-electric fleet of school buses in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), making it the first major school district in the U.S. to transition to a 100% electrified school bus system. This first-in-the-nation EV fleet is also equipped with groundbreaking vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, enabling the buses to return energy to the grid at scale when not in use.

Zum is deploying a fleet of 74 electric school buses in Oakland, each with its own bidirectional charger, managed via an AI-enabled Virtual Power Plant (VPP). The all-EV fleet will decarbonize student transportation while sending 2.1 gigawatt hours of energy back to the grid annually.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in student transportation," said Ritu Narayan, Founder and CEO of Zum. "By converting Oakland Unified's school bus fleet to 100% electric, we are showing that sustainability solutions are here – and can positively impact an entire community. Electric school buses with V2G capability create cleaner transportation and send untapped energy from bus batteries back to the grid. It's a win-win for children, families, schools and drivers."

Student transportation is the largest mass transit system in the nation, moving 27 million students twice daily. Today, over 90% of the nation's 500,000 school buses run on carbon-based fuels, releasing over 8.4 million tons of greenhouse gases annually,

exposing students and communities to harmful fumes every day. Oakland's EV fleet will help remove 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases from the environment, which will have a major impact on the community.

"OUSD is proud to lead the way with safe and sustainable transportation for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell of Oakland Unified School District. "This is a landmark achievement, especially in Oakland, where families are disproportionately impacted by exposure to air pollution and high rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments. Zum's electric school buses provide our students quieter, cleaner rides to and from school, giving them a better chance at success in the classroom, while ensuring the District is doing its part to cut down on air pollution to the benefit of all Oakland residents."

Zum's utility partner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, worked closely with Zum to complete the site, which involved extensive infrastructure upgrades and other equipment to power 74 bi-directional EV chargers. PG&E was able to provide 2.7 megawatts of load to Zum's Oakland EV-ready facility in record time, allowing this project to be deployed one year ahead of schedule.

"Converting to electric transportation reduces the leading cause of emissions and has the potential to offer a flexible power supply that benefits all customers. Our partnership with Zum and Oakland Unified on its fully electric school bus fleet is a blueprint for schools across California and the nation to better serve our students, local communities and, ultimately, our planet," said PG&E Corporation CEO Patti Poppe.

Other partners that have been critical to the electrification of the OUSD fleet include the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus program, California Air Resources Board (CARB), Heavy Vehicle Incentive Program (HVIP) vouchers, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and Clean Mobility Options (CMO) programs.

"With funding to Zum of over \$35 million for California school districts, EPA is proud to be advancing the rollout of electric school buses here in Oakland and across our state,

helping create a future where our children can breathe cleaner air,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Deputy Regional Administrator Cheree Peterson. “I’ve seen firsthand the advantages of these electric buses, with the absence of noxious diesel emissions benefiting students, school staff, and neighboring communities. Thanks to the unprecedented federal investments in this technology, more zero-emissions school buses will be on the road in Oakland.”

Zum has set a goal of electrifying 10,000 bidirectional school buses which will create the potential to supply 300 gigawatt hours of energy to local power grids annually. Plans are already underway for Zum to deploy 100% electric fleets across the country in the coming years.

About Zūm

Zum is a modern transportation solution transforming school transportation, the largest mass transit system in the U.S. Today, the company provides turnkey modern transportation solutions to school districts in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Utah, and Virginia, and is expanding rapidly nationwide. Recognized globally for its innovative transportation and energy as a service platform, Zum has been featured among Fast Company’s World Changing Ideas, CNBC Disruptor 50, CNBC Changemakers, World Economic Forum and Financial Times’ Fastest Growing Companies. Learn more about Zum at www.ridezum.com.

CONTACT:

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