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LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

NEWS RELEASE

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LAUSD APPROVES INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH GREEN DOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Charter developer will build small high school on Venice-area Campus

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Education approved an innovative partnership at the July 13, 2004 meeting with Green Dot Public schools, which will co-locate a small, 525 seat high school on the Broadway Elementary School Campus. The lease agreement will provide 2.5 acres to the Animo Venice High School for construction of classroom buildings. Green Dot will pay a lease fee equal to 6% of their attendance revenue. Half of that lease fee will accrue directly to Broadway Elementary School's discretionary fund. In addition, Green Dot will pay all costs associated with the project including the any improvements to the campus.

The agreement was strongly supported by both school and local community members. Broadway Principal Ed Romotsky and several teachers and community members spoke in favor of the project. Board Vice President Marlene Canter, who led the effort to bring the partnership to the Board, said, "I am so excited to have a new, small school in the Venice area. This is another great option for our students and at no cost to LAUSD."

The partnership will also provide a number of benefits to Broadway Elementary school in addition to the lease payments. The schools will establish tutoring and mentoring programs and Green Dot will be sharing resources and campus improvements such as computer labs. Green Dot founder Steve Barr said, "We have a great opportunity to improve the Elementary School at the same time we provide a great high school educational option." The school will primarily serve students from three Venice area middle schools – Webster Middle School, Mark Twain Middle School, and Marina Del Rey Middle School.

The District, which has been in the process of developing small learning communities at many existing secondary schools, will have an opportunity to see a small learning community in action first hand. "This is a living model for us to watch and learn as we develop our own small learning communities," said Canter.

Green Dot was created in 1999 by Steve Barr. Green Dot currently operates three schools in the Los Angeles area. Green Dot opened its first school Animo Leadership Charter High School in Inglewood in the fall of 2000. Animo Leadership currently serves 9th through 12th grade students and graduated its first class in June 2004 with a 93% on-time graduation rate. Animo Venice will be Green Dot's fifth school in the Los Angeles area.

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