



BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

102 West Portola Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022
Tel: 650.947.4939
Fax: 650.947.4989
www.bullischarterschool.com



July 26, 2012

Dear Bullis Charter School Community:

I am writing to update you on the status of litigation concerning Bullis Charter School (BCS) and the Los Altos School District (LASD). Two weeks ago, BCS filed papers to compel LASD to comply with the court's previous order. This was not a new court action as many have implied, but was regrettably necessary because even with clear direction from multiple courts, LASD continues to refuse to comply with the law. A hearing before Hon. Judge Patricia Lucas is scheduled for August 15, 2012.

On Tuesday, LASD filed a response and sent a press release full of baseless and inflammatory allegations to thousands of people. This is consistent with what the Appellate Court saw when its justices unanimously noted that there was ample evidence that LASD acted in bad faith toward BCS. BCS wishes this situation could be resolved amicably and spent considerable time and effort trying to get there through mediation. We are not pleased to be back in court with LASD.

Here are some thoughts to keep in mind as this process unfolds:

- **It is time to solve this problem and move on.** Our children have been inequitably housed on an overcrowded "temporary" campus for far too long. BCS submitted a proposed order to the court based on the mediated agreement that both parties publicly endorsed in May. The Order requests that LASD put BCS on a permanent school site by fall 2013. The proposed order is firm and decisive because we believe that LASD Trustees will only obey the law when compelled by court order and we wish for a swift resolution.
- **BCS has acted in unilateral good faith.** In May, the Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) accepted \$10,000 from the Bullis-Purissima Elementary Education Foundation to support the 2012 LASD Bond Initiative. This was a unilateral act of good faith by the BCS community to help LASD in its goal to obtain an additional school site and to work cooperatively to fulfill the terms of the mediated framework. BCS remains willing to honor the terms published in the joint BCS-LASD Press Release of May 7th.
- **The accusations LASD makes against BCS' existence as a public school in its filings are absolute fabrications.** BCS is a public school, tuition free, open to all in the state. We have had eight years of a fair public lottery to determine admissions. These allegations were brought up during our charter renewal and were found not to be true. Every legally operating charter school in California is fully entitled to a reasonably equivalent share of public school facilities, and LASD's false claims do not change that fact.

- **LASD continues to treat BCS students as second-class citizens.** In nine years, LASD Trustees have rebalanced student loading at their neighborhood schools twice, significantly changing the configuration of the neighborhood schools. They did so despite parent opposition. They also offered all-day kindergarten for three years at one location, during which time it encouraged students to abandon their “high-performing neighborhood schools” to attend the program. LASD Trustees clearly can, and have, disrupted neighborhood school communities when they felt it necessary. They refuse to do so for their LASD children who attend BCS, however.

LASD Trustees have many options available to accommodate all the students residing in the district in equitable conditions. Unfortunately, they lack the gumption and political will to do the right and legally compliant action.

As usual, if you wish to read the legal documents, they are posted on the BCS website at <http://www.bullischarterschool.com/superiorcourtfilings>.

As you enjoy these last few weeks of summer with your children and families, rest assured that the BCS Leadership is working hard to secure adequate facilities for this fall and beyond.

Sincerely,



Ken Moore
Board Chair
Bullis Charter School