



August 10, 2012

Dear BCS Parents,

As you know, BCS initiated a formal mediation process with the Los Altos School District (LASD) Trustees earlier this year, in another good faith effort to reach a negotiated solution for equal sharing of facilities. Two of the five sessions were facilitated by retired Court of Appeal Justice Richard McAdams, and they culminated in a BCS-LASD framework agreement jointly announced on May 7th. LASD chose to abandon this joint agreement, leaving BCS with no choice but to request relief from the Court.

On August 15 Hon. Judge Lucas will hear arguments concerning LASD's failure to comply with her order enforcing the unanimous ruling in favor of BCS by the California Court of Appeals and upheld by the California Supreme Court. A press release describing the ruling and related documents can be found below. BCS filed documents this week to demonstrate that LASD's Final Offer of Facilities is not compliant and to seek recovery of legal fees.

Unfortunately, BCS has been forced to spend precious time and resources to establish the clear rights of public charter school students to a fair share of public school facilities. Seeking to recoup legal fees is normal in these circumstances; the magnitude of the fees is a measure of the ongoing refusal of the District to reach a fair and legal solution. Indeed, despite the high cost, BCS offered to waive collection of these fees as part of an acceptable long-term agreement. LASD knowingly abandoned this offer.

Since the District backed away from such an agreement, our K-8 program for the 2012/13 school year will open on August 21st at the Egan site, with additional space provided at Egan and Blach as outlined in the Final Offer by LASD. You may notice a flurry of press activity by LASD supporters, and efforts to join the legal process by other groups seeking to block the equitable division of public facilities. The judge will decide on the validity of these efforts, but we believe they are desperate attempts to throw every possible charge at the highest performing K-8 charter school in California without regard to facts.

BCS is the only oversubscribed public school in the area, and yet for the ninth consecutive year of operating it remains in portables on a "temporary" camp site. It is past time for LASD Trustees to correct this inequitable treatment of students choosing to attend BCS. The District had plenty of time to plan for BCS' projected growth, but chose not to. LASD has more than sufficient space, but lacks the will, to make the adjustments necessary to provide BCS students with a fair share of public facilities.

One of LASD Trustee's primary roles is to re-draw attendance boundaries and/or adjust school sites as populations shift, grow and decline. They have done this at least twice in recent times, and it is now urgently incumbent upon them to act constructively and meet their obligations to both the community and the courts.

As we continue with our work, we appreciate the support of the Trial Court, the Appellate Court, the CA Supreme Court, the education reform community, our chartering agency SCCBOE, members of the greater Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills community, and most importantly YOU, our parent community. Rest assured that BCS will succeed in providing the exceptional program for your children that you have come to expect.

We look forward to seeing you on the first day of school on August 21st!

Sincerely,



Ken Moore
BCS Board Chair

Links to additional and related documents in this matter:

Prop 39 Overview: <http://www.bullischarterschool.com/prop39>

Press Releases: <http://www.bullischarterschool.com/pressreleases>

Legal Filings: <http://www.bullischarterschool.com/superiorcourtfilings>