



BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

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November 2, 2012

Dear Parents,

Yesterday (November 1, 2012) the Los Altos School District (LASD) office received Bullis Charter School's annual request for facilities for the 2013-2014 school year. Proposition 39 requires school districts to share public school facilities fairly among all public school students, including those attending charter schools. The filing of this request is the first step in a process that will conclude with a Final Offer from LASD on May 1, 2013.

On Halloween, BCS received a letter from LASD demanding that certain information, including the names and addresses of all current and prospective BCS students, be provided with the BCS Facilities request. In addition to being untimely, this request far exceeds the requirements for a charter school's facilities request. Furthermore, BCS parents have not consented to release this information to LASD. As in prior years, and as BCS has informed LASD, BCS is willing to have the chartering authority (SCCOE) verify the names and addresses of the students. This is a process LASD itself has suggested and agreed to in the past. Alternatively, BCS is willing to stipulate to a court order allowing LASD's chosen mediator, Justice McAdams, to confidentially verify the information. The BCS Board firmly believes that your student and family's privacy must be defended.

For years, the Bullis Charter School (BCS) Board has worked to balance demand for the BCS program with a fundamentally cautious approach toward growth. The growth path that BCS has followed has not satisfied the broader community, however. The result has been extremely large wait lists, disappointed children, and utterly unfounded accusations that BCS is "exclusive". This year, after gathering considerable stakeholder input, the BCS Board decided to add another class each of grades K, 1, 2, and 3 as a positive step towards addressing these issues.

BCS is an innovative public school founded on the principle that all students should have the education that meets their needs. BCS' unique individualized instruction model has been proven to deliver a high-quality public education to all students. It is adaptable to meet the unique needs of both high-achievers and those who have been identified as academically low-achieving, who have previously struggled at other schools. As a public institution, BCS has a civic responsibility to try to ensure that every family that wants a choice in public education has access to it. The expansion forecasted for 2013-2014 is moreover consistent with the BCS Strategic Plan and its 2012-2013 initiatives, as created by the BCS parents and community.

The primary concern of the BCS Board and Administration has always been, and remains, to deliver on the promise of providing a singularly excellent public education to the students enrolled at BCS. I commend Superintendent Hersey and her staff for never failing to meet and conquer the many artificially-created facilities challenges posed to BCS by the LASD Trustees and Administration over the last decade.

We look forward to the day when LASD embraces BCS as a school that provides an excellent, innovative education option for LASD families, when LASD provides resource equity to the children attending BCS, and when LASD is responsive and collaborative in working with BCS. In the meantime, we thank you for your forbearance and will continue our tireless efforts on behalf of your children.

Sincerely,

Ken Moore
BCS Board Chair