



BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

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December 6, 2012

Dear Bullis Charter School Community:

We wanted to take a minute to update you on some important developments:

LASD is attempting to secure private information about BCS parents and deny BCS any facilities through an aggressive lawsuit they recently filed. As a result, we're forced to continue to protect our students in every way possible, including a special motion we filed this week with Judge Lucas of the Superior Court.

On October 12, 2012, the District filed a lawsuit against BCS (in the form of a cross-complaint) leveling a broad array of unsubstantiated charges at BCS. The District goes so far as to request a ruling that "...LASD is not required to furnish BCS with any facilities under Proposition 39..." In connection with its lawsuit the District seeks intrusive discovery into the private information of BCS families, such as the net worth of parents, the names of students placed on the BCS waiting list, the amounts and sources of private donations to the Bullis-Purissima Elementary School Foundation, and the names and disability of special education students at BCS.

This lawsuit was clearly filed in retaliation for BCS's efforts to seek reasonably equivalent facilities. The California Legislature has labeled such a harassing and retaliatory lawsuit a "Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation," or "SLAPP" suit. SLAPP suits are intended to intimidate persons from continuing to exercise their constitutional rights of free speech and to petition the government. The special motion BCS filed this week, an "Anti-SLAPP" motion, is a procedure that, if successful, will terminate the District's SLAPP suit.

With its discovery requests for irrelevant private information on BCS students and families, we believe that the District is trying to dissuade BCS from exercising its constitutional rights. By filing the Anti-SLAPP motion, BCS has obtained an automatic stay against these abusive discovery demands seeking to pry into our families' student information, personal finances and addresses.

If we prevail on the motion, we expect the District's lawsuit to be dismissed in part or in its entirety. We also hope to recover all attorneys' fees and costs for having to respond to this baseless retaliatory lawsuit, and to continue to proceed in due course with the real issue in our underlying litigation – obtaining access to reasonably equivalent facilities that LASD is required to provide BCS under Proposition 39.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We want every BCS parent to feel knowledgeable about this situation. If you feel as strongly about it as I do, then I encourage you to make your voice heard to the District. You can email Mark Goines, LASD Board President at mgoines@lasdschools.org or reach him by phone at (650) 947-1152.

Sincerely,

Ken Moore
Board Chair, Bullis Charter School
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