



BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

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March 11, 2013

Doug Smith
President, Board of Trustees
Los Altos School District
201 Covington Road
Los Altos, CA 94024

Dear Doug,

As you know, each fall Bullis Charter School (“BCS”) is required under Prop 39 to project its enrollment for the upcoming school year with its request for facilities. On November 1 we projected 615 in-district students for the 2013-2014 school year, and we reaffirmed that projection on January 2, 2013. Despite the detailed information we submitted in support of our projection, the District based its preliminary offer of facilities on its own projection of 572 in-district students.

I am writing to provide you with an enrollment update now to give the District an opportunity to adjust its April 1 final offer to allocate additional facilities for the in-district students your projection failed to anticipate. All, not just some, district families choosing to attend BCS are entitled to a fair share of public school facilities.

As of March 8, 624 students have already reserved spots to attend BCS next year, of whom 95 percent reside within the Los Altos School District. Offers of admission are currently outstanding to an additional 24 in-district students. Assuming they either accept enrollment or are replaced by any of the 171 in-district students on the BCS waitlist for next year, 616 district residents will have accepted spots at BCS for the coming school year. BCS is therefore currently expecting total enrollment of approximately 650 K-8 students for the 2013-2014 school year. Furthermore, 695 students remain on the wait list should any spots for the 2013-2014 school year become available.

I hope you will acknowledge that many parents believe a BCS education provides the best public education option for their child and will work with us to accommodate the choice of these parents. I also believe there are many opportunities for BCS and District schools to learn best practices from each other and improve the experience for all our children if the District embraces BCS as a valuable public education option for our community. It’s clear that word continues to spread that BCS not only provides a superior and unique educational experience, but continues to innovate and improve itself in the spirit of our Silicon Valley community. We all need to focus on working together to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders.

BCS has to date received commitments to attend from 143 6th-8th grade in-district students, with offers to 4 more in-district middle school students currently outstanding. Despite the facilities uncertainty created by the District, this is in line with BCS' earlier projection of 146 in-district middle school students, and substantially above the 129 in-district middle school students the District estimated in formulating its preliminary facilities offer.

It is now clear - beyond a shadow of a doubt - that BCS' earlier projection of 615 in-district students was both reasonable and far more accurate than the projection of just 572 students on which LASD based its preliminary offer of facilities. In any case, it would be both astonishing and irresponsible for the District to insist on using earlier forecasts of enrollment that will deprive students of facilities they are entitled to when more accurate data is now available.

We call on the LASD Trustees to use the actual data of those accepting admission to BCS in its upcoming final offer of facilities instead of the District's earlier faulty mathematical analysis.

Sincerely,



Ken Moore
Board Chair,
Bullis Charter School

cc

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BCS Board of Directors
Santa Clara County Board of Education

Los Altos Patch
Los Altos Town Crier
Mountain View Voice
Palo Alto Daily News
Palo Alto Daily Post