



BULLIS charter school

A CALIFORNIA K – 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL

April 3, 2019

Dear BCS Families,

Since its founding in 2003, Bullis Charter School (BCS) has become recognized locally, nationally, and even internationally, for academic excellence. Acquisition of adequate facilities and long-term site stability has remained a challenge, however. In 2014, BCS and the Los Altos School District (LASD) came to an agreement that provided five years of peace and stability, as well as facilities to run our award-winning program. That agreement ends June 30, 2019, at which time BCS and LASD would default to the prior Proposition 39-prescribed process by which LASD assigns BCS a non-negotiated allocation of facilities. BCS and LASD both have had cause to be unhappy with the Proposition 39 process and wish to avoid it.

Board-level negotiation teams from BCS and LASD therefore initiated efforts in October 2017 to hammer out a successor agreement to the expiring five-year agreement. Today, the negotiation teams have reached such a proposed agreement. This letter sets forth the highlights, and [the BCS website has a link to the proposed agreement and accompanying exhibits](#). As the word “proposed” indicates, however, the agreement has not been adopted by the respective Boards. Each must review and vote to adopt before the agreement would take effect. BCS will hold a Board meeting on April 8th to hear from the BCS community regarding the proposal. The up or down vote on the plan would take place at least two weeks later.

Time and again, the community has urged both parties to reach a long-term agreement that will afford peace and stability to all of our schools and students. In reviewing the agreement, one should keep in mind that no agreement that results from negotiation and compromise will entirely please either party.

A portion of the proposed agreement states, “BCS and [LASD] have a common interest in providing all students with a free and appropriate public education, one that is of the highest possible quality; each plays a valuable role in the community and each deserves the respect and support of the other; [BCS and LASD] are resolved to avoid conflict and pledge to work together to the greatest possible extent for the mutual good.”

In that spirit, the BCS negotiation team believes that the proposed agreement is the best agreement that can be obtained, and that it is in the best interest of BCS, as well as of LASD and the community at large. The agreement provides a significant increase in facilities; a single, sensible site; and larger BCS enrollment, while addressing reasonable concerns and important goals of LASD. The BCS negotiation team, therefore, recommends its acceptance by the BCS community, and the community at large, and its adoption by the full Board of Directors.

On behalf of the BCS Board of Directors and the negotiation team, I appreciate your patience and dedication to BCS throughout this process. At the bottom of this letter, I've set out some bullet points reflecting the broad parameters of the proposed agreement, but I encourage each of you to read [the proposed agreement](#) in its entirety. As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any other board member to share what's on your mind.

Warm Regards,

Joe Hurd, BCS Board Chair and President





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Broad parameters of the proposed agreement:

- The base term of the agreement is ten years, with possible extensions of up to two years.
- LASD will acquire and build out a 10th site and move its Egan Junior High to that location. LASD expects to acquire the 10th site by the close of this year.
- BCS would have exclusive use of 16 of the 18.83 acres that comprise the Egan Junior High Campus, with the target date being Fall 2024. (LASD retains 2.83 acres of the Egan campus for affordable teacher housing.)
- While the new junior high is being constructed, BCS would stay at its current locations at Egan and Blach.
- LASD adds 8 portables at Egan and BCS can add 4 more at BCS cost.
- LASD adds 2 classrooms at Blach.
- LASD adds shared space and increases PE access.
- BCS limits enrollment to 1,111 students, as compared to the current effective limit of 945, allowing BCS to better satisfy overwhelming demand.
- The proposed agreement would supplant the divisive, costly, and rigid Proposition 39 process.