



April 30, 2019

Dear BCS Parents and Staff,

I am writing to you regarding the status of our negotiations with the Los Altos School District (LASD), our Proposition 39 (Prop 39) request for facilities, and next steps after last night's board meetings.

LASD Negotiations

The LASD Trustees declined to approve the 10-year facilities agreement that LASD and BCS had negotiated over the past 18 months. The LASD board cited a need for further discussion as the reason for not approving the agreement. We respect those voices calling for more discussion, but we are disappointed that LASD missed an opportunity to vote for a long-term solution that fully supports all students.

The 10-year facilities agreement was the product of skilled negotiating teams from both boards who in good faith examined many potential solutions. The result was a jointly proposed path forward and, as you know, the BCS board unanimously approved the agreement last week. BCS Board members believe the proposed agreement would help heal the long-standing divisions that have roiled our community for much of the past 15 years.

We now understand that last evening LASD evaluated an alternative proposal that seeks to allocate facilities for two years while spending more time on community outreach and education. While the LASD Trustees were in session, the BCS Board also met and agreed to offer LASD a one-year interim agreement, which the LASD Trustees appear open to considering. The BCS Board believes that a one-year proposal will ensure enough time for extended community engagement while also keeping the process moving expeditiously toward the long-term facilities solution that our community wants, needs, and deserves.

Prop 39

By actively mediating with LASD over these past 18 months, the BCS Board had hoped to avoid the divisive and unpredictable Prop 39 process. Unfortunately, without a negotiated agreement, we have no guarantee of facilities unless we go through the Prop 39 process. Quite simply, we need to ensure that one way or another our students have facilities for the 2019-2020 school year. This means we shall continue to request facilities under Prop 39 *in parallel with* our negotiations with LASD. On or before Wednesday, May 1st, BCS will respond to [LASD's February 1st Prop 39 Preliminary Offer](#) (which sought to place BCS on the Egan, Blach, and Loyola campuses). In turn, LASD will make a final facilities offer by June 1st, unless each board approves a negotiated agreement before that date. We look forward to continuing discussions with LASD during the Prop 39 process.

Next Steps

The BCS Board appreciates the LASD Trustees' willingness to include the BCS Board and the broader BCS parent community in its renewed community engagement effort, and I will continue to update each of you as things develop. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at the email below, or members of the BCS Board at board@bullischarterschool.com to share your thoughts and concerns.

Kind Regards,

Joe Hurd, BCS Board Chair and President
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