



**LOS ALTOS
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

brighter minds make
a world of difference

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Tim Justus

Superintendent

January 29, 2010

Dear Parents,

On January 25, 2010, the Los Altos School District's Board of Trustees approved a preliminary offer of facilities for the Bullis Charter School (BCS) for the 2010-11 school year. In making the initial proposal for housing BCS students next year, the district faces difficult requirements. First, we must ensure that all district children have facilities that allow for a positive educational experience, including those enrolled in BCS. Under the education code, the facilities must be reasonably equivalent to those used by regular district students. As indicated by the court decision last fall, and several prior court rulings, LASD has consistently met this requirement. With this in mind, we have determined that the Egan camp school continues to satisfy the implementing rules.

Next year, BCS plans to add a 7th grade with approximately 21 students. Seventh-grade programs often have additional specialized teaching space, and the district considered several ways to address that requirement including direct sharing of specific facilities. However, sharing would entail mixing students from both schools on campus which could have a less-than-positive outcome given previous interactions. Therefore, the LASD offer provides one classroom beyond the basic requirement for use by BCS 7th grade students in lieu of shared facilities.

In the future, we will have to look for another solution. Given the current kindergarten enrollment estimates provided by BCS and their planned expansion to 7th and 8th grades, it appears that the charter enrollment will be 550 or more students within a few years. Unfortunately, prior court rulings state that districts must consider changing in-district policies and boundaries in order to meet the requirement to provide contiguous facilities. Clearly, changing district schools is not something we want to consider, but the LASD board is brainstorming all options to search for a long term housing option for BCS.

Proposition 39 has the unfortunate effect of pitting the interests of students in regular district schools against those enrolled in charter schools. Providing high quality curriculum and enrichment programs to the more than 4,000 students in our district is our highest priority. We will continue to work closely with our legal advisors to be certain that the LASD offer meets both the letter and the spirit of this law while maintaining our unwavering commitment to the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Tim Justus
Superintendent

Board of Trustees: Bill Cooper, Mark Goines, Margot Harrigan, Tamara Logan, Doug Smith