

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

CONTACT: Jeffrey Baier, Superintendent
Los Altos School District
Phone: (650) 947-1150

**Los Altos School District Board Proposes Extension to
Current Facilities Agreement with Bullis Charter School Due to COVID-19 Uncertainties**

At its Monday, April 27 meeting, the Los Altos School District (LASD) Board of Trustees directed Board President Bryan Johnson to propose a 2-year extension to the current facilities agreement with Bullis Charter School (BCS). The current agreement provides facilities for BCS at the Egan Junior High and Blach campuses for a total of up to 1,111 students and expires at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Superintendent Jeffrey Baier highlighted three issues resulting from the pandemic crisis that complicates future facilities planning for a long term agreement with the charter school, including state and local requirements for social distancing on school campuses for future school years; financial implications resulting from the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis; and restrictions on in-person meetings limiting the opportunities for public feedback on any facilities proposals.

“There is so much uncertainty regarding instruction and facilities for the upcoming school year, and potentially beyond. We have heard the Governor and local public health officials discussing what school might look like with social distancing, staggered classroom schedules and heightened sanitizing practices in place, but we do not yet have a clear indication of the precise requirements that will be imposed,” Baier explained.

Board President Bryan Johnson said, “BCS and LASD parents, community members, the respective boards and our school district administrators have put a lot of time and thought into the Community Engagement process designed to identify a long term plan to house BCS. The LASD Board has been working on scenario analysis and had sincerely hoped to come to a solution this school year, but we now must have a better understanding of how the pandemic will affect facilities requirements, instructional needs, and financial realities to formulate a well-designed plan for the future.”

The Board of Trustees directed Board President Bryan Johnson to formally propose a 2-year extension of the existing agreement to Bullis Charter School. Without an agreement in place, the two parties would be required to re-enter the often contentious, annual Proposition 39 process by November 1, 2020 to determine another facilities arrangement for the 2021-22 school year.

####