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**Los Altos School District Opposes Bullis Charter School's Request for
Judge to Order School Closure**

July 24, 2012, Los Altos, CA – The Los Altos School District has filed court papers opposing Bullis Charter School's July 3 request that a judge order the District to close one of its high-performing schools and hand a campus over to BCS.

In a written opposition filed on July 24, the District explains that BCS's request to order the closure of a District school has no support in the law and violates well-settled law prohibiting such requests. The District also filed a motion for declaratory relief. Some of the key points in the Districts' filings are:

- BCS practices that do not make the school available to all District pupils on an equal opportunity basis and fundraising practices that yield thousands of dollars for each enrolled pupil should be considered in determining facilities allocations under Proposition 39, the state law requiring public school districts to share fairly facilities with all public schools in the District.
- Providing further evidence that the District's current 2012-13 offer is in compliance with Proposition 39, its regulations, and the 2011 Court of Appeal decision.
- Nothing in the regulations or court actions compels the district to hand over a high performing schools campus to BCS. The 11 acres and additional buildings in the offer may in fact over-allocate facilities to BCS given its practices and program.

In addition to legal briefs, a number of board members and District parents filed declarations addressing the potential impact of BCS's request to close a District school. These briefs elaborate

on how BCS practices run counter to the obligation of any public school to be open on an equal opportunity basis to the entire community it is supposed to be serving and to be open free of charge to those who wish to enroll, regardless of means. The declarations point to lower percentages of special education and English Learner students, field trips to China and Costa Rica, and abundant resources allowing BCS to offer a program much like a private-school as well as ensnare the District in costly litigation for much of the past eight years. These elements of the BCS program must be taken into account in order to fully evaluate the fair sharing of public school facilities.

“Proposition 39 requires that facilities be shared fairly between District and students in charter schools that operate as a public school,” said LASD Board President Mark Goines. “We don’t believe that the District should be forced to close one of its high-performing schools and ignore the impact on its students and families. We would prefer to collaborate with BCS and our community to identify a long-term solution that meets everyone’s needs and avoids further divisive legal actions.”

Judge Patricia M. Lucas will conduct a hearing on BCS’ motion on August 15. The District’s legal papers are posted on its website at <http://www.lasdschools.org>.

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