

Los Altos, CA - June 8, 2012

Today the Bullis Charter School has filed papers with the Santa Clara County Superior Court challenging the Los Altos School District's 2012/13 offer for facilities under Proposition 39 as inadequate based on the ruling of the Appellate Court on the District's 2009/10 facilities offer. LASD's Trustees have made several attempts to negotiate an interim agreement with BCS as well as a long-term agreement that meets their needs, but the parties were unable to consummate an acceptable arrangement.

BCS has made it clear that they want their own school site and have named four current district schools as acceptable (Almond, Covington, Gardner Bullis and Santa Rita Elementary schools). The district offered those sites plus a fifth site to be determined but BCS has decided instead to seek relief in the courts. With 10 programs in our district but only 9 school sites, sharing is necessary.

LASD remains committed to finding a long-term solution, but we are equally committed to insuring that our exceptional programs at Egan Junior High School and our other eight schools are not significantly negatively impacted by the growth of BCS. We need to share, but share in a way that allows both programs to thrive. In 2012/13, LASD will provide BCS with a total of 11.0 acres and 34 classrooms and meeting spaces for their 460 children. Although this configuration will take over 40% of Egan's space and have significant impact on that top-rated junior high school program, LASD made this compromise to meet BCS's growing needs. LASD Superintendent Jeffrey Baier said "We are committed to making this offer work for all of our students, but we are also at the limit of compromises we can make at Egan Junior High School."

LASD Board President Mark Goines said, "Now we are at the point where reasonably equivalent space for Egan's students is being compromised, and we do not feel compelled or required to close one of our other schools to accommodate BCS. Without any other compromise we will defend our position in court in order to insure that all of our students receive facilities that allow them to get the best education possible."

In an effort to keep the possibility of a long-term agreement alive, LASD approved an interim agreement that would have further encroached on Egan, but would have provided an opportunity for the groups to continue negotiating. BCS has declined to respond to the District's offer of an interim agreement while still working on a long-term solution. By doing so, it has elected to house its K-8 students at the Egan and Blach campuses as outlined in the 2012/13 final offer. Goines added "I am deeply disappointed in the BCS board for missing the opportunity to heal our community after eight years of dispute. We were close to a long term agreement, but BCS simply wanted more than LASD is willing to inflict on our community".

BACKGROUND:

Los Altos School District operates seven elementary and two junior high schools and is the top-rated school district in the State of California. LASD serves 4,500 K-8 students from portions of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Palo Alto. All nine schools in the district have been California Distinguished Schools and LASD is nationally recognized for its many innovations and awards including the first district to implement the Khan Academy program in mathematics. Egan Junior High School is also home to the State Champion Chess team.

BCS was formed in 2003 after the temporary closure of Bullis-Purissima School (which was re-opened in 2006). BCS has grown to 460 students drawn from LASD. BCS has sued the district four times over facilities and won a case on appeal on the 2009/10 offer. BCS is chartered by the Santa County Office of Education.

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