

# MINUTES

Approved  
March 4, 2013

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

102 West Portola Avenue, Los Altos, Ca 94022

January 28, 2013  
7:30 pm

### Regular Meeting

#### I. PRELIMINARY

##### A. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Ken Moore, Board Chair at 7:42 pm.

##### B. **ROLL CALL**

		Present	Absent
Peter Evans	(6/30/13)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Andrea Eyring	(6/30/13)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Joe Hurd	(6/30/14)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Janet Medlin	(6/30/14)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Francis La Poll	(6/30/15)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Ken Moore	(6/30/13)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
John Phelps	(6/30/15)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

##### C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Francis La Poll noted that Joe Hurd's term ends in 2014, not 2015 as on the agenda, as he had been appointed to replace Anne Marie Gallagher's term that ended in 2014.  
John Phelps moved to approve the agenda, as amended. With a second by Joe Hurd, the motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

#### II. COMMUNICATIONS

##### A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No one wished to address the Board.

##### B. For Information: Principal/Administrator's Report

This is a presentation of information that has occurred since the previous Board meeting.

- Congratulations to Sarayu Namineni, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, our BCS spelling bee winner who will move on to represent BCS at the written spelling bee in San Jose.
- Forty-two students did a great job performing in the last Student Council Talent Show thanks to Lauren Kotval, their advisor.
- "We Will Rock You", the 1<sup>st</sup> semester Dance performance was a wonderful show. The students get noticeably better every year. One of the highlights of the night was the debut of the Cadet Band, led by Tracey Mumford, one of our new staff members, who brings to Bullis an extensive instrumental background.
- In December, many BCS classes chose to do something to benefit others in lieu of traditional holiday parties. For example, Ms. Cheng's class, sewed and made scarves for the Community Service Agency in Mountain View, Ms. Greenstadt's class collected art supplies such as

holiday stickers, pencils, and pens, put them into goodie bags and donated them to Ronald McDonald's. Like everyone throughout the nation, we were all really affected by the Sandy Hook School tragedy. Staff decided to forego a gift exchange and instead donation money to the Sandy Hook fund. Books, notes and cards made by BCS students were collected and taken to the school. Over the holiday, some BCS 4<sup>th</sup> grade students initiated a bake sale in downtown Los Altos, raised \$211, and donated it to Sandy Hook School.

- This week marks the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester co- and extra-curricular classes. The culminating assembly, an opportunity for classes to share what they have learned, will take place on Wednesday, February 6, at 1:30pm.
- On the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Staff Development Day, the teaching faculty spent the entire day working on the Continuum, upon which performance-based compensation will be based. The teachers initially placed themselves on the Continuum based on self-evidence and worked with others at the same level and to verify their evidence. The day was a very successful one, reflecting the staff's commitment to holding themselves accountable for student outcomes. Therefore, it was appropriate that the celebratory luncheon that day was to thank the staff for their hard work on helping every student reach his/her potential last year. I want to thank and recognize Sang Yoo, Buffy Poon, Lisa Collart, Charmaine Lovell for hosting the luncheon, coming back early from their own family vacations. Many thanks to all the parents who donated towards this special celebration.
- The Assistant Principal search has started. The members from Redwood Circle Consulting have spent time getting to know BCS. They have attended school tours, parent information nights, and talked to many of the key stakeholders in our community including the staff leadership team. Based on this, a AP job description was created and a draft copy was shared with the BCS ad hoc search committee members as well as the staff for input. The AP position, with the finalized job description, has been advertised for about a week and we have received over 55 applications so far.

C. For Information: Board/Staff Discussions

Andrea Eyring attended the dance performances and was very impressed with the quality of the pieces. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance was especially impressive.

John Phelps also thought that the performance was wonderful. He shared that while the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed a piece they probably would not have normally chosen, they did an outstanding job.

Janet Medlin reported that the League of Women Voters is interested in holding a forum on Charter Schools, a great opportunity for BCS and other charter schools to participate. Representative Rich Gordon has formed an education panel, reaching out to the community and seeking feedback on education in California.

Joe Hurd shared that BCS has reached out to LASD Board members Steve Taglio and Pablo Luther who will be touring the school next week. MVLA High School District Superintendent, Barry Groves, will be touring BCS on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Superintendent/Principal recommends approval of all consent agenda items.

1. **Minutes** Approval of the Minutes from the November 19, 2012 Special Board meeting
2. **Minutes** Approval of the Minutes from the December 10, 2012 Board meeting
3. **Minutes** Approval of the Minutes from the January 7, 2013 Board meeting.
4. **Finance Committee** Approval of the Finance Committee member appointment

Francis La Poll noted that the term of Joe Hurd needed to be changed to end in 2014 in the January 7, 2013 board minutes.

John Phelps requested a change in his comments in the Communications section in the December 10, 2012 board minutes.

Francis La Poll moved to approve items 1-4, as amended on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Andrea Eyring. Agenda items #1, #3 and #4 passed on a vote of 7-0. Agenda item #2 passed on a vote of 6-0-1 (Janet Medlin abstained).

#### **IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

##### **1. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Intersession #1**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Adam Jancis, Asaf Tal, and Max Rashke presented an overview of Intersession #1 and the Project-Based and Design-Thinking units that focused on risk-taking, environmental stewardship, and global citizenship in both China and the United States. Whether at the Chengdu Panda Base, Panda Valley or Happy Hollow Zoo, students participated in programs and worked with scientists and trainers to learn how to train and provide enrichment to a variety of species of wildlife. Students also studied organic farming in both countries, visiting local farms and those in the US created their own gardens studying under master gardeners to grow food to donate for the rest of the year. Students who traveled to China also worked on additional design-thinking projects with the BCS sister schools, allowing students to further hone the process by empathizing with students in another culture.

##### **2. Proposition 39 Update**

Ken Moore shared the presentation that he gave on January 23, 2013. Some key points included:

- Problem with facilities in Los Altos School District is not an issue of capacity but of configuration
- In 2006, BCS and its students were excluded from the analysis that informed the last major reconfiguration of the LASD; as a result, the last vacant site, Gardner Bullis, was used to redistribute LASD students less densely while leaving the fastest growing school, BCS, on the corner of Egan
- BCS is willing to a major compromise and agree to the LASD framework that does not require any LASD students to relocate or would require LASD to raise substantial new taxpayer funds for more land by seeking a balanced Egan/Blach split with the necessary parameters:
  - Continued use of the Egan Camp site
  - A similarly useable configuration at Blach
  - Self-Contained sites – all standard facilities available on site like all other LASD schools
  - Critical mass of students at each site
  - LASD request that sharing of middle school facilities be at Blach only if BCS students are provided with roughly equivalent number of hours per week in shared facilities to time available to Blach students & that the schedule must be determined by fair process giving equal weight to Blach & BCS needs.
- Disadvantages of a workable Egan/Blach split:
  - More costly than a site at Covington for both LASD (extra facilities) & BCS (staffing, logistics, etc.)
  - Multi-site burden on BCS families
- Advantages of a workable Egan/Blach split:
  - Does not require a single LASD student to change schools
  - Does not require LASD to close any district program at any site
  - Does not require any immediate spending of public funds to acquire additional land
  - Allows time to see if LASD prediction of large increase in student population occurs
  - Does not disrupt City project at Hillview
  - Does not required land swap with City of Los Altos

Board Chair Moore also sent a letter to Doug Smith, LASD Board President, on January 23, 2013 with BCS's proposed compromise, as well as to indicate that BCS stands ready to meet publicly in bi-

weekly study sessions between now and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ken Moore shared that it is his hope that this would be an alternative avenue to try to reach a viable short-term solution instead of having something imposed in the regular Prop 39 cycle. There has been no response yet from LASD.

Janet Medlin stated that the BCS Board has requested to meet with the LASD Board at least five times during the Prop 39 process to no avail. Andrea Eyring stressed the importance of continuing with the Prop 39 process; Peter Evans noted that there are facilities milestones that are driven by outside factors such as DSA that need to be met.

Joe Hurd, Peter Evans, and Andrea Eyring agreed to be serve on the ad hoc working group .

### 3. 2012 STAR Report

Superintendent/Principal Hersey presented an overview of the 2012 STAR results. Some highlights included:

- BCS is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest scoring public school in California; the top scoring charter school in CA
- English-Language Arts: 100% of grades 4, 6, 7 & 8 students scored Proficient or Advanced; 98% in grades 2, 3 & 5
- Mathematics: 100% of grades 3, 4 & 7 students scored Proficient or Advanced; 99% in grade 2; 94% in grade 6; 92% in grade 8; and 90% in grade 5
- BCS offers classes in Geometry and Algebra II, unlike most local middle schools
- Science: 100% of grades 5 & 8 students scored Proficient or Advanced
- Social Science: 100% of grade 8 students scored Proficient or Advanced
- No significant difference between male and female performance in any subject matter
- Longitudinal cohort scores indicates achievement maintaining or improving over years at BCS
- Students with Disabilities scores continue to improve in both ELA – 93% (+5%) & Math – 93% (+5%)
- Student achievement continue to improve in every subject area every year in a climate of continuous school growth (174 tested in 2007 – 341 tested in 2012)
- Significant growth noted in:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade Writing
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science
  - Special Education students (number of students in program has also continued to increase)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scores are outstanding though the small number of students (sample size) affects the percentages significantly
  - EVERY 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is in at least Algebra I level
- BCS scores continue to improve without teaching to the test and in a robust Project-Based Learning environment in every grade level and integrated learning across the curricula. (BCS Parameter: “We will not teach to the test”)

## V. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session to consider and/or take action upon any of the following items:

1. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9)**  
Bullis Charter School vs. Los Altos School District  
Case No. 109CV144569
2. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9)**  
Bullis Charter School vs. Los Altos School District  
Case No. 112CV232187
3. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1 Case)(G.C. 54956.9)**

**VI. PUBLIC SESSION – REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened to open session at 11:12 pm. Ken Moore, Board Chair, reported that no action had been taken.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Review Prop 39 Preliminary Offer

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Ken Moore, Board Chair, at 11:13 pm.