



# BULLIS mountain view

January 4, 2019

Via Email  
[trustees@mvwsd.org](mailto:trustees@mvwsd.org)

Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees  
1400 Montecito Avenue  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear MVWSD Trustees,

The Board of Directors of Bullis Mountain View ("BMV") thanks the Mountain View Whisman School District ("MVWSD" or the "District") staff for the significant amount of time it dedicated to the charter petition review process leading up to the decision hearing. We also extend our appreciation to the District trustees for the time spent listening to and learning about the Bullis Mountain View Charter.

The purpose of this letter is to address next steps in our mutual service of Mountain View students and families, and to respond to actions taken and statements made during the meeting, to which we were not permitted to respond.

### Delayed Operation

It is unfortunate that the Trustees were not allowed to explore, in conversation with our Board, the possibility of delaying opening for one year. We stated in writing, in a letter sent to the trustees and Dr. Rudolph on December 13, 2018 at 2:21 pm and on December 19, 2018 at 6:02 pm, responding to the staff recommendations, that BMV would consider the possibility of delaying for a year. We remain open to this discussion. As stated in the December 19th letter: *"as we noted in BMV's response to outstanding questions from the hearing on 12/13/18 about the District's interest in BMV delaying its opening by one year, to commence operations on July 1, 2020, BMV remains open to discussing the matter pending a strong collaborative agreement that includes items outlined by email earlier this week."* In addition, the petitioners were not allowed the opportunity to address any of the questions raised by Superintendent's presentation or to address the board as is standard practice in charter decision meetings.

### MOU Negotiations

In that same letter, we also agreed to having a dialogue about the proposed staff recommendations to hopefully reach an agreement on important outstanding issues, in the form of an MOU. In writing, Dr. Rudolph and your legal counsel, stated that the approval would not be a conditional approval and that the MOU was open for discussion and negotiation; yet the action taken on 12/20 was a conditional approval with no discussion between BMV and the District about the conditions. Basic contract law defines the fundamental elements required for an agreement between two parties to be a legally enforceable contract are: mutual assent, expressed by a valid offer, and acceptance. The MOU and recommendations provided by the district are currently one-sided. We will provide specific feedback and requested changes on the proposed MOU and look forward to working on a mutually agreed upon MOU in the best interest of the students of Mountain View.

### Charter Term Length

The Board's decision to approve the charter for a three year term is unfortunate, and not in line with trustees' obligations as Board members to make informed, data-based charter renewal decisions as you will be required to do in the future. A three year term will not provide sufficient data points on pupil outcomes and growth towards a potential charter renewal, given state testing guidelines and the threshold criteria around academic achievement data usage for renewal evaluation.

In addition, given BMV's low enrollment targets in this abbreviated charter term, the data requested on subgroup performance may be significantly restricted by FERPA and other student privacy requirements. Data may only be publicly shared for subgroup populations with more than 10 students. Data is only deemed "numerically significant" if it includes 30 or more test-takers. BMV's tested students in year 2 will include approximately 48 third graders.

Given that the charter term decision has already been made, as part of the MOU negotiations, we look forward to learning about the assessments used by the MVWSD, evaluating whether they can be used by Bullis Mountain View, and working on a mutually agreed upon MOU in the best interest of the students of Mountain View.

### Board Composition and Mountain View Community

The assertion that the majority of Bullis Mountain View Board does not include residents of Mountain View is inaccurate. At present, 50% of the BMV board is comprised of individuals residing within the boundaries of Mountain View Whisman School District and/or Mountain View. We continue to make every effort to recruit more qualified board members who reside within the Mountain View Whisman School District and are representative of the student population we aim to serve.

We are committed to expanding the impact of the Bullis educational model and believe it will add to the portfolio of quality schools in Mountain View by providing an alternative, high-quality

public school option for parents and children that is developed based on each student's individual needs. It is our hope that these parents and children are treated with the same respect as any other members of the Mountain View community.

Sincerely,

Bullis Mountain View Board Members

Bertha Alarcon (Mountain View Resident)

Greg Brauner (Mountain View Resident)

David Jaques (Los Altos Resident)

Jordan Hwang (Mountain View Resident)

Clara Roa (Los Altos Resident)

Patrick Walsh (Greenbrae Resident)