

March 19, 2019

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Jennifer Anderson-Rosse
Lead Petitioner
Bullis Charter School
102 W. Portola Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: Santa Clara County Office of Education Meeting

Dear Ms. Anderson-Rosse:

The Mountain View Whisman School District (“District”) was very surprised to learn from the Santa Clara County Office of Education (“SCCOE”) that representatives from Bullis Mountain View (“BMV” or “Charter School”) met directly with County Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan and SCCOE staff – without District knowledge or advance notification – to request that SCCOE “approve” BMV’s already-existing charter. Specifically, BMV sought permission to operate under SCCOE’s oversight because of its dissatisfaction with the governance and enrollment requirements which the District’s Governing Board approved consistent with and as part of the BMV charter.

BMV’s attempt to end-run the District’s oversight authority is both stunning and telling. BMV is required to comply with governance and enrollment requirements designed to ensure local participation in the governance of the Charter School and to ensure BMV serves the diverse student population it has proposed, indeed promised, to serve. However, BMV’s dissatisfaction with these requirements, as evident by its effort to avoid these obligations by somehow being authorized by the SCCOE board, reflects BMV’s intention to disavow these obligations.

The District interprets the unprecedented length to which BMV attempted to bypass these obligations and the District’s oversight as a violation of law. The Charter Schools Act provides no authority for a charter school to “swap” authorizers, much less seek the “approval” of an already-existing district-approved charter from the county office of education, or any other agency for that matter, absent the exhaustion of statutory procedures for petition denial or nonrenewal, which are not present here.



Furthermore, BMV's actions stand at odds with the preference for local control which underpins the Charter Schools Act.

BMV may not treat the process or the decision of the District Board to approve the charter petition as a sham. In fact, BMV's actions call into question whether it ever intended to serve District students, to serve a diverse population, or to engage the Mountain View Whisman community. BMV's actions amount to a bad faith lobbying effort to undermine the District's oversight authority because of its own inability and/or unwillingness to comply with the charter and the promises made.

Within ten (10) days of receipt of this letter, BMV is to provide a written response to the District to explain its actions. Please be advised that the Santa Clara County Office of Education is being copied to this letter.

If BMV does not have any intention of operating in compliance with its charter, including the approved governance and enrollment requirements, BMV is to immediately communicate such intention and the District will take appropriate steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AR", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr. Ayindé Rudolph
Superintendent

cc: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent
Khristel Johnson, Director, Charter Schools Division
Santa Clara County Office of Education