






May 18, 2011

TO: Santa Clara County Board of Education

FROM:  Maurice Ghysels, Ed.D., Chief Schools Officer
Student Services Branch

 Lucretia Peebles, Ph.D.
Director, Charter Schools

VIA: Charles Weis, Ph.D. 
County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Approve Request for Material Revision to Magnolia Science Academy - Santa Clara Charter
Petition

SCCOE 2010 Associated Goal

Goal 2: SCCOE schools will be "models of excellence" in student learning and well-being.

Background

On March 4, 2009, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (County Board) approved the charter petition for Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Clara, a countywide charter school. The charter was approved for a three-year period (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2012) with a requirement that the Superintendent negotiate a contract for operation consistent with the terms of Administrative Regulation 6234 Charter School Memorandum of Agreement. In approving the charter, the County Board granted the Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation permission to open three countywide schools with the requirement that they meet specified metrics and receive Board approval prior to opening the remaining two schools.

On April 7, 2010, the County Board voted to approve Magnolia Science Academy- Santa Clara's request for a material revision to extend by one year, the opening of each school. Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Clara opened on August 16, 2010.

The Santa Clara County Board of Education received a letter from Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation on April 28, 2011, requesting a material revision to delay by one year (from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012) the opening of Magnolia Science Academy-Milpitas, the second countywide charter school.

Requested Action

Approve request for material revision to the Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Clara Charter petition.

LP:clr



Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation

13950 Milton Ave 200B Westminster, CA 92683
P: (714) 892-5066 F: (714) 892-5022

April 28, 2011

Mr. Joseph Di Salvo, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131-2304

Dear Board President Di Salvo,

The purpose of this letter is to request a material revision to delay the opening of Magnolia Science Academy-Milpitas until Fall 2012, because of facilities issues.

During the past year, we have been in regular contact with all local churches and private schools in the area as well as reviewed several other commercial properties. Three suitable sites were identified, but two were quickly purchased by development companies for residential use. A third property is available for lease but the cost of converting it is prohibitive. Additionally, acquiring the conditional use permit and completing the necessary studies by the beginning of the next school year are unlikely.

As part of our search, we also met with the mayor of Milpitas and the superintendent of Milpitas Unified School District. Although, we appreciated the time and willingness of both officials to assist where possible, facilities solutions are very difficult to solve.

Because of the many activities that must commence immediately in order to open a school with a highly qualified staff that is appropriately equipped with the supplies and equipment to serve students well, we have determined that we cannot open a school in Milpitas at this time. We are still very committed to serving the students of Santa Clara County and look forward to locating an appropriate facility in the coming year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suleyman Bahceci".

Suleyman Bahceci, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Magnolia Public Schools

Cc: Charles Weis, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools
Lucretia Peebles, Ph.D., Director, Charter Schools