



March 10, 2023

Marin County Board of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Marin County Board of Education:

Please accept this letter in response to the Staff Findings report by MCOE's Ad Hoc Committee, posted online on Monday, February 27, 2023.

While we do not agree with the recommendation, we want to reply to a few items of note:

- **Facility** – Healy School sought a Prop. 39 location after a suitable private facility was not secured. Novato Unified School District ("NUSD"), by law, is required to provide reasonably equivalent facilities. NUSD did not comply with this legal requirement. This is one of the many difficulties that Healy School ("HS") faced in securing a location and why an exact location wasn't determined yet. The Staff Findings were incorrect in stating HS was looking to locate in Hamilton. Our exact location was TBD depending on facilities, but again – this was a difficulty that HS faced, and NUSD frustrated the clear intent and letter of the law.
- **Timeframe** – Opening a school for the SY23-24 without approval by the beginning of March has made the reality of opening a new school within 6 short months a challenging one. With this truncated timeframe, the reality of opening a new school is daunting.
- **Enrollment** – Healy School's enrollment projections are optimistic, but not unrealistic. Our team collected meaningful interest forms online, and in-person. While there were some accusations that our team misrepresented themselves, we assert again that this did not occur. Our team had forms in English and Spanish at all times, and explained that we sought to become part of NUSD. There was never a discussion of being another school, the forms stated Healy School, the petitions provided stated Healy School, and

the signatures were collected only from parents wanting to support a new charter school in the Novato Unified School District.

- **Financial Solvency** – Charter School Budget was created with our back-office provider, ExED, with the then-current information in August, 2022. The budget is solvent; however we appreciate the detailed analysis and recommendations provided to the petitioners by the County.

On another note, we were impressed by the thoroughness of the Ad Hoc Committee meeting, and noted the atypical volume of questions (50 pages written up). We did want to briefly address the three findings for denial of the charter petition:

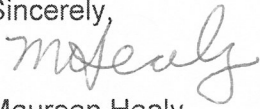
1. Creating a budget for the establishment of a charter school is a complex process, and we worked with experts in establishment charter school budgets, which through our thorough process produced a solvent budget. The budget we presented was conservative, and didn't necessarily account for all funds to be potentially received. Important to note: there were inaccurate assumptions in the staff findings (for example, the curriculum was already accounted for in the budget, as well as the after-school tutoring; the reviewers' financial forecasting of PD, ELOP, computers, nutrition and furniture costs were also overstated numbers for an establishment charter school). Reviewers also notably didn't model the high likelihood of HS receiving the PCSGP grant, and Revolving Loan, which would greatly minimize risk.
2. The findings that the petition didn't contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the 15 elements is factually incorrect, as we provided all the legally required information for charter school approval. This was enumerated in the response to NUSD's Staff Findings, and while the authorizer may want more than what is legally required in California, it's not necessary in the approval process, and it is not a lawful reason to deny a charter petition.
3. The Committee finding that NUSD is teaching how to create, maintain, and repair resilience in a scientific framework is flatly inaccurate. We identified previously that while SEL (social and emotional learning) and resilience studies are cousins, they are not twins. SEL work and resilience work cannot be evenly exchanged for one another. We stand by the unique program of Healy School and its intention to be a complement to current programming and its potentiality of even attracting more NUSD students who otherwise wouldn't attend public school.

On a personal note, we have been impressed by the professionalism and caliber of the MCOE staff and Board of Trustees. We believe that Marin County is in very good hands, and are happy to be part of this community.

In conclusion and with everything we have identified, Healy School will attend the MCBE meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at 3:30 pm and be available to answer questions.

Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtful consideration and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "maureen healy".

Maureen Healy

Lead Petitioner

415-320-1063