



For Immediate Release

Ross Valley Charter Asks for Fair Treatment of its Students

Fairfax, CA, February 19, 2018⁷ – Ross Valley Charter School (RVC), a TK-5 public charter school in Fairfax, has asked the Ross Valley School District to improve its facility offer to RVC for next school year to treat RVC public school students fairly. On February 16, RVC sent a final [letter](#) to the District reiterating that in order to avoid litigation, RVC is asking to discuss a negotiated settlement.

Charter school students are public school students and under state law have a right to space in taxpayer-funded public school facilities. Proposition 39 requires public school facilities to be allocated to charter public school students in the same proportions per student as they are provided to district public school students.

Unfortunately, the District's preliminary facility offer to RVC for next year is grossly inadequate and a violation of the law. The District offered only six classrooms to RVC for next year -- two fewer classrooms than it occupies this year. This would require a shrinkage of the school at a time when the school's enrollment is steadily increasing.

RVC is currently serving 152 students and is adding a new class of students next week (due to significant demand) that will increase enrollment to almost 170 students. Additionally, the school has already received more than 55 new student applications for next year.

This is the second year in a row that the District has under-allocated facility space to RVC by not offering any Specialized Classroom space to RVC. Under Proposition 39 Specialized Classrooms are classrooms used for specialized subjects, like special education, intervention pull-out, art, music, and computer labs.

The District falsely claims in its offer that it does not provide art and music facilities to district elementary school students. This claim is contradicted by many of the District's own publicly available documents, including those for the 2010 bond issue which was primarily justified by the need for dedicated art, music and after-care facilities.

The District also did not offer any appropriate space to RVC for special education. The only space included in the facility offer for special education is the school's main office -- the

only secure entrance to the school, which is often full of visitors, students, parents and teachers. This would leave RVC with no private pull-out space for the delivery of federally mandated special education services to students with disabilities.

In comparison, **40%** of classroom space in the Ross Valley District's elementary schools is used for such specialized purposes as art, music, after-care, computer labs, special education, intervention, meeting rooms and other student services (37 specialized classrooms out of a total of 93 classrooms across 4 school facilities).

Using the state's required method for allocating classrooms, RVC students should be allocated at least ten classrooms for next year. For a detailed description of the calculations required by Proposition 39, and their application to RVC and RVSD, see this [presentation](#) from RVC's online board materials.

RVC is grateful for the eight classrooms it is currently renting on the White Hill campus to serve the many local families who have chosen this progressive, multi-age educational environment for their children.

In recent months, RVC has repeatedly asked to have a meeting with the District to find a solution, but the District has refused to meet or engage. RVC's preference is to avoid the time and expense of litigation, but if the District does not significantly improve its facility offer and refuses to engage, RVC's board has authorized the school to file litigation to have a judge compel the District to follow the law and treat RVC's students fairly.

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BACKGROUND ON RVC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS:

*Ross Valley Charter School (RVC) features multi-age classes with an emphasis on project-based learning and integration of art, music and performances into all subjects. The school provides Spanish language classes for all students at all grade levels as part of the regular school day. **Learn more about Ross Valley Charter School at www.rvcs.org***

RVC was authorized in January 2016 by the California State Board of Education. It is opened August 23, 2017 at 101 Glen Drive, Fairfax, CA. Charter schools are free, public schools open to all students, just like district-run schools. The State Legislature authorized the creation of charter schools in order to promote choice, innovation, and competition.

Marin County is far behind in terms of providing public school choices to local families. Statewide and in the Bay Area, 8% of California's public school students are enrolled in charter schools today. Only 2% of Marin's K-12 school students currently attend charter schools.