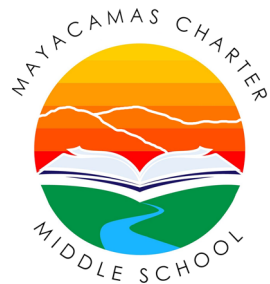


# **Response to Napa County Office of Education's "Findings Regarding Mayacamas Charter Middle School, a Petition for a Charter School"**

**Presented by  
Lauren Daley & Jolene Yee**

**On behalf of the Napa Foundation for Options in Education and the Students, Families and  
Community that Supports Our Charter**

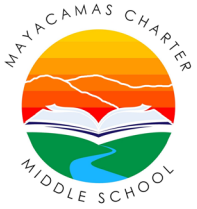


# Thank You:

Dr. Barbara Nemko and Deputy Superintendent Josh Schultz

Members of the NCOE Staff

NCOE Board of Education Trustees

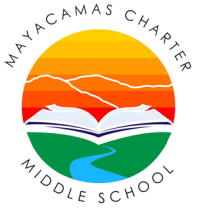


# Mayacamas is a Much-Needed Unique Offering

---

- ✓ Student-centered with strong emphasis on relationship-building
- ✓ Culture steeped in Social-Emotional Learning, reinforced by daily Advisory
- ✓ Teacher looping to reinforce relationship building by providing two years with the same teacher and classmates



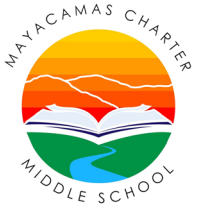


# Mayacamas is a Much-Needed Unique Offering

---

- ✓ Focus on Individual Student Success, with Individual Learning Plans and Learning Lab 4X/Week
- ✓ Students help set educational goals resulting in greater personal investment
- ✓ Graduate with a portfolio of their work



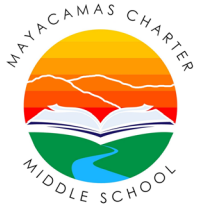


# Mayacamas is a Much-needed Unique Offering

---

- ✓ Diverse by Design – located in downtown Napa, close to two Title I schools
- ✓ Electives focused on Visual and Performing Arts
- ✓ Proven New Tech Network Project-Based Learning Model



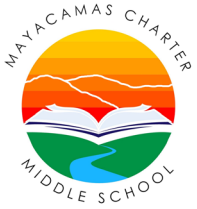


# How Did We Get Here?

---

- In October, 2020, NVUSD unilaterally announced the closure of Harvest Middle School, resulting in a swift and demonstrative public outcry.
- NVUSD rolled this decision back and formed the Middle School Redesign Task Force.
- The closure of River School was added as one of the options.
- In April 2021 the NVUSD Trustees voted unanimously and without hesitation to close Harvest and River Middle Schools.



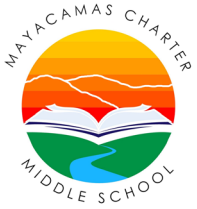


# The NCOE Staff Report: The Factual Findings

---

- ✓ Our charter is comprehensive and detailed.
- ✓ Our budget is appropriate and viable.
- ✓ “Petitioners have **met all legal requirements** for the establishment of a charter school.”
- ✓ There is a well-established need and demand for this unique program.





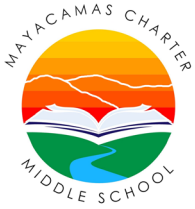
# The NCOE Staff Report: The Factual Findings

---

- ✓ “The petition describes a highly aspirational program and Petitioners showed themselves **capable of materially implementing that program.**”
- ✓ “MCMS would provide enrolled students with **educational benefit...**”
- ✓ “MCMS, which seeks to continue the work of River Middle School, also **has the support of parents and families** in Napa County”







# Community Impact: The CA Education Code

---

**The slight decrease in revenue resulting from students moving to another public school is not a legally sufficient basis to deny our petition**

- Ed. Code section 47605(c): an authorizer shall grant a charter petition if it is consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community.
- An authorizer shall not deny a charter petition unless the Board makes written, specific factual findings in support of at least one of the statutory bases for denial. In this case, those specific findings are limited to what is in the Staff Report.
- To justify denial of a charter, you must have a comprehensive and meaningful analysis of the applicable factors, and a finding under Section 47695(c)(7) must align to the statutory requirement cited by the Staff Report that served as the only potential basis for denial.



# Community Impact: The CA Education Code

---

**No finding can be made to support a denial based solely on the projected declining financial health of NVUSD. Ed. Code criterion (c)7 requires consideration of all 3 factors:**

- “The extent to which the proposed charter school would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings”
- “...would duplicate a program currently offered within the school district and the existing programs has sufficient capacity...”
- “The fiscal impact of the proposed charter school”





# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

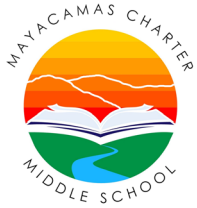
---

## Factor #1: Does MCMS undermine an existing program?

### Unequivocally No

- The MCMS program does not undermine any existing programs within NVUSD.
- River Middle School is the only school which is remotely similar, and it is closing at the end of this year, depriving the community of this much-needed and popular program.
- MCMS fills the hole that will be created when River closes.





# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

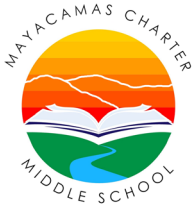
---

## Factor #2: Does MCMS duplicate an existing program?

### Unequivocally No

- The Staff Report found no evidence that MCMS duplicated another program that will be in operation next year.
- No school has MCMS's student-focused design with individualized learning plans, learning labs, daily morning advisory, block scheduling, looping and portfolios.
- MCMS will be the only current NTN Middle School and will be two blocks from New Tech High School.





# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

---

## Factor #3: Fiscal Impact

- The analysis must consider the fiscal impact on “the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate”, not solely NVUSD.
- Must prioritize what is best for students. The law requires the authorizer to consider the academic needs of students whom the charter school proposes to serve. (FCMAT Fiscal Alert: “Fiscal Impact of New Charter Evaluation Criteria in AB 1505” August 2020.)
- Crux of the analysis: how will money be spent in an efficient manner to improve student outcomes?





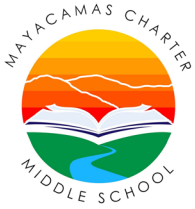
# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

---

## Factor #3: Fiscal Impact

- MCMS will serve a diverse population with popular curricular elements.
- MCMS budget projections are strong, with a surplus every year.
- By contrast, the District has shown its inability to operate efficiently or to support popular programs in an extended period of population shift.





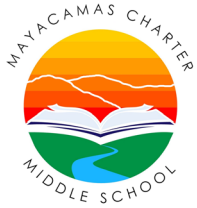
# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

---

## Factor #3: Fiscal Impact

- The District anticipates being in a challenging financial position 4-5 years from now resulting from years of deficit spending.
- The District has had at least 8 years to make changes to its financial trajectory, and has failed to do so despite closing 5 schools during that period.





# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

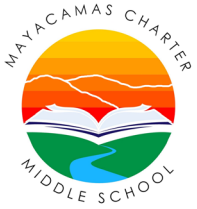
---

## Factor #3: Fiscal Impact

- Fiscal Analysis assumes that all students who would enroll in MCMS will remain with the District if MCMS is denied. This thinking is highly flawed.
- Many MCMS families have expressed consideration of private school and homeschooling if the charter fails gain County approval.
- District decisions are accelerating enrollment decline.







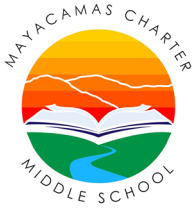
# Community Impact: The MCMS Response

---

## Factor #3: Fiscal Impact

- From a legal perspective, this one consideration cannot serve as the sole basis for denying the charter and suppressing parent options.
- Declining enrollment impacts the entire state, yet charter schools continue to be approved.

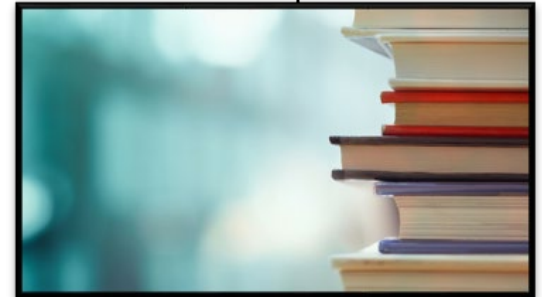


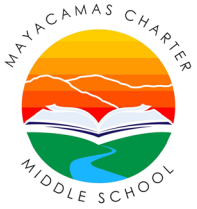


# NVUSD Budget: Mitigating Factors Lead to Financial Improvement

---

- ✓ It is all but certain that California's allocation of funds to school districts will substantially increase over what school districts receive today. Including all funding sources, per-student allocations will increase significantly.
- ✓ The Cost of Living Adjustment in the 2022-23 Governor's Budget will more than double (from 2.48% to 5.33%) - a significant increase in funding.
- ✓ The Governor's Budget includes a change in the calculation of ADA to offset the impact of enrollment decline, which will positively impact NVUSD's financial position.
- ✓ California is expanding its TK program, which under current conditions will add 460 units of ADA, well in excess of the entire Mayacamas campus at full capacity.

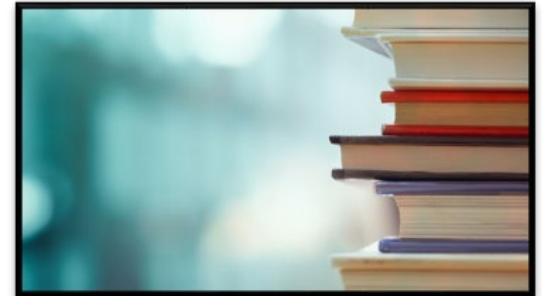


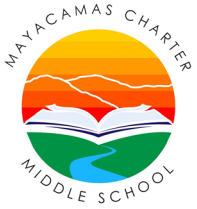


# Community Impact: The Negative Impact of Denial

---

- Private schools are growing rapidly in Napa while NVUSD enrollment shrinks. Parent statements and behavior indicate that more families will leave if MCMS is not approved.
- Thanks to COVID, more families view homeschooling as a viable option.
- The loss of students at the middle school level will soon begin to impact NVUSD high schools, if it hasn't already.

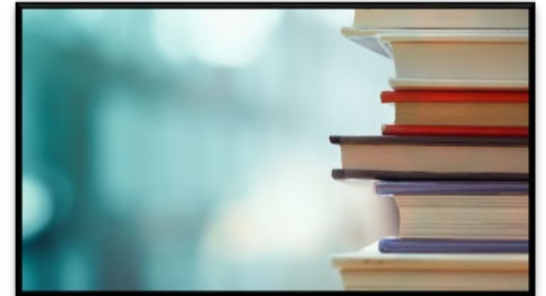


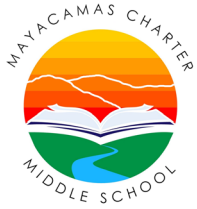


# Community Impact: The Negative Impact of Denial

---

- MCMS is a public middle school designed to serve as a bridge to the public high schools in Napa.
- It is highly likely that families that leave NVUSD for middle school will not return for high school.
- Students who attend MCMS are more likely to attend an NVUSD high school.
- The ability to stem the exodus of Napa families to private school, homeschooling, and schools outside the District is a win/win for everyone, including NVUSD.





# Community Impact: The Negative Impact of Denial

---

- Some students need an alternative environment with a highly-individualized curriculum:
  - Non-Traditional Students
  - Students bullied at other schools
  - Students with disabilities (River School served more students with 504 plans than any other middle school in NVUSD)
  - LGBTQ+ students
  - Neurodiverse students
- Elimination of programs has left families feeling abandoned and resulted in a loss of faith in public schools in Napa.

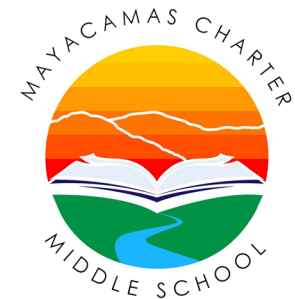


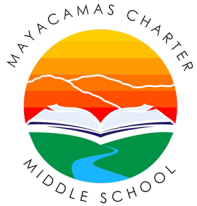
# The Legal Question you must answer:

---

Is Mayacamas  
***demonstrably unlikely***  
to serve the interests of  
the entire community in  
which the school is  
proposing to locate?

The Staff Report does  
not support such a  
finding



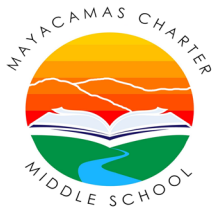


# Mayacamas will have Talented Administrators, Teachers & Staff

---

- ✓ Excellent Head of School candidates already vetted
- ✓ Many highly qualified teacher candidates
- ✓ Excellent applicants for all posted staff (non-certificated) roles
- ✓ If approved, we will be ready to recommend a Head of School and slate of candidates for almost all teacher and staff openings





# Thank you for your time

We are ready to go!

Questions?

