

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento CA 95814

The Honorable Steven Glazer
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 247/Senate Bill 28 - Request for Robust Allocation for
Green Schoolyard Program in School Bond

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi and Senator Glazer,

We are writing in support of AB 247 and SB 28, which would allow California voters to authorize State general obligation bonds for the construction and modernization of school facilities. A new State school construction and modernization bond has the potential to provide much needed funding for the Mountain View Whisman School District schools and students, depending on how the funds are ultimately allocated and apportioned, and eligibility determined. Recognizing that most of the funds will be used for new construction and replacing aging and deteriorating school facilities, we wish to call particular attention to the incredible need for school greening and the lack of available funding sources to meet this need.

We applaud you and your co-authors for including a new funding category in AB 247 not previously seen in a state school bond, for projects to address climate change impacts on school facilities. We would welcome and encourage the Senate version to include this. **To this end, we are also writing to ask that the set-aside for “projects to address climate change impacts on school facilities” in Section 101412(a)(7) in AB 247 be funded at a robust level and that the bill’s**



final language make clear that greening schoolyards should be a priority for these funds.

Greening schoolyards is central to addressing the challenges the climate crisis brings and has the additional benefit of improving student learning, health, and well-being. Green schoolyards also benefit the community at large, providing equitable access to playgrounds, sports fields, and other recreational activities to the public outside of school hours.

Public school students deserve equitable access to safe and sustainable green spaces, outdoor learning environments, and shade trees. School districts throughout California cannot cobble together enough money from existing sources to remake our schools for the new reality of severe weather caused by climate change. For this reason, we urge you to make clear that schoolyard greening should be a priority for addressing climate change impacts in AB 247 and SB 28, and to set aside a robust allocation specifically for this purpose.

We thank you for leading on school modernization through AB 247 and SB 28. Please contact our offices if we can provide additional support on this bill.

Respectfully,

The Mountain View Whisman School Board of Trustees

Christopher Chiang _____

Devon Conley _____

Laura Blakely _____

Laura Berman Ramirez _____

William Lambert _____