

**San Diego County Board of Education
Regular Meeting - June 14, 2023**

Name/Nombre:	Please note the agenda item number and topic: Anotar el número de artículo de la agenda y el tema:	Do you oppose or approve of this agenda item? ¿Se opone o está a favor de este punto de la agenda?	Please add your comment here/ Favor de agregar su comentario aquí:
1 Renny Laitio	Material Revision to Classical Academy in Vista	Oppose/Opone	The Classical Academy charter sadly has history of underserving Students with Disabilities and Low Income Students
2 Kristin Childs	Classical Academy Material Revision add the Dual Language Institute – North County (DLI) to Classical Academy.	Oppose/Opone	Expansion of CAV to include DLI would not be in the interest of the entire community in which it is proposing to locate. Approval of this material revision would combine two programs that are already not serving the community equitably, and are specifically underserving low income students, students with disabilities and English Learners. Finally, CAV’s proposed expansion would add to Classical Academy a program that is duplicative of a program already being offered by VUSD, and which has sufficient space to accommodate the students they are proposing to serve.
3 Cipriano Vargas	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	Will be speaking during public comment but I strongly oppose the Board approving this item.
4 Martha Alvarado	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>June 10, 2023 Dear Esteemed Trustees of the San Diego County Board of Education, My name is Martha Alvarado and I’m the president of Vista Unified School District Board of Trustees. I respectfully request that you deny the material revision for Classical Academy Vista which would incorporate the Dual Language Immersion North County charter schools. There are a myriad of reasons to deny this material revision but I will only present a few. First, this request by Classical Academy Vista, a hybrid/homeschooling program, is NOT a material revision as this charter has never offered a Dual Language Program or a traditional 5 day per week program. In contrast, VUSD has an award-winning DLI program at 3 sites across our district with plans to expand our DLI instruction to middle school in 1 year. Second, the approval of this material revision is not in the best interest of VUSD students. According to the 2022 California School Dash Board, Classical Academy Vista has not served unduplicated and racially diverse students in a manner that correlates with the student demographics in the VUSD boundaries. In 2022, VUSD had 17.8% English Learners, 66.6% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students and 77% BIPOC students. Classical Academy Vista had 1.1% English Language Learners, 25% percent of students who are Socioeconomically disadvantaged and 36.5% BIPOC students. Unlike Classical Academy, students at Vista Unified Elementary DLI schools are provided with Culturally Responsive lessons and materials. Our partnerships with this County Office of Education and UC San Diego provide a plethora of learning opportunities for VUSD teachers such as GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design), Restorative Practices, PBIS, and the UCSD STYLE project (Self Evaluation of Supports for Emergent Bilingual Acquisition). In the 22-23 school year, these partnerships improved VUSD student outcomes with 210 students who graduated from high school with a Seal of Biliteracy and a 94% reclassification rate for our first cohort of DLI students. More importantly, these students are bilingual, bicultural and biliterate. Last, AB 1505 and AB 1507 allow an LEA to consider “whether the proposed charter school would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings; whether the proposed charter school would duplicate a program currently offered within the school district; and whether the school district is positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. Under that last criterion, an LEA may deny a new charter revision when the district is in fiscal distress, as determined by the county superintendent of schools.” The proposed material revision duplicates a VUSD program that serves students more equitably and has space for the students proposed to be served. Since VUSD is a declining enrollment district and already provides a Dual Language Immersion Program, the approval of this material revision by the San Diego County Board of Education would have a negative impact on VUSD programs and adversely affect our budget. Additionally, it would usurp the rights of the VUSD Board of Trustees to evaluate, consider and examine the implications and effects of the consolidations of two different charter schools with completely different programs operating within our school district boundaries. In closing, I implore you to deny the material revision by Classical Academy Vista. As a student who grew up in poverty, a second language learner, and a 23-year bilingual teacher in another district, I know the stakes are high. Our ELD students should not be an experiment for Classical Academy Vista as they try to figure out how to better serve English Language Learners & students living in poverty, implement a brand new bilingual program and/or increase diversity at their school site. Sincerely, Martha Alvarado VUSD Board President</p>
5 Cheryl Wilson	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	In favor of denial of the Material Revision

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6 Rena Marrocco	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>Esteemed board members: although I currently serve as a Trustee on the Vista Unified School District School Board, I am writing to you today as the parent of a child who went through Coastal Academy (one of Classical Academy's schools) to urge you not to approve the charter revision for Classical Academy Vista. I enrolled my son at Coastal Academy in order to bring him back up to grade level after St. Francis Elementary School pressured me to hold him back. Because my son's IQ was in the 99% of the population, this was (as the child psychologist St. Francis recommended put it) "the worst thing (I) could have done." What followed was 6 months of tears and hair pulling as I attempted to educate my child who, unbeknownst to me, needed an IEP. Coastal was made aware of his IQ findings as well as the reports of both child psychologists who evaluated him and made no accommodations for our learning curriculum, nor did they even submit him for an IEP evaluation. As a parent, I was ignorant about his needs. And while I was able to give him the one one attention he needed to get him to grade level, he was just barely at grade level. While I received a curriculum and met with a teacher once every few weeks, that was not enough support for us. I began to hate my child because the struggle was so tough and I received absolutely NO support to help me with this. When he started at Monte Vista Elementary School the following fall, we thought we had entered educational heaven. I was so grateful to be able to go back to just being my son's mother again and not his teacher. The damage done from this experience continued to haunt my son throughout his entire academic career. I am urging you to deny this petition because this charter schools represents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school. Especially because the program is about a dual language immersion program. This program will NOT work as a homeschool program. Dual language Immersion will not work without the immersion portion. And to have parents who are not proficient in their second language, but having them devote significant portions of their school day to trying to educate these students will result in students who are profiient in neither English nor Spanish. I would refer you to the study, "Language usage and the status attainment of Chicano Males" by Steve B. Garcia which found that males that were raised speaking both Spanish and English in the home, had lower socioeconomic status as men than those who were raised speaking either Spanish or English, because they did not become proficient in either language. This program conducted in this manner will ruin lives. These children need to be in an immersive experience that gives them proficiency in BOTH languages. And that can only be done by educational professionals who are trained to accommodate such a program. To continue with this charter will ruin the lives of these children and the adults they will become. Your number one duty is to serve these children. Please do that job now and deny this charter.</p>

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7 Keri Avila	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>Good Evening Board, I am Keri Avila, the President of Vista Teachers Association. Tonight I am speaking against the approval of this material revision. It is not in the best interest of our students, families, or community. In fact, the original charter petitions of Classical Academy and Dual Language Institute 's were denied by Vista Unified School District with both of those decisions being overturned by the County Board of Education. Vista does approve charter schools within our boundaries when it does serve our students and community, one example is Guajome Academy. Vista denied these charters because of concerns with equity and academics. Classical Academy is a Non-classroom Based school with no experience in dual language instruction. Classical Academy – at all of their schools, including Classical Academy Vista, has a track record of discriminatory enrollment outcomes, particularly with discriminatory enrollment patterns resulting in dramatic under enrollment of Latino, English Learner and Low Income students. Dual Language Institute has a history of under serving Students with Disabilities and Low Income Students. VUSD has an expanding Dual Language Immersion program. The schools housing their dual language instruction programs have significantly higher representation of students with disabilities, English learners and low income students than both Classical Academy Vista and Dual Language Institute. Dual Language Institute continues to lose students, while VUSD's DLI program continues to grow. In 2018-2019 the Kindergarten and First Grade classes contained 45 students. Those students are now in 4th and 5th grade and the classes only contain 24 students. This proposed material revision includes projections that Dual Language Institute will lose 30% of those students between 7th and 8th grade. VUSD DLI Program has a total of 730 students enrolled in grades K-5 with plans to expand the DLI program into Secondary Schools. We are a declining enrollment district, and we are experiencing negative fiscal impacts because of this fact. This material revision poses a financial threat to Vista's Public Schools. The students of Dual Language Institute would be better served in VUSD because the current charter agency has not demonstrated the capacity to offer a full instructional program with access to ALL students. Respectfully, the larger issue is that this board should not be approving charters when the local districts have denied them because of concerns of their academic programs or discriminatory practices. Board I urge you to vote no on this material revision, and on approving charters that the local school districts have denied. Thank you.</p>
8 Kathy Rallings	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>The approval of the material revision for the Classical Academy charter would be detrimental to the students, teachers, parents and the community of Vista Unified. This action would not only contribute to declining enrollment and layoffs but would divert funds away from the school district. This charter has no experience with language immersion and has a bad reputation around special education students. Especially, when Vista Unified provides a high quality program to ALL students. The County Office of Education should stay in their lane and not interfere with in Vista Unified jurisdiction. I am urging a NO vote on this agenda item.</p>

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9	Kisha Borden	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>•Classical Academy – at all of their schools, including CAV, has a track record of discriminatory enrollment outcomes, particularly with discriminatory enrollment patterns resulting in dramatic under enrollment of Latino, English Learner and Low-Income students. DLI has a history of underserving Students with Disabilities and Low-Income Students. Both CAV’s and DLI’s original charter petitions were denied by Vista Unified School District (VUSD), with both of those decisions being overturned by the County Board of Education. Expansion of CAV to include DLI would not be in the interest of the entire community in which it is proposing to locate. Approval of this petition is not in the interest of the community because the student groups previously mentioned would not be appropriately served by these schools, and also because the material revision would leave VUSD serving a higher concentration of students with higher need.</p>
10	Denise	Classical academy	Oppose/Opone	<p>Classical Academy is a Non-classroom Based school with no experience in dual language instruction. Classical Academy – at all of their schools, including CAV, has a track record of discriminatory enrollment outcomes, particularly with discriminatory enrollment patterns resulting in dramatic under enrollment of Latino, English Learner and Low Income students. DLI has a history of underserving Students with Disabilities and Low Income Students. Both CAV’s and DLI’s original charter petitions were denied by Vista Unified School District (VUSD), with both of those decisions being overturned by the County Board of Education. VUSD has an expanding Dual Language immersion program. The schools housing their dual language instruction programs have significantly higher representation of students with disabilities, English learners and low income students than either CAV or DLI. DLI’s charter renewal in early 2021 was almost denied, in large part due to evidence of significant attrition of students. This same issue continues at the school. For example, the Kindergarten and First Grade classes in 2018-19 each contained 45 students. Those same classes, now in 4th and 5th grade, only contain 25 students. The proposed material revision includes projections like losing over 30% of students between 7th and 8th grades. Expansion of CAV would have a negative impact on VUSD... Expansion of CAV to include DLI would not be in the interest of the entire community in which it is proposing to locate. Approval of this material revision would combine two programs that are already not serving the community equitably, and are specifically underserving low income students, students with disabilities and English Learners. This is not in the interest of the community because the students groups mentioned would not be appropriately served by these schools, and also because the material revision would leave VUSD serving a higher concentration of students with higher need. Finally, CAV’s proposed expansion would add to Classical Academy a program that is duplicative of a program already being offered by VUSD, and which has sufficient space to accommodate the students they are proposing to serve.</p>
11	Victor Muratalla	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	<p>Vista already has too many charter schools around its public schools. Classical Academy would only encourage the further segregation of low income and special Ed students into just going to traditional public schools, while everyone else with more resources just keeps leaving to schools that have less access to soft skills like socialization, problem resolution, etc. Vista Unified already has a dual immersion program, and classical academy would do more harm to Vista community than good.</p>

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12	Rebecca Nutile	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	I'm writing because I was notified by parent who lives in the Vista school district that SDCOE would be considering expansion of VCA by adding dual language program. As a resident of Escondido who has three children enrolled in public schools, and as a public education advocate, I find this alarming. Classical Academy in no way serves the needs of the children of Escondido. My understanding is they also do not serve a representative population of Vista or Oceanside. On the contrary, via privatization, they have found ways to fence off a particular population that does not represent demographics of local schools and provide a "Classical" education that should never have been financed by taxpayers. It is well known as a "white flight" school. Please view SARC reports for stats pointing to the paltry number of English Learners served and compare them to the district schools. Clearly, they do not serve the population of the community. They are not needed nor wanted in Vista. My understanding is that Classical Academies have no experience whatsoever in dual language programs, and the actual Vista public schools already have a program that is expanding. The public schools deserve all the support they can get as they serve ALL students and have experience doing so. Vista's children deserve the best possible program, not one created by opportunistic privatizers. Consistent failure to meet enrollment diversity requirements Classical Academies continually fail to meet the goal of essential element #7 required in every charter petition in Escondido, yet continue to be renewed due to local charter proponents serving on the Escondido school boards. Gaining an approval/renewal in no way means the charter should have been renewed. #7. The means by which the school will achieve racial and ethnic balance among its pupils, reflective of the general population residing in the district (EC Section 47605[b][5][G]). It is my opinion that this school should not be allowed to expand any program, and it is unfortunate they already have such a wide reach in our county. Thank you for all you do for the children of San Diego County.
13	Sharon Bodon	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	I adamantly DISAPPROVE of a material revision for Vista's Classical Academy since it will not be good for the community. This disturbing trend - pushing forward what amounts to private schools (lower standards, little oversight, discriminatory practices) funded with taxpayer dollars needs to end. No charter school equals our public schools for fairness and transparency and never will. Vista Unified already has a good dual language program with plenty of room for all new comers so the charter simply duplicates a program already operating within VUSD. Classical Academy no experience in dual language instruction and the school continues to show a significant decline in enrollment through the grades. Many families who started at the school decide to pull their kids out after a few years (as do many families after experiencing most charter programs) Charters will never be as good as our respected public school sy
14	Angela Schwab	Agenda item 6 Classical Academies/Dual Immersion Charter School Merger	Oppose/Opone	I have lived within the boundaries of the Vista Unified School District for over 25 years. As a member of this community, it has been encouraging to see VUSD expand their Dual Language Immersion program. I support the decision of VUSD to deny the Classical Academy and Dual Language Institute's petitions. As a member of this community, I believe that this is a local decision that should not be overruled by the SDCOE. The Classical Academy has a history of discriminatory practices and they lack the experience in dual language instruction. This expansion would harm the students served by VUSD. I implore you to vote no and protect the community and programs at Vista USD.

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15	Christine Devine	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	Classical Academy at all of their schools, including CAV, has a track record of discriminatory enrollment outcomes, particularly with discriminatory enrollment patterns resulting in dramatic under enrollment of Latino, English Learner and Low Income students. Dual Language Institute has a history of underserving Students with Disabilities and Low Income Students. VUSD has an expanding Dual Language immersion program. The schools housing their dual language instruction programs have significantly higher representation of students with disabilities, English learners and low income students than either CAV or DLI. DLI's charter renewal in early 2021 was almost denied, in large part due to evidence of significant attrition of students. This same issue continues at the school. For example, the Kindergarten and First Grade classes in 2018-19 each contained 45 students. Those same classes, now in 4th and 5th grade, only contain 25 students. The proposed material revision includes projections like losing over 30% of students between 7th and 8th grades. Expansion of CAV to include DLI would not be in the interest of the entire community in which it is proposing to locate. Approval of this material revision would combine two programs that are already not serving the community equitably, and are specifically underserving low income students, students with disabilities and English Learners. CAV's proposed expansion would add to Classical Academy a program that is duplicative of a program already being offered by VUSD, and which has sufficient space to accommodate the students they are proposing to serve.
16	Juan Manuel Vargas	6a. Taking Action on the Petition for Material Revision of the Charter for Classical Academy Vista	Oppose/Opone	I would like to provide in person public comment