San Diego Unified School District School Board

John Lee Evans, Board President

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November 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Evans:

I am writing to strongly encourage you to reject the application for Magnolia Science Academy – Next Generation charter school, submitted by Magnolia Public Schools, which already operates 11 California charter schools.

I have read the charter application, and I see that this proposed school, in common with Magnolia’s existing schools, will contract to the Accord Institute for Education Research.

Upon further investigation, I found substantial overlap between the management of Magnolia Public Schools and the Accord Institute.

Two of the applicants for this new school, Bayram Yenikaya and Umit Yapanel, have past affiliations with Accord. Bayram Yenikaya was shown as a guest lecturer for Accord and its A-Star Summer Math Camp on its website in 2012. Umit Yapanel was “Director of New Development” for Accord in 2010.

Moreover, Suleyman Bahceci, formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Magnolia Public Schools, is now CEO of the Accord Institute. Suat Utku Ay has been a board member of both Magnolia Public Schools and the Accord Institute, and two other individuals, Ertan Salik and Osman Sen, also have been affiliated with both organizations.

Based on this, I consider Magnolia’s contracting to the Accord Institute to be a related-party deal, which is an unethical use of taxpayer’s money.

I therefore feel strongly that authorization of the proposed Magnolia Science Academy – Next Generation charter school would be ill-advised and irresponsible with respect to taxpayers.

Sincerely,

[Name of Concerned Citizen]

[Concerned Citizen’s contact information]