

**Charter Petition  
of  
Ida Price Middle  
School**

May 7, 2003

## **Introduction**

The Ida Price Middle School staff wishes to operate as a neighborhood charter public school in order to take advantage of some of the flexibility that charter status offers. The school will pursue the vision of the Cambrian School District and the Price commitment to excellence as described in the District's Vision Statement, Guiding Principles and Long Range Goals.

The conversion to a neighborhood charter public school offers the school community flexibility in two key areas that we need in order to operate differently than current district and state policies will allow. We do not seek nor desire independence from the Cambrian School District. We wish to operate as a dependent charter school, in order to operate with limited independence from the Education Code in only the following two areas:

1. Site level block grants that allow flexibility. Flexibility to receive site level funds in the form of a block grant, rather than specific program funds in order to utilize these funds to provide flexibility to meet the needs of our students, staff, parents and programs.
2. Area-wide enrollment of students. Price enrolls approximately 17 percent of its students from outside the Cambrian School District. We will be able to offer attendance options for individuals who are living outside the District's attendance boundaries who want to continue or begin their 6-8 education at Ida Price Middle School.

## **Vision**

Ida Price Middle School will subscribe to the Vision of the Cambrian School District as follows:

The vision of the Cambrian School District is to develop responsible citizens for tomorrow who will be lifelong learners by providing a challenging, high quality, academic program designed to meet individual potential, supported by collaborative efforts of dedicated students, parents, staff, and community.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- All children can learn.
- All children can succeed.
- All children have value.
- All children have a right to the best education possible.
- All children can be life long learners.
- All children deserve respect.
- All children have a shared responsibility for their education.
- All children will have a safe, orderly school environment.

## **LONG RANGE GOALS**

- All children will develop effective interpersonal skills and value the diversity of the community.
- All students will meet student outcomes at each grade level.
- All students will demonstrate a shared responsibility for their learning.
- All students will demonstrate effective communication skills.
- All students will demonstrate creative and critical thinking skills.

## **Statement of Operations**

Ida Price Middle School will retain its current operational relationship with the district in all of the following ways:

- Governance by the Cambrian School District Board of Education
- Maintenance and insurance of school facilities.
- Changes, additions or alternations to the facilities
- Maintenance of the non-instructional operations
- Insurance of school personnel and district against liability claims of all current and future district policies
- All current and future contracts agreed upon between the Cambrian School District, Cambrian Teachers' Association (CDTA) and California School Employee's Association (CSEA) Local Chapter 641 in accordance with the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA)

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (A)**

*A description of the educational program of the school, designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling pupils to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.*

To achieve educational excellence, Ida Price Middle School has restructured its academic program to ensure that the needs of all students are being met. Through collaborative efforts of dedicated students, parents, staff and community members, Price implemented a seven period day, a school-wide reading comprehension program, tutorial classes, school-wide portfolios for assessment, extended instruction in science and social studies, extensive elective choices, Homework Center, and a school-wide writing program. A team structure has also been implemented to ensure that all curricular areas are connected. Educational excellence is rewarded and recognized at all levels throughout the year, as evidenced by solid academic scores.

Through the myriad academic, curricular and extra-curricular programs, Ida Price Middle School continues to develop responsible citizens who are prepared to meet challenges of the future. Price students are engaged in relevant learning situations, and use cooperative learning techniques to collaborate on problem-solving and other Lifeskills and Learning Guidelines. Parents, businesses, and community groups all play an integral role in instilling responsibility into our students. Because Price teachers have been trained extensively in brain compatible teaching and the multiple intelligence's theory of learning, Differentiated Learning Strategies are incorporated to address different learning styles. Therefore, students are engaged in hands-on,

relevant, cooperative activities that reinforce their learning strengths and develop creative and critical thinking skills.

The Price community is constantly evolving. Through extensive staff development programs and with the help of ample technology, Price staff members continue to develop and implement programs that enhance student learning and success. The strength of our program is our child-centered philosophy. All children can learn and succeed. All children are deserving of respect. All children have a shared responsibility for their education, and can develop into responsible, productive citizens. Price offers engaging, relevant and beneficial programs to all of its students that lead to successful high school experiences and post-secondary options of fulfilling employment or admission to institutions of higher education. This promise is made with the understanding that an education is a shared responsibility of the public schools, parents, community and the individual learners to create the "educated person" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (B)**

*The measurable pupil outcomes identified for use by the charter school. "Pupil outcomes," for purposes of this part, means the extent to which all pupils of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school's education program.*

Ida Price Middle School will be held accountable for all learners meeting the measures of success as set forth in the goals of the school. Students will meet the statewide performance standards developed by the California Department of Education as evidenced by use of multiple measures. These standards include the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, electives and physical education. All students will participate in state-mandated assessments. Ida Price Middle School's students will participate in all district-mandated assessments and meet the standards as described in the district's Board adopted frameworks.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (C)**

*The method by which pupil progress is to be measured.*

Progress will be objectively measured by the annual statewide assessments as determined by the State of California and by formative and summative district assessments.

Progress will also be measured by teachers in the traditional methods, such as individual work, projects, portfolios, tests and exams. Progress will be communicated throughout the year with parents and children through distribution of quarterly progress reports and report cards.

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (D)**

*The governance structure of the school, including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parent involvement.*

Ida Price Middle School will be a dependent, neighborhood charter school that will be governed by the Cambrian School District Board of Education.

On-site decisions regarding a process for insuring parent involvement and budgeting of AB544 funding and any other money allocated from the state for the charter school, including grants, will be by consensus among certificated staff utilizing established Leadership Team and acting on recommendations made by the majority of the School Site Council. If consensus cannot be reached, a decision will be made by a 60 percent majority vote of certificated staff. Any changes to this charter petition itself, shall be brought to the Leadership Team for discussion and further action. An amendment must then be approved by this same process - consensus of certificated staff, or a 60 percent vote of certificated staff, in the event consensus cannot be reached.

### **Membership**

Site level governance is performed by the Leadership Team (Input Team) and School Site Council.

The Leadership Team (Input Team) consists of :

- 8 certificated staff members representing the various teaching disciplines
- Principal

The School Site Council consists of:

A minimum of 10 voting members, equal ratio of parents & students: teachers & staff

- 3 certificated teachers -- to be determined in the fall, including two members of the Leadership Team, when feasible
- 1 staff member
- School principal
- 3 parents -- parents may express an interest to serve and will be selected in the spring to begin terms the following fall.
- 2 students

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each staff representative shall be two years. In the event that a staff representative resigns, a vote will be taken to fill the seat. The staff member so selected will complete the term of the staff member who resigned.

The term of office of each parent representative shall be two years. In the event that a parent representative resigns, a notice will be sent home to parents and the vacancy will be advertised in the school newsletter to seek a replacement. Ballots will be distributed to the parent community. The parent representative so selected will finish the term of the person who resigned.

### **Meetings**

The Ida Price Leadership Team and School Site Council shall each establish a regular time, date and place of meeting and shall hold not more than one regular meeting per month during the months of September through June (excluding the short school month of December).

Five of ten voting members shall constitute a quorum. The aforementioned governing bodies may establish rules and procedures governing the conduct of their meetings.

The governing bodies shall be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950, et seq.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (E)**

*The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the school.*

Teachers at Ida Price Middle School shall be required to hold a Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold. Cambrian School District shall not require any employee of the district to be employed at Ida Price Middle School. The district will utilize existing policies and collective bargaining agreements to address staff members currently assigned to Price who do not wish to continue at the school under the charter status.

Job descriptions and credential requirements for all positions will remain the same as described in the CDTA and CSEA collective bargaining agreements.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b)(5) (F)**

*The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. These procedures shall include the requirement that each employee of the school furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Section 44237.*

Ida Price Middle School shall comply with all the provisions and procedures of Education Code 44237, including the requirement, that as a condition of employment each new employee not possessing a valid California Teaching Credential must submit two sets of fingerprints to the California Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining a criminal record summary. Records of student immunizations shall be maintained, and staff shall follow requirements for periodic TB tests.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (G)**

*The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted.*

Ida Price Middle School will be a dependent, conversion charter that shall maintain the policy giving admission to pupils who reside within the Cambrian School District attendance area. Secondly, preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending a Cambrian school who reside outside the Cambrian School District attendance area, as well as siblings of students who presently attend Price. After that, spaces will be filled on a “first come, first served” basis. Should interest in the school be greater than its capacity, the school Leadership Team will follow the process for determining admission to the school, which is outlined in the next section (CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (H)). This process shall be approved by the Cambrian School District Board of Education and be consistent with the law.

The Cambrian School District Governing Board shall not require any pupil residing in the school district to attend Ida Price Middle School and will grant interdistrict transfers to students not wishing to attend the school or refer students to the Cambrian Community School.

Ida Price Middle School will consult with the Cambrian District Board of Education regarding the number of students admitted to the school based on existing programs, policies and procedures. The enrollment capacity will be established annually, consistent with the size of the school staff and facilities, and be consistent with state law and master agreements between the Cambrian School District and the Cambrian Teachers' Association and the California School Employees' Association.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (H)**

*Admission requirements, if applicable.*

Ida Price Middle School will admit all pupils who wish to attend the school and reside within the attendance area of the Cambrian School District. Pupils seeking admittance from outside the district boundaries will request an interdistrict transfer and sign an Interdistrict Admission Agreement. If the number of pupils seeking admission exceeds capacity; attendance shall be determined by public random drawing on January 15, of each year.

Students admitted from outside the Cambrian School District boundaries who fail to adhere to the requirements of the Interdistrict Admission Agreement will have their interdistrict transfer denied.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (I)**

*The manner in which annual, independent, financial audits shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the chartering authority.*

Ida Price Middle School shall be a dependent charter school and participate in the district's annual audit. Exceptions and deficiencies so noted will be addressed promptly, as per policies and procedures established by the Cambrian School District Board of Education.

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (J)**

*The procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled.*

Students shall only be suspended or expelled for actions for which they could be suspended or expelled from the Cambrian School District as defined by the Education Code Sections 48900 to 48926. The due process mandated for school districts therein will be followed at Ida Price Middle School.

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (K)**

*The manner by which staff members of the charter schools will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or Federal Social Security.*

Ida Price Middle School will retain its current relationship with the Cambrian School District for the purposes of all staff benefits as provided under existing master agreements.

1. Relationship with local teachers' and school employees' associations: Price's staff proposes to continue with the current relationships with the Cambrian Teachers' Association and the California School Employees' Association.
2. Process for determining salaries and working conditions: Price's staff proposes to continue its current relationships with the school district, the Cambrian Teachers' Association and the California School Employees' Association for purposes of determining salaries and benefits for employees.

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (L)**

*The public school attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the school district who choose not to attend charter schools.*

Pupils residing within the Cambrian School District who choose not attend the Ida Price Middle School, will be granted an interdistrict transfer or referred to the Cambrian Community School.

## **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (M)**

*A description of the rights of any employee of the school district upon leaving the employment of the school district to work in a charter school, and of any rights of return to the school district after employment at a charter school.*

All current and new employees at Ida Price Middle School will be employees of the Cambrian School District and all rights of permanent status and transfers shall be the same as those used by the district and outlined in the CDTA and CSEA collective bargaining agreements in accordance



with the EERA. In addition, all Education Code rights and responsibilities and any other statutory provisions shall remain in effect.

We wish to reiterate that the Education Code of California remain in effect with the exception of flexibility in funding by block grant and area-wide enrollment as stated in our introduction.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (N)**

*The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the entity granting the charter to resolve disputes relating to provisions of the charter.*

There are no special provisions for dispute resolution in this charter. As a dependent charter, existing policies, practices and education and government code shall remain intact. Specific provisions within the existing CDTA and CSEA for constituent complaint policy, collective bargaining, and grievance procedures will remain applicable.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (O)**

*A declaration whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act.*

All employees of Ida Price Middle School will be employees of the Cambrian School District.

### **CA Education Code 47605 (b) (5) (P)**

*A description of the closure procedure, including closeout audit, asset liability disposition, and records transfer.*

The process for charter school closure will follow the California State Department of Education recommended process. This process will include an official action by the Cambrian School District Governing Board effective at the end of an academic year, notifying the Charter Schools Unit of the California Department of Education, parents, and the Santa Clara Office of Education. The Cambrian School District will maintain all student and school records as required by law for the Charter. After its closeout, the school will have an audit to determine financial responsibilities which will be borne by the Cambrian School District. As a conversion charter school, the assets and liabilities will remain part of the Cambrian School District.

## **Required Affirmations**

Ida Price Middle School shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations. It shall not charge tuition, shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status or disability.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Severability**

The terms of this charter are severable. In the event that any of the provisions are determined to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the charter shall remain in effect.

On an annual basis, the permanent status teachers currently employed at Price will vote by February 1<sup>st</sup> to continue the charter status for the following school year. If 51% or more vote to not continue (revoke) charter status, then the Cambrian School District Board of Education shall agree to revoke the charter and return the school to non-charter status the next school year.

The Cambrian School District Board of Education may revoke the charter as described in Section 47607 of Assembly Bill 544.

### **Special Education**

If students attending Ida Price Middle School qualify for special education funds, then the Cambrian School District shall treat Price students as it treats other Cambrian School District students.

In terms of Special Day classes, resource specialist services and speech services, the charter school will follow all current and future district regulations, practices and policies.

**Petition for the Establishment of  
Charter Status For  
Price Middle School**

We, the undersigned, believe that the attached charter merits consideration and hereby petition the Governing Board of the Cambrian School District to grant approval of the charter pursuant to Education Code Section 47605 to enable the conversion of Ida Price Middle School. Ida Price Middle School agrees to operate the school pursuant to the terms of the Charter Schools Act and the provisions of the school's charter. The petitioner's listed below certify that they are permanent teachers who are meaningfully interested in teaching in the Ida Price Middle School.

By the petitioners:

CAROL J. PRICE  
Name (please print)

Carol J Price  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Philip K. Shoff  
Name (please print)

Philip K Shoff  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Patricia A Stabile  
Name (please print)

Patricia A Stabile  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

LORRAINE SPELLMAN  
Name (please print)

Lorraine Spellman  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Charlotte Peck  
Name (please print)

Charlotte Peck  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Joanna Grigore  
Name (please print)

Joanna Grigore  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

DONALD BROWN  
Name (please print)

Donald B  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

JULIE JOHNSTON  
Name (please print)

[Signature]  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Mary Finley  
Name (please print)

Mary Finley  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Lindsay Mar  
Name (please print)

Lindsay Mar  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

Russell Anzalone  
Name (please print)

Russell Anzalone  
Signature

5/7/03  
Date

RICHARD B. SCHERTLE  
Name (please print)

Richard B. Schertle  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Robert Hunt  
Name (please print)

Robert Hunt  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Connie Gray  
Name (please print)

Connie Gray  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Joan Hibs  
Name (please print)

Joan Hibs  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Denise Schuman  
Name (please print)

Denise Schuman  
Signature

5-7-3  
Date

REBECCA CROZIER  
Name (please print)

Rebecca Crozier  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Kamaljit Sangha  
Name (please print)

Kamaljit Sangha  
Signature

05-07-03  
Date

Eileen Beckley  
Name (please print)

Eileen Beckley  
Signature

05-07-03  
Date

Robert Butler  
Name (please print)

Robert Butler  
Signature

05-07-03  
Date

Tisha A. John  
Name (please print)

Tisha A. John  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

John Olsen  
Name (please print)

John Olsen  
Signature

5-7-03  
Date

Catherine Lorigan  
Name (please print)

Catherine Lorigan  
Signature

5/8/03  
Date

Hayley Dupuy  
Name (please print)

Hayley Dupuy  
Signature

5/8/03  
Date

Thom Stephens  
Name (please print)

Thom Stephens  
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5/8/03  
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Leslie Elmore  
Name (please print)

Leslie Elmore  
Signature

5/8/03  
Date

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Name (please print)

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Signature

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