

Wendy Winningham

From: Michael Kobseff
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:46 PM
To: Wendy Winningham
Subject: FW: Golden Eagle Charter School Use Permit

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APR 16 2024

SISKIYOU COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

Thank you,

Michael N. Kobseff
Siskiyou County Supervisor for District 3

----- Original message -----

From: Ben Whetstine <whetstine7@gmail.com>

Date: 4/16/24 1:34 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Brandon Criss <bcriss@co.siskiyou.ca.us>, Ed Valenzuela <evalenzuela@co.siskiyou.ca.us>, Michael Kobseff <mkobseff@co.siskiyou.ca.us>, Nancy Ogren <nogren@co.siskiyou.ca.us>, Ray Haupt <rhaupt@co.siskiyou.ca.us>

Subject: Golden Eagle Charter School Use Permit

Good afternoon Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the Golden Eagle Charter School (GECS) and the use permit for their new proposed campus located at WA Barr Rd in Mt Shasta. I am a parent of a student at GECS. Due to some concerns we had with Mt Shasta High School (MSHS) we decided to place my Sophomore into GECS. He has now been in for about a year and has thrived in a way he did not at MSHS. I have found the GECS to be a much more suitable learning environment for my son. The student to teacher ratio has very noticeably benefited him. I have also found the staff at GECS to be very responsive to the needs of its students as well as the parents.

I know from talking to staff at GECS that the current building they are in has caused them to have to limit enrollment because they simply do not have the space to grow. The staff is scattered in different locations because the size of their building requires them to use different buildings off site. The site on WA Barr Rd would allow everyone to be in one place which would bring the continuity the staff and students need.

As a parent, I am very appreciative of the option we had in choosing what was the best fit for my highschooler to get an education. I am well ingrained in the Mt Shasta community and have had several conversations with other parents who are considering GECS for their students because of concerns they have with the other public schools in the area. This no doubt is likely a reason why the Mt Shasta Union Superintendent has joined the efforts to oppose this use permit. As a parent I believe having options for our children's education is more important than a public school system having a monopoly over the learning environment. Some students are just better served in different learning environments and GECS has provided numerous parents and students that option.

I am vaguely familiar with the details of the written appeal to the Planning Commission's actions on this issue. As a parent I would request the BOS consider providing an opportunity for GECS to make whatever adjustments or take whatever actions need to be taken in order for the use permit to be granted. This is an important project for many parents, students, and staff of GECS in the Mt Shasta and Weed area. We are all hoping for this use permit to go through so our kids can have the learning environment they need. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Ben Whetstine
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