

## Wendy Winningham

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**From:** Michael Kobseff  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 8:06 AM  
**To:** Wendy Winningham  
**Subject:** FW: Golden Eagle Charter School

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APR 29 2024

SISKIYOU COUNTY  
CLERK'S OFFICE

Thank you,

Michael N. Kobseff  
Siskiyou County Supervisor for District 3

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

**From:** Anna McDowell <annacweeg@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 4/29/24 8:01 AM (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

Hello,

My name is Anna McDowell and I am writing on behalf of Golden Eagle Charter School.

I have 2 children who attend GECS, in 4th and 1st grade. The recent push to revoke or modify the use permit the school has is a frightening notion for my family and me. We have been members of the GECS community for 4 years now and I don't see us being nearly as happy and fulfilled anywhere else as we are at this school.

My son went to MSE for kindergarten and while I liked the teacher he had, the atmosphere was completely different. The large class sizes allowed him to become lost in the shuffle because the teachers are spread so thin. It was hard for them to make time to meet with me. However at a Golden Eagle, there is always time and the desire from the staff to ensure that each student is receiving the best care, education and social emotional learning possible. While the issue the appeal brings up is the school expanding, it will actually help make the classes smaller as currently the school operates with blended grades. Separating the grades out will allow the class sizes to remain small while also allowing the teachers to teach kids in more similar developmental stages.

The new campus Golden Eagle made its home is an incredible learning space for our children. From the forested trails, to the larger classrooms and auditorium to the baseball field. The teachers and staff are amazing at integrating the indoor and outdoor education that is so important in the life of a child. It is for these reasons and so many more that increasing the number of children who can participate and benefit from these opportunities is paramount to the greater community of Mt Shasta. Allowing the High School to move to WA Barr and expand some of the other classrooms will only benefit us as a community in the long run.

Studies on noise, biology and traffic have all shown that there are no adverse effects on the surrounding environment. Golden Eagle has been diligent in ensuring that we are good neighbors, not only to the people nearby, but also the animals and the natural landscape. There are electives that teach sustainable garden practices, wilderness medicine and field trips to the Frog Pond and Lake Siskiyou that show our children how to be stewards to the land we call our home.

The school has been working with the county to install appropriate speed limit signs, as was sighted as an issue in the appeal.

Please consider how many lives will be affected by your decision. While there are a small number of community members who oppose charter schools and will find any reason to try and shut down Golden Eagle, there are over 440 students who benefit from everything Golden Eagle has to offer. There is a reason these families chose Golden Eagle and should this appeal go through, many of them will not or cannot enroll their kids at other schools, leaving hundreds of children in our county with an uncertain future. We are lucky to have this school as an option in our county and would be doing a disservice to the greater community by not allowing it to thrive.

The school has been and will continue to work to ensure that all the proper guidelines are met allowing for the school to operate at its full potential while considering the effects such an undertaking has on the neighbors and greater community.

Please consider how much this school impacts our children and our families for the better.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Anna McDowell