

Wendy Winningham

From: Laura Bynum
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 7:59 AM
To: Wendy Winningham
Subject: FW: Letter of support RE: Golden Eagle Charter School
Attachments: Letter to Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors.pdf

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MAY 02 2024
SISKIYOU COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Megan Tracey <megan@gecs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:08 PM
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>
Cc: Clerk.Registrar <clerk.registrar@sisvotes.org>
Subject: Letter of support RE: Golden Eagle Charter School

Dear Board of Supervisors,

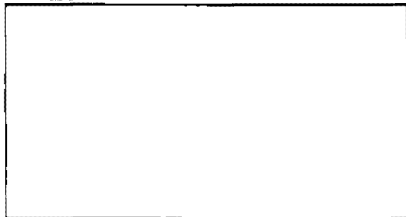
Please accept the attached letter in my support of Golden Eagle Charter School's use permit and expansion plan. I cannot attend the meeting in person and would like my letter to be reviewed since I won't be able to address you in public comment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

*paper copy mailed in as well

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Megan Tracey
Special Education Program Manager
Email: megan@gecs.org
Phone: 530-926-5800 Ext. 925
Cell: 530-925-9304



Enclosure (signed subject)

Dear Siskiyou County Supervisors,

Thank you for your time in listening to our plea for (another) approval for a use permit for Golden Eagle Charter School. While I know you are overwhelmed with letters of support from our community, I wanted to share with you my family's educational path and a summary of an in-person conversation I had with Mr. Chris Marrone.

As an educator in Siskiyou County, I strive to support students, staff, and families at ALL schools. As a child I was homeschooled, attended public school, and everything in between. This was due to my parents having a choice in what was best for me and my own style of learning. This is the beauty of school options! When my own child was school-aged, I was employed at Mount Shasta Elementary School and she attended there. Her kindergarten through third grade was a magical time with amazing staff. She thrived in that setting. Once she went to Sisson it was clear that a different option needed to be utilized.

In sixth grade I enrolled her at Golden Eagle where she went on to graduate high school a year early, attend COS, then graduate from San Francisco State University. Currently she is back in Siskiyou County and working full time. Her educational path was not straight, but it was the perfect combination of traditional public school, public charter school, online, and in person.

As a person who does not love confrontation, but does like truth and transparency, I approached Mr. Marrone and asked him why he wanted our school shut down. I identified who I was and also who I worked for. As the conversation went on, Mr. Marrone stated that he wasn't so much trying to get us shut down, as he didn't believe we followed the rules and that our use permit was "currently legal." He stated that the noise study we had completed was not up to his standards as he did not approve of who we used. As he went on to discuss his background in building/permits/etc, I clarified that while a lot of the studies/legal information was out of my job description, I knew we had a team ensuring we were working with the county and doing things legally - we were moving through the appropriate channels and processes to ensure we were in the right. He implied the County (Siskiyou) was wrong as well.

When I pushed on this issue he said he will take this "as far as it will go". I replied with the information that we have almost 500 students and 60 staff members that live in and around this community and they will lose their school and place of employment - he spoke the words that he "did not care" and we needed a conditional use permit as ours had expired.

While the conversation went on, with full disagreements between us, but still in a respectful tone, it was made clear that we were getting nowhere. His most impactful statement was this, "I don't believe in alternative education."

Are we really allowing one person with an agenda to stifle an entire community's educational setting? Are we letting a bully who doesn't agree with an alternative public school model, yet overwhelmingly supported, dictate (and limit) parental options? And also has no background in education, to decide how children should be educated? This is a backdoor way to shut down a school and promote his own agenda. It is not ok and I hope that you as County Supervisors understand how egregious and unfair this is.

Please let us go back to educating children.

With kindness and respect,



Megan Tracey, Special Education Program Manager
Golden Eagle Charter School