

Wendy Winningham

From: Michael Kobseff
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:59 PM
To: Wendy Winningham
Subject: FW: Golden Eagle Charter School

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APR 18 2024

SISKIYOU COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

Thank you,

Michael N. Kobseff
Siskiyou County Supervisor for District 3

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

From: Christina Morrison <glimmercat@gmail.com>
Date: 4/17/24 7:24 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

Dear Board of Supervisors,

April 17, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I'm a parent of three children and have had the experience of being a parent at Mount Shasta Elementary School, Sisson Middle School, and since January of this year, Golden Eagle Charter School. I'm a former elementary school teacher and am a huge proponent of public education. My husband and I have served together on the PTA (in Golden, CO) and I was a fund-raising parent for the 8th graders at Sisson Middle School this year (2023-2024), raising over \$3000 for the 8th grade school trip and facilitating all aspects of a Sees Candy fundraiser through CubCo at Sisson. I share this to let you know I believe in supporting, as best I can, all facets of education and I have a deep respect for teachers and faculty at schools.

My three children, (Caedyn, Mystery and Breeze) began the year at Sisson Middle. My husband and I were thrilled to have all three attending Sisson at the same time. We began the year with a positive outlook, hopeful for an amazing experience. We began to realize shortly into the school year that while Sisson meets the needs of many students and has much to offer sports-oriented students, my three, who are not sports oriented, were running into difficulties. Our youngest (4th grade) daughter was beginning to have severe physical anxiety each night at the thought of attending school the next morning and had begun to ask for other options for her, regarding schools.

My second daughter (6th grade) began experiencing bullying from students in her class, as well as older students during recess. We proactively met with the teachers and principal, and all were involved in trying to help with this problem, but it got to the point that we no longer felt assured of her safety and were concerned about what these experiences were teaching her about herself and other students. In January, we put both our girls in Golden Eagle.

A few weeks later, our son, (an 8th grade high achiever) who had been unhappy and lonely, but determined to stay at Sisson, began receiving the lowest grades he had ever received, although all assignments were turned in. I began asking: "Why are we keeping this boy, who consistently tests at 11th and 12th grade levels, at a school he doesn't like, where he feels he has no friends, and where now, he is no longer even able to keep his straight A average?"

I had no good answer for this question and so, my husband and I put him into GECS Independent Study that week. He almost immediately was happier than he had been all year. He began attending 4 different electives at Golden Eagle, where he found friends, he attends Jujitsu thanks to GECS, and is preparing to begin College Prep in his 9th grade year through GE High School. He is visiting College of the Siskiyous tomorrow (April 17) for an Inspiration Tour. He is thriving.

All three of my children are thriving at GECS.

I bear no ill will towards anyone at Sisson Middle: There are hard-working teachers who care about their students there. I'm glad I was able to lead the Cubco fund-raiser to raise money for the students' 8th grade trip. But having my children attend Golden Eagle Charter School has been a night and day difference for our whole family.

I am no longer spending hours with my youngest daughter each night before school, trying to keep her from throwing up from anxiety: instead, I see her get up early in the mornings, excited to attend school.

I am no longer fielding the fallout from my oldest daughter being accosted and bullied in the classroom and on the playground and am instead watching her grow in her confidence and fearlessness and independence.

I am watching my son love learning again while he meets with his Educational Facilitator each week and throws himself into academic interests of his own accord and excitedly prepares to begin College Prep next year.

They have friends. They have loving, involved teachers in their lives. They are thriving in extra-curricular activities. I cannot begin to tell you how much being at Golden Eagle Charter School has changed the landscape for our family.

Having multiple public schools in a small community is a huge win for everyone. Sisson Middle has a well-defined place for sports centered children, while Golden Eagle meets the needs of students who do not quite fit the mold. Finding Golden Eagle was like the puzzle piece for our family to choose to stay in this community and choose Mount Shasta to be our long term home. Returning to Sisson is not an option, so were it not for Golden Eagle, we would have to find a homeschooling community to join, and that would grieve our hearts, because we believe in being an active part of public education.

I do not understand the fear or antagonism displayed by a few in our community, but I can only assume they don't understand how beneficial this school is. They don't understand that having options makes it better for everyone.

Respectfully, I would ask that the Board move forward in allowing Golden Eagle to continue with their build on the land GE purchased, secure in the knowledge that this will benefit our entire community.

Best Regards,

Christina Morrison