

Wendy Winningham

From: Michael Kobseff
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 10:50 AM
To: Wendy Winningham
Subject: FW: Letter of support for GECS and USE permit
Attachments: USE permit GECS April 2024.docx

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2024
SISKIYOU COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

Thank you,

Michael N. Kobseff
Siskiyou County Supervisor for District 3

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

From: sandy sullivan <sandnbear@gmail.com>
Date: 5/2/24 9:30 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: Michael Kobseff <mkobseff@co.siskiyou.ca.us>
Subject: Letter of support for GECS and USE permit

Dear Mr. Kobseff,

Please find attached my letter of support for Golden Eagle Charter School and concerning the USE permit appeal.

I am a retired teacher and one of the founders of GECS.

I really appreciate your time and interest.

Sincerely,
Sandy Sullivan
Mt. Shasta

Sandy Sullivan
1909 Eddy Circle
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

May 1, 2024

Dear Members of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors,

I am a retired teacher and one of the founders of Golden Eagle Charter School (GECS). I want to thank you for approving the USE Permit to benefit our existing site opportunities to include a new building to accommodate a portion of our high school students, a main office and a library.

I recently learned that an appeal has been filed. Therefore, I would like to provide some information to hopefully lend a better understanding for those who may not have first-hand knowledge about public charter schools —and GECS in particular—based on my own many years of teaching as an Educational Facilitator at GECS.

First, the easiest way to learn about GECS is to go to our website at GECS.ORG. Golden Eagle Charter School is a Siskiyou County and California State approved public charter school. We meet all the same California Standards and guidelines, assessments, and audits as traditional schools. As our website outlines, each student has a personalized learning plan that provides the method of study and materials they need to progress through the CA State Standards. GECS offers a variety of programs to suit students' needs including academic programs that have a classroom-based approach, a homeschooling program, a hybrid approach of classes, college classes and additional options.

I would like to share some of the reasons I believe GECS has proved to be a solid benefit to our county's educational opportunities as well as to our existing traditional public schools in Siskiyou County.

First, I believe that choice in education is a benefit to all students and families. GECS is well-respected by families and traditional public schools throughout Siskiyou County. Sometimes a traditional setting is not the best fit for a student. Likewise, an independent study setting may not be the best fit. Therefore, over the years, GECS has successfully established collaborative working relationships with traditional public schools throughout the county with a mutually beneficial aim to provide the best possible educational setting for the individual student. For example, one of my students was very successful in the homeschool setting and then went on to become the class Valedictorian at Weed High School. Likewise, I received students from the traditional setting who thrived in a more individualized setting and went on to successfully graduate and attend college. My daughter excelled within the traditional school setting in Mt. Shasta, graduating from Mount Shasta High School as class Salutatorian with several academic scholarships. In parallel, students at GECS have excelled within their personalized plan and graduated with honors, scholarship opportunities, and even earning concurrent community college credits.

I cherish my memories of working with our wonderful leaders, colleagues, students and families within our shared leadership model. I enjoyed the many field trips and science activities I organized including, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Salmonids in the Classroom" project. Students raised trout or salmon from eggs to small fish in the classroom, and under the guidance of the department biologists, released them into the Klamath River. Field trips also included aquatic insect investigations at Castle Lake, Adopt-a-Tree programs, field trips to Lassen Volcanic National Park, Salmon Cycle educational activities with volunteers and USDA Forest Service biologists on the Shasta River, water quality studies and visiting working ranches and farms in Yreka. One of my favorite field trips was with colleagues, older students and their parents, to England, France and Italy with tour guides to famous art and history museums (including the Louvre and the Vatican).

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to present my personal perspectives about our wonderful school. I do hope that any concerns the public might have about additional space for educational resources at our location, can be successfully resolved. In furtherance of that goal, we embrace and welcome anyone to visit GECS and to see for themselves what we are all about.

Sincerely,

Sandy Sullivan