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For more information regarding the content of this material, please contact the Charter Schools Division by phone at 916-322-6029 or by e-mail at charters@cde.ca.gov.

Appendix VI: Letters of Support



Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Dr. Rm 21
Twain Harte, CA 95383

Superintendent Hennes and Board Members:

Please find this letter as support for the approval of the charter petition for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

My name is Michael Yaley and I am the General Manager of Pinecrest Operations for the Cal Alumni Association (CAA). CAA owns and operates three summer camps and a year round resort in Pinecrest. We employ 10 year round employees and 140 seasonal employees in Pinecrest and having a school back in Pinecrest will be a huge benefit to our employees as well as others in the community. When we have job vacancies, it is difficult to attract applicants that have young families, so having a local school is a real draw.

For the benefit of the families in the area, and for the children who have to ride long distances to their current schools, I urge you to approve the charter for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

Respectfully,

Michael Yaley
General Manager, Pinecrest Operations
Cal Alumni Association
209.965.3582



STRAWBERRY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Strawberry Volunteer Fire Department

PO BOX 1185, PINECREST, CA 95364
strawberryfire85@gmail.com
PH 209.965.3513



September 24, 2019

Heidi Lupo
Pinecrest Expedition Academy
PO BOX 1218
Pinecrest, CA 95364

RE: Collaborative Curriculum

Dear Heidi:

The Strawberry Fire Protection District would be pleased to have a collaborative effort with the students and staff of the proposed Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

We would be happy to develop options for your students to lead programs geared to community education and evaluation for Fire Prevention in our area. This collaborative curriculum could encourage students and others to enter into the study of Fire Science. Community events and education symposiums, created by and led by your students with consultation and guidance from our District would be welcome and we look forward to the many opportunities this relationship could open up for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy, The Strawberry Fire District as well as the area property owners, residents and visitors.

We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Martin
SFPD Board President
strawberryfire85@gmail.com
209-965-3513



StrawberryPropertyOwners.org

spoa@strawberrypropertyowners.com

24 September 2019

Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Drive Room 21
Twain Harte, CA 95383

To Whom It May Concern :

I am writing on behalf of the Strawberry Property Owners Association, representing the community of Strawberry in Tuolumne County. Our organization represents the interests of the approximately 300 homeowners in our community.

We strongly support the efforts of Ms. Heidi Lupo in her petition for a charter school that would be offered to the schoolchildren in Strawberry. Education is a vital element for every child, and the parents of those children need a charter school option to consider.

As you may be aware, the Pinecrest School in our community has been closed for a number of years, so education options for the children of Strawberry are already severely limited.

For these reasons, we urge you to favorably consider Ms. Lupo's petition for the development of a charter school in the Twain Harte School District.

Kind regards,

Don Barton
President
Strawberry Property Owners Association

September 24, 2019

Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Dr. RM 21
Twain Harte, CA 95383

Dear Superintendent Hennes and Members of the Board of Trustees:

I have lived in Strawberry since 1966, my five children graduated from Pinecrest Elementary School as did many grand children. My husband Bill served on the Columbia board of trustees for many years and was instrumental in building the Old Strawberry Road Campus, a campus which you received at zero cost, with a substantial fund for upkeep.

The closure of the school was devastating to our community and our children, grand children and great grand children. I have great grand children who drive over 70 miles a day, to attend elementary school. This takes away a lot of time and lessens the ability of parental involvement in their education.

Quite frankly, I am offended that my tax dollars are not used responsibly enough to operate a school in the Pinecrest area. I feel that Twain Harte is making the choice to put the education of some children ahead of others. I feel that it is your responsibility to educate all of the children in the district through similar means and reasonable access to locations. Sending a bus to Cold Springs is inadequate.

I urge you to look at what this charter school can do for your district. It will make it stronger, it will create an attractive place for children to attend school in the Pinecrest area. It will be unique. If you look at it with a reasonably open mind you will understand that this school is good for the district, it's children and the tax payers. Approve it.

Sincerely,

Valera Cashman



Pinecrest Lake Resort

P.O. Box 1216 • Pinecrest, California 95364
209/965-3411 • FAX: 209/965-4032
www.pinecrestlakeresort.com

September 24, 2019

Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Dr. Rm 21
Twain Harte, CA 95383

Dear Superintendent Hennes and Board Members:

Please find this letter as a letter of support for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy Charter Petition.

I urge you to consider the tremendous benefits this school will bring to the school district, the Pinecrest area and Tuolumne County. The proposed program is not only unique, it shows great innovation and is a selling point for new, young families looking to retain residency in the area or relocate here. The natural resources component of the program is not only unique, it is much needed in Tuolumne County.

As you are aware, and I have previously noted publicly, the closure of Pinecrest School has been detrimental to our local community and businesses on the 108 corridor. The economic contributions of the area are significant for the Twain Harte School District and Tuolumne County. Our property taxes, sales taxes, fuel tax and transient occupancy tax are major contributors to the budget of Tuolumne County. A decrease in these tax revenues will have negative effects on the County. Without the ability to maintain the tourism industry on upper 108, property taxes in the area will decline. This will be devastating to the Twain Harte School District.

Our area is attractive and currently affordable to young families looking to live an active lifestyle. The availability of high speed internet is making working from home and business expansions possible in the area. Again, I ask you to look at the bigger picture and note that this school can be beneficial to the district. These kids deserve to have a school in close proximity to their homes, their parents deserve to be involved in their kids education.

I look forward to your approval, and the involvement of Pinecrest Lake Resort and my own personal volunteerism in Pinecrest Expedition Academy for years to come.

Warmly,

Laurie Cashman
General Manager
Pinecrest Lake Resort



StrawberryPropertyOwners.org

sboa@strawberrypropertyowners.com

24 September 2019

Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Drive Room 21
Twain Harte, CA 95383

To Whom It May Concern :

I am writing on behalf of the Strawberry Property Owners Association, representing the community of Strawberry in Tuolumne County. Our organization represents the interests of the approximately 300 homeowners in our community.

We strongly support the efforts of Ms. Heidi Lupo in her petition for a charter school that would be offered to the schoolchildren in Strawberry. Education is a vital element for every child, and the parents of those children need a charter school option to consider.

As you may be aware, the Pinecrest School in our community has been closed for a number of years, so education options ofr the children of Strawberry are already severely limited.

For these reasons, we urge you to favorably consider Ms. Lupo's petition for the development of a charter school in the Twain Harte School District.

Kind regards,

Don Barton
President
Strawberry Property Owners Association

**STRAWBERRY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****Strawberry Volunteer Fire Department**

PO BOX 1185, PINECREST, CA 95364

strawberryfire85@gmail.com

PH 209.965.3513

September 24, 2019

California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA. 95814

RE: Pinecrest Expedition Academy

Dear Board Members,

Please find this letter as a statement of support for the approval of the charter school petition for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

My name is Dee Martin. I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Strawberry Fire Protection District. As a vital part of the Strawberry/Pinecrest area communities our volunteer fire department recognizes the need for an elementary school in the area. We feel it is important to attract young families and additional year-round residents. Having an elementary school in close proximity, providing a unique and academic program is crucial in this matter. Our community has seen the effects of not having a local school - decreased population, loss of emergency responders and other services normally provided to tax paying residents. We would like to reverse this trend.

As a volunteer fire department we rely on the residents to be active participants and volunteer to work as emergency responders. There are 2 fire stations in the immediate area that rely on those volunteers for fire protection and emergency medical response. Since our neighborhood school was closed the Strawberry fire district has not been able to hire and replace the volunteers that moved away to find a more locally located school for their children. The number of emergency responders living and working in this community has decreased. This is a direct result of the school closure. Younger families do not want to move to an area where there are not options for their children to attend school. If this trend continues, this community will not be able to continue providing necessary safety services to an area whose population swells to thousands during peak season.

A huge benefit to having a neighborhood school would be the collaboration that SFPD could have with Pinecrest Expedition Academy. Our fire district is willing to provide educational opportunities to the students of the Pinecrest Expedition Academy. We will provide fire safety education and awareness as it pertains to their immediate community and environment. A small rural area school has the ability to provide unique educational experiences that are not available to students elsewhere. The Pinecrest Expedition Academy would provide the potential to develop good stewards of the community who would be more inclined to stay involved in their local communities moving into the future.

**STRAWBERRY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****Strawberry Volunteer Fire Department**

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Tuolumne County is a county supported by tourism dollars. The Strawberry/Pinecrest and upper Hwy. 108 communities are the definition of the type of communities that provide those tourism dollars. In order to continue providing those tax dollars it takes stores, restaurants, recreational opportunities and other necessary services. The local businesses need to be able to hire employees that live local. The US Forest Service needs to hire employees that live local. The two local area fire departments need to hire employees that live local. We need a local neighborhood school in order to attract families that will want to live and work local. The Strawberry Fire Protection District urges you to approve the petition for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Martin
Strawberry Fire Protection District Board President
P.O. Box 1185
Pinecrest, CA. 95364
deesfpd@gmail.com
209-965-3513

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September 24, 2019

Twain Harte School District
22974 Twain Harte Drive
Twain Harte, CA. 95383

Dear Mister Superintendent and Board Members:

Please find this letter as a statement of support for the approval of the charter petition for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

My name is Dee Martin. I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Strawberry Fire Protection District. As a service provider in the Pinecrest area we recognize the need for an elementary school in the area. We feel it is important to attract young families and additional year-round residents. Having an elementary school in a close proximity, providing a unique and academic program is crucial in this matter. Our community has seen our population decline by not having a school located within the community and we would like to reverse this trend.

As a volunteer fire department we rely on the residents to be active participants and volunteer to work as emergency responders. There are 2 stations in this community that rely on those volunteers for fire protection and emergency medical response. Since the Pinecrest School was closed the fire district has not been able to hire and replace the volunteers that moved away. The number of active emergency responders living and working in this community has decreased. Our ability to hire qualified staff or find volunteers has been severely affected. Families do not want to move to an area where there is not a local option for their children to attend school. Local emergency services will be extremely limited or non-existent if this trend continues. There will be no one actually living here to work the jobs available in this area – forest service, hospitality, recreation and more importantly firefighting and medical services. Responders would be dispatched from Twain Harte or even Sonora, causing delays in providing emergency services.

We value Tuolumne County, and wish to see our county and its residents thrive. Please approve this petition to help improve our area and provide for the children and families living in this community.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Martin

Strawberry Fire Protection District

Board President

strawberryfire85@gmail.com

209-965-3513



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September 24, 2019

Heidi Lupo
Pinecrest Expedition Academy
PO BOX 1218
Pinecrest, CA 95364

RE: Collaborative Curriculum

Dear Heidi:

The Strawberry Fire Protection District would be pleased to have a collaborative effort with the students and staff of the proposed Pinecrest Expedition Academy.

We would be happy to develop options for your students to lead programs geared to community education and evaluation for Fire Prevention in our area. This collaborative curriculum could encourage students and others to enter into the study of Fire Science. Community events and education symposiums, created by and led by your students with consultation and guidance from our District would be welcome and we look forward to the many opportunities this relationship could open up for the Pinecrest Expedition Academy, The Strawberry Fire District as well as the area property owners, residents and visitors.

We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Martin
SFPD Board President
Strawberryfire85@gmail.com
209-965-3513

R. Gene Gilluly
PO Box 1356
Pinecrest, CA 95364

August 12, 2019

Twain Harte School Board
Twain Harte, CA

RE: Pinecrest/Strawberry Charter School

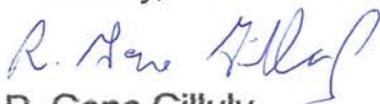
Dear Sirs,

My parents purchased the Pinecrest cabin in 1963 and I have been using it every year since. My first jobs were in the Pinecrest area. The 2 room school house on Pinecrest School Road was in use for the local residents. It was used by the children from Pinecrest, Strawberry, Cold Springs, and Peter Pan. The Forest Service families had children that attended there as well as others further down the mountain. Later a new school was built on the Old Strawberry Road and used for a short while. Now that building is owned by the Pinecrest Permittee Association. There is no school close by and the children in the area have to bus down the hill for their education.

I am in support of establishing a charter school in the area for families that live up the mountain from you. Busing them 45 minutes each way makes their school day very long. Having a local school would also entice growth of population for families seeking employment in the area (i.e. USFS, Dodge Ridge Ski Area, restaurants/motels in Cold Springs, Pinecrest and Strawberry, and other service industries). I believe that a local charter school could focus the education in the direction that the parents want their children to have.

I urge you to support the establishment of a local charter school.

Sincerely,


R. Gene Gilluly