

Submitter: Dana Stroud
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

To whom this may concern,

I am a board member of the LCMCS charter school and have two children that attend the school. We have been members of this community since 2015. Our school community has been in existence for over 14 years and has a massive positive difference on our neurodiverse family, who would not do well in most traditional school environments that do not allow for as much movement and flexibility.

Our school is a public Montessori school that operates within the Gresham Barlow School District. We were just forced to relocate due to lease termination by our sponsoring district and found a new piece of land to purchase for a longer-term solution, but it falls outside of district lines. It would be ideal for us to remain inside GBSD boundaries but given an extremely limited time frame and lack of existing facilities to accommodate 17 classrooms our choices are very limited. The proposed new facility that we are on the precipice of owning is located less than 1000 ft from the GBSD boundary. We would like to turn an unfortunate situation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportation to one that opens access for enrollment to underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding area while also continuing to serve our current families. Greater access & diversity is a key components of our current Strategic Plan.

We have done a lot of work to create safe community for our families, and are on the cusp of extending our offerings to more students in the Rockwood community through this move, which is in alignment with our core values as a community: (1) a wholehearted commitment to liberating human potential through justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
(2) independence and interdependence: Students have the freedom to act and learn within a structured and prepared environment, while also taking joy in connecting and contributing to the greater world (3) compassion and respect for self, others, and the environment; and (4) development of the whole child through attention to physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth.

Please be mindful of our community as you consider this bill. We want to continue to serve more and more members of the community via decreasing accessibility barriers that we've battled while operating in Damascus. We help students, staff, and families advocate for and establish a commitment to social justice, anti-bias and racial equity. Our schools aims to prioritize the recruitment and retention of diverse

students, staff, administrative, and board populations and provide inclusive environments for all, including those from historically underserved communities. We aim to operate in a way that everyone feels accepted, supported, and safe. We support our students learn through natural development, establishing an insatiable curiosity and passion for lifelong learning because it is our belief that young people and adults alike learn to create a loving, respectful environment that embraces differences and builds emotional intelligence. Our families feel a sense of belonging and connection within our community. We nurture a school culture where children and adults treat one another with dignity and respect, care and compassion. We meet each individual where they are, encouraging them to be their authentic selves and to find meaningful ways to contribute to our community. To achieve these goals, we will learn, practice and strive to integrate the following values into all aspects of the school's operations: compassionate communication, peace education, trauma-informed care, collaborative leadership, social responsibility and service to the community.

Please consider our 400 students as well as the broader community that we wish to serve in Rockwood as you debate this bill. We aim to find a home so we can continue to provide students access to a free, high-quality, public Montessori education.

Thank you,
Dana Stroud