

From: Jim Hord [mailto:jimhord1@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2016 1:04 PM

To: PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>

Cc: Missi Goss <mgoss@madronaschool.org>; felicia Hord <felicia.hord@gmail.com>

Subject: Support for new Madrona campus!

Good morning Josh,

I am writing to you asking for your support for the new Madrona School campus proposed at Lowery Farm.

First and foremost, I cannot speak highly enough of Missi, Jennifer and all of the incredible staff at Madrona School. They are without a doubt the most dedicated, passionate educators I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Their ability to meet each of their students where they are, identify each child's individual needs, and nurture them through their learning process, is nothing short of amazing.

As a teaching professional of 33 years, I am very aware of how individuals learn differently and at different speeds. Unfortunately our public school system is not designed, nor does it have the capacity, to meet all students' needs. While my older daughter has flourished within the Bainbridge Island school system, my younger daughter struggled mightily. In fact last year, mid school year she woke up one morning crying and said "Daddy, I don't want to go to school anymore! Why can't I just stay home and do art and make things to sell?" As we talked further she even said to me, "I don't feel as smart as the other kids."

Josh, that statement broke my heart!

Through a co-worker and friend, I found out about Madrona and scheduled a visit. We knew immediately it was the right fit for our daughter.

The Waldorf system of outdoor and hands-on learning has been nothing short of a miracle for my daughter. She is up early every day and excited to go to school, she is playing violin and guitar, writing and speaking Spanish, even writing both English and Spanish in cursive! Most importantly my daughter is happy and feeling successful and confident. Josh, is there any better gift we can give our children?

Please, help make the Madrona School at Lowery Farm a reality, so these dedicated professionals can continue their mission and reach more students in our community who are going through what my daughter went through.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Jim Hord
Felicia Hord