

Susan Summerford - This Morning's Agenda Item Regarding Alternative School in Anderson Valley

From: Saoirse Byrne <saoirseannie@gmail.com>
To: <summerfords@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 9/13/2018 7:55 AM
Subject: This Morning's Agenda Item Regarding Alternative School in Anderson Valley

Good Morning Mrs.Fords,

I am writing to you to express my support for the program that Seasha Robb has created in our community.

Two years ago she taught both of my children at an independent study based program here at Anderson Valley Elementary School. The program was a culmination of year long talks with parents, staff and community members. Seasha listened to what the needs were and created a learning environment that served those needs. Unfortunately, it was a quite a turbulent time in our district with changing leadership and the program was not supported in a way that allowed it to flourish.

Seasha has shown immense dedication to finding a way to serve our community. She is an engaged and driven teacher and doesn't give up- all qualities I want fostered in my children.

The church in Philo is a perfect location for her program. It is centrally located in our valley. It has revived the small church community that was possibly nearing closure. There is safe indoor and outdoor space for the children. Seasha and her family have lovingly restored the church in order to operate in the space and have brought great value to the church as a building- addressing and preventing damage to the structure itself. Please consider the rural context of the church when looking at what further projects need to be completed before approval to start classes is given.

This year my children joined the newly revived and supported Independent Study program at Anderson Valley Elementary. I joined the School Board with the desire to help all children in this valley and firmly believe that there are many ways that the needs of our valley's children can be served. I look forward to collaborating with Seasha for my children's education again once her program is up and running.

Thank you kindly,
Saoirse Byrne
Boonville, California