

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Live Oak Charter Schools future at Fairgrounds
Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 11:54:19 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am a parent of a kindergartner and 2nd grader at Live Oak Charter school. This school and it's very central location are a huge part of why we are so happy in Petaluma. We love it being on the fairgrounds making public Waldorf education accessible for so many. Our school requests 40 hours of volunteer hours per family. Everything that is awesome about it is built by the amazing and dedicated faculty, the kids and their families. These last few years have made us all that much more aware of the importance of a strong and united community. Each class is paired up with a "buddy" from another class further connecting each student together making them feel even more bonded and supported.

It was only recently that I was informed that the reasons for Live Oak's deferred necessary maintenance and envisioned growth is due to the toxic relationship with our current landlords, the 4th DAA. Our children have been in buildings with severe mold problems since the 4th DAA refuses to approve the proposals for updates to the almost decrepit portable buildings. I kid you not, mushrooms have been found growing in the walls!! These buildings were used by SRJC before we gave them over 2 more decades of use. Families have had to pull their kids out of school due to these hazardous conditions.

This school encourages its students to be courageous, and kind and to answer hard questions with critical thinking minds. To quote the home page: Live Oak educates the whole child - head, heart, and hands - through an education that integrates each child's creative, intellectual, emotional, physical and social domains.

We need these teachings and philosophies moving forward in our world and as any parent learns, you get a 2nd time through your education alongside your children.

The leaders at this school have been valiant in their effort to make this situation work and have also explored every possible option within the narrow confines of our charter's districting map.

I whole heartedly agree and implore that the council votes to have our lease no longer with the 4th DAA and instead with the city of Petaluma so that after 22 years as a school, we can care for this sacred space, and these kids.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lia Goldman Miller
[REDACTED]

P.S. My 7 year old always says when asked what his favorite part of school is: "handwork!" A class he has twice a week which appears to be knitting and crafting to a passerby but has a very intentional purpose of doing the physical work that allows the brain to cross the midline,

and therefore preparing it for their other scholastic studies. Brilliant, right?!

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<https://youtu.be/wtdffxj7pNE>

“Be a blessing to somebody”