

## **Statement to the Medford School Board – November 7, 2006**

It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the Madrone Trail Initiative board, present the Medford school district board a charter proposal to operate the Madrone Trail Public Charter School in the Medford School District in September 2007. This will ultimately be a Waldorf inspired K-8 holistic, arts-integrated charter school.

We have reviewed the Oregon charter school legislation. We are confident that the proposed school shall be in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations applying to charter schools. We are also confident that, in addition to satisfying the nine objectives of the Oregon Charter School legislation, our mission is well aligned with the mission of the Medford School District, and the educational philosophy and goals of the school district board. Furthermore, this proposal supports the priority of closing the achievement gap of the State Board of Education.

We have established that there is a need for alternative education in this local area and Waldorf educational approach is among the most highly desirable alternative educational methods with a proven track record. The feedback that we received from our community survey indicated that the groups of constituents that are attracted to our offering are mostly families with home-schooled children or children in private schools. We forecast a positive financial impact on the school district budget based on this prospective student base and moreover, due to the fact that the school district will keep 20% of each student's funding from the state.

Through this proposal, we try to address specific needs in certain segments of the local student population. We expect to bring back students who have left the school district or attract new students to the district. Our proposal, if approved, will definitely result in increased choices in educational opportunities, which will demonstrate Medford School District's leadership in educational reform in Southern Oregon and generate goodwill within the community, as this offering will benefit tax payers' children in the area. We believe this is a win-win situation for the community, the Medford School District and for all parents and students who desire this form of alternative education as this presents a high quality educational program at a lower cost to the district and taxpayers.

We hope for a favorable review of this proposal and look forward to becoming a valuable asset to the Medford School District. Thank you for your consideration.

Daniele Anderson, Madrone Trail Initiative