



SUMMIT
Charter School

Appendix G. Letters of Support

November 10, 2020

Summit School

To Whom It May Concern:

I attended Summit School of the Poconos from seventh grade to tenth grade. Four years of attending Summit School enhanced my academic ability to learn and be a productive individual of society.

Summit School does a lot of project based learning, which creates a lot of engagement within the work you do. I, being someone who really devalued school, was never really attentive when sitting at a desk and listening to a teacher lecture. That apathetic learning environment did not suit my academic needs - compared to Summit, an environment where teachers connected with you individually and created engaging work.

With the work I was doing, I was taught two very important skills, self directedness and critical thinking. Summit School's way of teaching is to prepare you for the real world because in life you need to be able to advocate for yourself. Self directedness taught me to be a self sufficient individual. Meaning I'm fully responsible for the actions and decisions I make hence critical thinking. Critical thinking taught me to be a cohesive person and evaluate what I am doing. Without these two skills I developed at Summit School, there is no way that I would be excelling in CP and honor roll classes in high school right now.

Aside from the academics, Summit School has helped me develop good character. In the early years of attending Summit School, I lacked self control and was very tempered. I had a difficult time communicating and expressed myself through derogative reactions. I attended a public school years before coming to Summit School and knowing how public schools work, I would've been one of those children that were looked at as one of those mess-ups that would never get anywhere in life. At Summit School, they saw in me the potential I had and believed in me. They never once doubted me or neglected me because of the moments of mess ups I had, but instead picked me up and motivated me to be better and strive for whatever goals I had in life.

The teachers at Summit School are the most relentless teachers I've ever had because I've had moments of giving up but they never gave up on me. I'm currently a junior in Stroudsburg High School and now have a new and vivid experience of what a public school is like. I attend my class, sit and listen to a teacher tell me what I'm looking at and assign homework afterwards. Nothing engaging, but listen and go. Again, without the self directedness and critical thinking that Summit School has helped me implement in my life there is no way I would be excelling in my classes.

Alex Torres
Former Summit School Student

November 6, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of East Stroudsburg Area School District and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to my community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,

Alisha Narvaez
Current Summit School Parent

ALLISEN TROTTER
Post Office Box 212
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
allisentrotter@gmail.com

November 7, 2020

Pocono Mountain School District
Post Office Box 200
Swiftwater, PA 18370

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2015, I was very fortunate to be a part of a group of parents who collaborated to form Summit School of the Poconos. The goal was to create a school that was unique and would provide much needed educational choices in our community.

We wanted our children to learn using Project-based and hands on techniques giving them the opportunity to move about the classroom and work together as a team to achieve their goals.

Summit School of the Poconos promotes empathy, critical thinking, self-direction, and time management skills. The school meetings and democratic process help the students to understand how democracy works and empowers our students to have a voice.

My son attended Summit School for three years (7th-9th grade). He has a love of learning because he had the opportunity to attend this wonderful school.

It was an amazing experience working with the staff, teachers and parents to create a community where our children are encouraged to make choices and explore their own interests to help them become self-sufficient, productive members of society.

My family and I support Summit Charter School and believe that it will benefit the entire community. It is very important to allow families to have a choice in their education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allisen Trotter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Parent and Co-Founder
Summit School of the Poconos

Dear Decision Makers,

Summit School of the Poconos (SSP) helped me come out of my shell. When I first came to Summit, I was extremely shy and felt very uncomfortable talking to people. The teaching and learning process at Summit gave me the confidence and opportunity to make friends, communicate with people, and speak my mind about things I care about. The teachers were always up to helping and providing support on things I was struggling with, and were very enthusiastic and cared about what they were teaching.

For me, SSP was a very low-stress environment. There's no work forced upon you and they don't set deadlines that all but suffocate you. It always felt very flexible and manageable, all while challenging me to do the best I could. It felt natural.

I believe that a school like this will benefit more kids like me and give them the confidence to open up and speak their minds as well. I think that Summit Charter School (SCS) would be an amazing school!

Please approve the SCS application and help more kids in Monroe County have an empowering learning environment.

Sincerely,
Ariana Hernandez

Former SSP student
Daughter of Katherine Hernandez,
Director of Summit School of the Poconos

November 9th, 2020

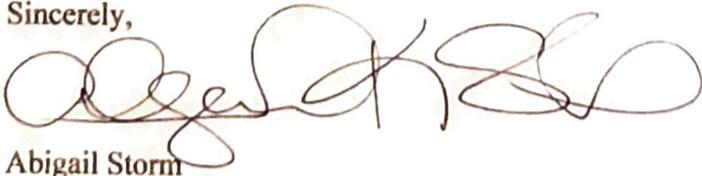
To whom it may concern,

My journey while searching for a career in education was a struggle. I had countless job interviews where my resume, experience, and credentials got me through to a second-round interview. I'd then go into the school, prepare a lesson, share my goals and ideas of a quality educator only to have my dreams crushed with feedback such as "your ideas are too big and would not be possible in the reality of a school setting." I was a driven, passionate, creative, outside-of-the-box thinker, always pushing my potential as a teacher to its fullest, always wanting to try something new and innovative, but found myself compromising my own values to try to "fit the mold" so I could get a job. I was contemplating changing careers when I found Summit School of the Poconos in 2017. I met with the hiring individuals and quickly learned this interview would not be like the rest. They valued and validated my time spent on my portfolio and lesson. They responded with "what would you need from us to help you achieve this goal." They were excited about me, invested in my growth as a young teacher, and reignited my passion. As I embark in my 4th year of teaching at Summit School, during a pandemic at that, I look back on my experience so far and feel grateful. Grateful my experience has been so inclusive, positive, uplifting, and inspiring as this is not the experience for many in the education field. As an educator at Summit School, I am listened to. I am supported. I am greeted with solution-focused and growth mindsets when faced with adversity. I am a part-time employee, but my thoughts, feelings, and opinions are regarded at the same level as the board and directors. At Summit School, I am not restricted. I have the freedom to learn, adapt, grow, and transform curricular entities to foster the best quality of education I can provide in the most meaningful way to my student. I am empowered to be the best version of myself.

To be accepted as Summit Charter School would be a tremendous validation for those who "don't fit the mold" as educators and students alike. In a society where embracing diversity, change, empowerment, equality, choice, and individual voice is so critical, I feel Summit Charter School is an exceptional and necessary option for students and educators in Monroe County to maintain this progression. Accepting Summit Charter School will only enhance the educational opportunities; allowing all students the opportunity to receive quality and meaningful education in a way that best meets their needs and help to solidify the growth and progress of Monroe County youth in years to come. Accepting Summit Charter School will allow other educators the opportunity to find their "home" when the traditional education model said their ideas "didn't fit." It would serve as a model for future educators to build upon as education will continue to evolve in time. Monroe County should be proud to host such a variety of educational opportunities; public, private and charter.

Summit Charter School is different than current options. Summit Charter School is innovative in its values, organization, and sense of democracy. Summit Charter School creates lifelong learners of students, educators, parents, and community members. Summit Charter School ignites passion beyond the walls of school. Summit Charter School is for me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Abigail Storm", written in a cursive style.

Abigail Storm

Art Teacher, Summit School

November 3, 2020

To the PMSD Board of Directors & whom else it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Summit Charter School as both a former Summit School of the Poconos employee and advocate for SCS.

I am the product of a successful traditional public school education, and am currently a public school district employee. I ask that you really, truly hear me when I tell you that Summit Charter School not only has a place in this community, but there is an active need for it.

Our public school districts are under immense pressure to meet the needs of every single child-- made more challenging when families lack an alternative choice for schooling that they won't need to rearrange their household finances for. Summit Charter School is not entering as competition to our local public school districts, but rather entering as a helpful, supportive hand both for families and the local districts.

We must keep children at the heart of education-- they are why we are all here, working harder than ever before to make sure each child's needs are being met. To offer them opportunities and an education that will guide them toward a happy, fulfilling life no matter what path they choose. To show them that they are valued. To ensure they feel that their voice counts, and their opinion matters.

Some children can get this in a traditional public school setting, but not all. We cannot allow the latter to slip through the cracks, where they may end up feeling that they are inadequate or incapable.

I think back to my own education and realize that while I found success, some of my peers who were struggling would have flourished in the setting that Summit Charter School will offer, and I feel sorry that our community did not offer that as an option for them then. All I can hope for moving forward is that you will allow the current and future versions of these students the opportunity to have an education that suits them, in an environment where they will not feel like outsiders, but members of a shared community that they will help shape.

Please help give them that opportunity. We know our local districts are working hard to meet every child's needs and give them the very best. Summit School is, too. Monroe and surrounding counties need both to offer families the absolute best-- the children deserve nothing less.

Warmly,



Anna Speer
101 East Lilac Rd.
Milford, PA, 18337



ARM LAWYERS

Nicholas J. Masington, III, Esq.
Brett J. Riegel, Esq.*
Joshua B. Goldberg, Esq.
Patrick J. Best, Esq.**^
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Lauren E. Allu, Esq.**^
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Stroudsburg, PA 18360
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(484) 544-8625 Fax

November 12, 2019

Pocono Mountain School District
P.O. Bix 200
Swiftwater, PA 18370

Re: Support for Summit Charter School Application

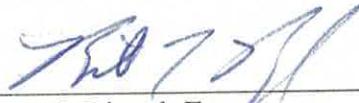
Dear Sir or Madame:

As a business owner in Monroe County since 1996, it gives me great pleasure to support the application of the Summit Charter School for charter status in the Pocono Mountain School District.

Through extensive representation of families and children both in educational matters and in other areas of the law, it is obvious to me the while the public school system in Monroe County does an excellent job of educating the vest majority of students, for some, the difference in education that is available in a charter school setting is the difference between education success and failure.

I am pleased to offer my support and the support of my business to the Summit Charter School in its efforts to turn out the civic leaders of tomorrow, through a charter school setting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brett J. Riegel, Esq.

11/9/2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

The reason I like Summit School of the Poconos is because the teachers are very nice and they listen to the suggestions of the students. Everyone is kind and if any student needs help or doesn't understand something, the teachers or even the principal works with them. Ms. Katherine, the School Director, is a very helpful principal and respects what the student have to say.

I am excited to see the Summit Charter School in our community. I love being part of a school where the students learn through projects and each other.

Sincerely,

Avriana Avelino
4th Grader
Summit School of the Poconos Student

October 30, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of Stroudsburg School District and I believe Summit Charter School will be an asset to my community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian K. Coyne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian K. Coyne
Associate Broker
Michael Baxter & Associates Commercial Real Estate

November 12, 2019

Pocono Mountain School District
P.O. Box 200
Swiftwater, PA 18370

VIA U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL

Re: Charter Application – Summit Charter School

Dear Sir or Madame:

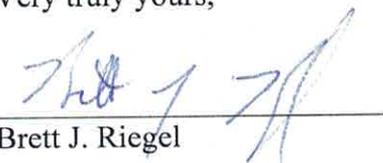
I write to offer my support to the Summit Charter School in its application process through the Pocono Mount School District. As a tax payor in the Pocono Mount School District having owned property there since 1996, I believe very firmly that educational choice is an important component of a balanced school system. While the public-school system offers an excellent free education in its present configuration, there are some students for whom the physical plant, teaching methodologies and administrative protocols are not conducive to educational success. For those students, the ability to find an education that is consistent with their personal needs and, still, free of charge is supported by the existence of a reasonable number of charter schools.

While she is not a student at a Pocono Mountain School, my stepdaughter, rides the bus each day to the Lehigh Valley Charter Arts high school so that she can spend half of her school day, approximately, working on her vocal major. Watching this young woman, who I love like daughter, flourish in that setting has been a true joy. While she has always been academically capable, her time in public school did not “strike the chord” for her and did not have her excited about all of her educational endeavors. She now goes to school itching for the opportunity to learn, to improve and to invest in herself. I am certain, having resided with this child for nearly seven years, that absent the Charter Arts opportunity in the Lehigh Valley, she would have disliked school and had a number of challenges that were avoidable merely by finding a different vehicle to deliver her education.

I am a staunch supporter of public school, but see charter schools as an appropriate and necessary extension of the ordinary public schools and not an educational opportunity that is in conflict with the public school district.

It gives me great pleasure to support the Summit Charter School in its application for charter status.

Very truly yours,


Brett J. Riegel

**Bair Pediatric Dentistry
Craig Bair, D.M.D.
1845 W. Main St., Suite 102
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-559-8011**

11-08-2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a strong reputation Monroe County. They have earned support from the local community, businesses, politicians, and educators since they opened in 2016. The School's board members represent a dynamic group of professionals who are highly respected in the community. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is an integral addition to our community.

Bair Pediatric Dentistry has had the unique opportunity and pleasure to sponsor several Summit School's events over the last two years. Such events were successful, well organized, and highly attended by the local community. On a personal level, my two children of 7 and 5 years old currently attend the Summit School and my wife and I could not be more satisfied with their experience and education.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Various models of education are needed to best serve the unique needs of each student and to graduate a large percentage of students who are prepared to succeed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Craig Bair
Pediatric Dentist/Owner

From: 'Tyuka Washington' via Charter charter@summitschoolpoconos.org
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: November 6, 2019 at 9:35 AM
To: charter@summitschoolpoconos.org

TW

11/6/2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of ESASD and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to my community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,
Tyuka Baptiste
Parent of Jacob Baptiste(Current Student)
and Jace Baptiste(Future Student)



November 6, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

I've supported Summit School of the Poconos as a private school with spirit wear. I feel the school has already provided a good education for the students. Becoming Charter School would open up so many more possibilities as well as giving more students in Monroe county a chance to see what they can offer. There aren't many choices of schools, so parents don't have many options. Our taxes pay for education, but not the education we choose.

As a parent, I believe this would be a great opportunity to explore and be free to choose what they believe is best for their children. The STEAM program is a great curriculum and not only teaches kids about Math, Science or ELA, but teaches them everyday life and how to survive. It also teaches them how to make a difference and how to be themselves. I feel, I've also learned from them as well. Speaking with different teachers that have come into my store and hearing about the things they do with the kids, it's hands on learning. Children don't just learn from a book. They experiment and test actual projects. I've attending a few of their project nights and saw what the kids have built and hearing them explain to me how things work, it was amazing to see what they can do. I think many parents would love to be able to see this in their children and feel proud that they are able to grow and go beyond learning from a text book.

I hope Summit School will have that opportunity to pass along their experience and techniques to many other children by becoming Charter.

Sincerely,

Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More of Stroudsburg



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DUNWOODY@BIGFROG.COM

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1400 DUNWOODY VILLAGE PKWY, ATLANTA, GA 30338

BIO SPECTRA

100 Majestic Way, Bangor, PA 18013

November 8, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,



Rick Mutchler
President, BioSpectra



November 7, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support of the Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. As a resident of the East Stroudsburg School District and a business owner in the Stroudsburg Area School District, I am excited about what the possibility of this charter school will mean for our communities and the children who will have the opportunity for an additional choice for their education and their future.

Through a project based, STEAM focused, democratic approach to learning, emphasizing collaboration, critical thinking, and innovation through creativity, Summit School of the Poconos has already laid a strong foundation for an exceptional public school model that is needed to build strong leaders of the future.

I have confidence that the founders, board members, staff, parents and students of Summit School of the Poconos will continue to build upon the academic and community strength to make Summit Charter School an exceptional public school choice for the community, and I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District.

Sincerely,

Sandra Kusek
Owner, Bloom Waldessori Play Space

11/7/2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The concept of a Project-based (STEM) School truly spoke to me on many levels when I first heard about Summit School, and I just knew I wanted to be a part of that school community.

In the time I spent teaching at Summit School of the Poconos, I felt liberated. I had the opportunity to teach cross-curriculum content and provide students with meaningful, long-lasting learning experiences. I had complete autonomy in how I wanted to teach the concepts/objectives that students needed to know and retain that knowledge.

My time there allowed me the opportunity to observe student-centered learning. It led to excitement in my students' eyes of how they had choice. They were able to show what they have learned in many different ways and how they could connect it to the real world.

The students' were committed to learning and we were committed to teaching. This experience taught me to be open-minded to all possibilities.

Multiple grades in each class helped me embrace differentiated instruction, how to utilize the different learning styles and levels there were in the classroom. I was able to help these students showcase their abilities to create a safe, collaborative learning environment.

One example of a project-based lesson I taught while at Summit brought together the content of Science, Civics, and Math. Students were given a real world problem: the building of a new housing development. They had to form groups, create roles, discuss, come together as a community to go over the pros/cons in a forum, and then vote. The problems considered were the effects on the environment, how much it would cost, where the funds/money were coming from, how it would affect the surrounding community, etc. Students had to debate in the class as a community would in a municipal/town hall meeting place. Then, they had to make a decision on what plan was better for the community and back up their decision based on what they heard and what they researched.

This lesson incorporated a lot of different subject matter which they could demonstrate mastery in each content area. After the project was over the students reflected on how well they did within their group and as an individual using a checklist/journal entry.

Complex, cross curriculum projects such as these are not the exception in the Summit classroom, they are the norm. This format exposes students to activities that are more likely to spark an interest in a career path students had never thought about before. Learning is deep, meaningful, and reflective.

We need more schools like this to encourage student-led learning which will create life-long learners.

Sincerely,
Ms. Bridget Campbell
Teacher, ESASD
Former Summit School of the Poconos Teacher
In Support of Summit Charter School

November 7, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I've been going to Summit School since they opened. I think is amazing to have teachers who can help every kid when they need it. When I'm at summit school I feel like I'm happier than at others. When I'm at Summit School I feel like the whole school is my family. I love to be at Summit School. It is nothing like Disney but it is the happiest place on earth. I hope they become a charter school.

Sincerely,

Brooke DelGiorno

9 November 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am the current secondary mathematics teacher at Summit School of the Poconos and I know that our community would benefit from Summit Charter School.

Born and raised in East Stroudsburg, I grew up not only in the public school system but in the East Stroudsburg area school district. Like my siblings before me, I was very successful in school. Before graduating from East Stroudsburg High School South, I had taken six AP courses, Honors Band, and Honors Choir. I had participated in Scholastic Scrimmage, Science Olympiad, Envirothon, the spring musical production, the marching band, Choraliers (the select choir), County Chorus, PMEA District Band 10, PMEA Region Band 5, the Allentown Side-by-Side Concert, National Honors Society, cross country, and Pocono Youth Orchestra-- and in several of these I held a leadership position. Even with a major health issue causing me to be absent for cumulatively over a month and to be late for dozens more school days my senior year, I managed to drop only to 3rd in my graduating class and graduated with a 5.1 GPA. I was an AP Scholar with Honor, a National Merit Scholar Commended Student, the top graduating student in mathematics, the Kiwanis Scholarship awardee, the Bernard F Clemens Mathematics Scholarship awardee, and the United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award awardee. I went on to attend and graduate from Vassar College, an institution widely regarded as highly prestigious.

Upon reading the long autobiography I just provided, you might be inclined to state that I just portrayed a success of the public school system. Yes, I am lucky enough to have been raised with a love of learning and an intrinsic motivation to improve and challenge myself. However, the vast majority of my classmates were not so lucky: I became privy to their motivation to receive good grades and get into a good college. This approach was only reinforced by the prioritization of teaching to standardized tests. The entire experience felt so rigid and detached. Despite my accomplishments, I felt thoroughly frustrated and empty. As someone wanting to learn and develop my full self, I was feeling deeply dissatisfied and actually actively searched for ways to end my education experience early. Upon entering college, the feeling deepened. Thanks to my AP courses and my incredible teachers, I felt over-prepared academically in a lot of ways. However, generally, I was at a complete loss: I had no idea how to succeed, let alone function, outside of academia. I felt hopeless thinking about how I was going to function in the real world after graduating and leaving academia. Even with my success academically as a high school student and my personal intrinsic motivations, it became clear to me that my previous education experience was lacking.

It did not become clear to me how specifically it was lacking until my introduction to education course: Contemporary Issues in Education. One of the very initial questions we explored was concerning the purpose of education. Is it to ignite and develop students' passions? Is it to properly prepare them for the workforce? Is it to equip them with necessary life skills? Is it to create contributing members of our community? Is it to aid students in becoming critical and active members of our democracy? Is it to help students become well-rounded human beings? I personally could argue all of the above. Upon analyzing our current educational system, it became clear to me that our education system is unfortunately focused on something else entirely: students obediently completing checkpoints to receive their entry ticket into the job market, their high school diploma. Our students deserve more from their education.

As someone who got their bachelor's degree in Educational Studies, I understand how public education got to be unhelpful and impersonal. I understand how standardized assessment became the cornerstone of American public education. However, it is our duty now to disrupt this. It is our duty to our children and to our community to find a better educational alternative. I believe this alternative is Summit Charter School.

Now, I can understand the hesitance around charter schools and have felt that way myself while studying charter schools during college. However, Summit Charter School would provide multiple benefits for local residents. In addition to the economic benefits of attracting new jobs and families, Summit Charter School would provide an alternative for students and families that are traditionally marginalized in the American public school system. It would be naive to ignore the systemic issues within our public school systems, particularly for students of color. One significant way that Summit Charter School would disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline is via the use of restorative practice to resolve conflict. This practice helps students understand themselves and others better as well as how to communicate and discuss their feelings. In addition, and importantly, it keeps students in the classroom. We are also committed to providing a holistic, collaborative, and project-based, student-centered curriculum, better preparing our students with the skills and passion to continue to succeed and make impactful contributions in our ever-changing society after graduation. Furthermore, Summit Charter School would be structured to prioritize community service in its aim to create civically-engaged young adults. Therefore, our students are already learning to invest in their community, our community, before they become adults. Our future generations deserve to have their community invest in them.

Therefore, I support the Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. Summit Charter School is not just for students struggling within the public school system. Summit Charter School is not just a more beneficial and impactful educational experience for all students of all abilities, strengths, and backgrounds. Summit Charter School is for all of us and the future of our community.

I believe in a school that empowers children and aids them in becoming the fullest versions of themselves. I believe in a school centered around the student, encouraging them to be

innovative, passionate, and critical thinkers. I believe in a school whose curriculum is holistic, meaningful, collaborative, and project-based. I believe in a school that believes in investing in and contributing to our community. I believe in Summit Charter School. With the proper support of a charter and becoming public, Summit Charter School would give back to the children of our community and, in turn, give back to the community as a whole.

Together, we can change the future for the better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carina Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a distinct "h" at the end.

Carina Cohen

Secondary Mathematics Teacher, Summit School of the Poconos
Vassar College, Class of 2019
East Stroudsburg High School South, Class of 2015

From: Carmen Rodriguez carmenr@summitschoolpoconos.org
Subject: Fwd: Letter to PMSD
Date: November 6, 2020 at 1:21 PM
To: charter@summitschoolpoconos.org



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Carmen Rodriguez <carmenr@summitschoolpoconos.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 6, 2020, 1:17 PM
Subject: Letter to PMSD
To: <charter@summitschoolpoconos.org>

Hello,

My name is Carmen Rodriguez and I have been a part of the Operations Team at SSP since January. Although it has not been very long I have seen how our school is making a difference everyday in our students lives. Before being a part of SSP I worked for 4 years in a public school and have seen first hand the difference between the public school and SSP.

Here at SSP we give the children the opportunity to make choices about things that matter to them as a school community. The students learn to become leaders at a young age and we encourage our younger grades to let their voices be heard.

I have since then enrolled my daughters at SSP and have seen the change in their attitudes towards learning and staying focused. They love that they get to be involved in the rulemaking process in their class and throughout the SSP community.

We need a school like Summit Charter School in Monroe because there are many children who do not do well in the public school system and feel that their voices are not heard or that they don't matter. SSP gives every student the opportunity to express how they deal with every day issues.

Sincerely,
Carmen Rodriguez

From: Chase Streck chasestreck@gmail.com
Subject: Summit Charter School
Date: November 8, 2020 at 10:07 PM
To: charter@summitschoolpoconos.org

To whom it may concern,

I was a student at Summit School from 7th to 9th grade and, to this day, I still think back on the great times I had while I was there.

The project-based learning and the ability to work at my own pace made my experience while attending the school very enjoyable. The fact that I could socialize with my classmates more through schoolwork and during lunch and recess I allowed me to form great relationships with my peers.

My teachers made the learning process much easier for me as well, since they used unique methods of teaching me and my peers which helped me to absorb the subject matter.

Overall, my three years at Summit School were the best I have ever had in any educational setting, and I don't think I would be the person I am today if I had not attended it.

Best regards,
Chase Streck



November 1, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School.

Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students. The Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the need for more school choices. I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District.

Sincerely,

Mary Jacques Procaccino

Director/Owner

344 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 421-6540

November 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

A question that I frequently get asked as a former student at Summit School of the Poconos is, "Why do you like Summit School?" As I think of what to say in response to that very broad question, I begin to realize that there isn't just a short, simple answer. There are so many different routes that I can go with in response to that question, but today I'm just going to share with you a few of the major components of this school that have helped me come to love school and made me enjoy going there daily.

Summit School of the Poconos is a school for growth, both academically and socially, and prepares you for real-life circumstances. From something as simple as going to a job interview to the bigger situations such as helping you better understand society and how to change/deal with the unfortunate situations that we'll be placed into because of today's world. While you never know what position you may find yourself in in the future, you'll be as best prepared as possible when you go to Summit. I know this from personal experience, of course.

I've grown in so many aspects having been at Summit School. When I first went to Summit, I wasn't very fond of school and would find any way to get myself out of doing work. In Pocono Mountain West, the school I went to before going to Summit School of the Poconos, I had been put in very hapless circumstances. My experience at that public school was far from pleasant. From being bullied to struggling academically, I had dealt with constant hatred for school, and in most cases, myself. I never felt as if I belonged in that school or was meant to be there. After having dealt with such hatred, I no longer felt the fire that I once had when it came to learning. It wasn't something I had an interest in doing any longer because I had teachers and students who would constantly express their anger onto me and call me names because I "wasn't smart enough." Then, one day, I reflected on what was making me so upset all the time and everything brought me back to school. That's when I realized I needed a change. I told my mom how I felt about school, and after long discussions, we had decided to look for new schools with good intentions and a better learning environment. That's when we found Summit School of the Poconos, a brand-new school looking for new students to enter their project-based school. Their description of their goals for the future of this school was exactly what I was looking for. I knew that I loved the school before even having looked at it, and then I saw the location. At the time, Summit School was located at Trout Lake in Stroudsburg and the location was absolutely beautiful. The building was surrounded by trees, and there was a lake in perfect view when you were in the learning space. That was when I knew that this school was meant for me.

My first year started off pretty rough due to me having been so used to the public school regulations, but I quickly adjusted. After a few months of being at Summit, I grew to love the students and the staff. They were, and still are, so welcoming and do everything in their power to

help you strive. Rather than bringing you down when you get something wrong academically, and even socially, they helped/ continue to help you learn what you don't understand in a positive way. I had grown to get my fire for learning back. Now, after going to this school for four years, I love learning more than ever before. I'm ecstatic to learn about the new concepts and projects that the teachers have planned for us. My former teachers, and my siblings' former teachers always based our projects off of our interests and never failed to keep us entertained and attentive. I mean, our teachers even made homework fun. I know, homework? Fun? It's a thought foreign to all of my friends in public school, and even most adults that I talk to.

That's the crazy thing about Summit School, it's a school unlike any school I've ever seen before. They offer more academic and social opportunities than most schools around here, and are willing to listen to issues or ideas for things that students want to incorporate into our school. All students, from Kindergarten all the way up to tenth grade as of right now, have a voice in this school. If we noticed that there is a rule in place that we'd like to change, we would share our opinion and as a student body, decide on whether or not that rule should be modified or not. It works both ways too. We can both remove rules as a student body (as long as it doesn't mess with safety regulations and laws), and add new rules that we believe should be in place. It's such an incredible opportunity that no other school that I've seen has the chance to be involved in.

If my siblings and I didn't have the opportunity to attend Summit School of the Poconos, we wouldn't have been given the chance to be involved in such a wonderful, life-changing culture. In public school, there's never any consequence for their actions, but that's not the case at Summit School. At Summit, once you go to an adult, the situation almost immediately gets resolved to the best of the adult's ability. If every school was like Summit School of the Poconos, the bullying rate would go down by at least thirty percent. I can't say one-hundred percent considering there are many components that go into bullying, but thirty percent is better than staying content with close to all students attending public school being hectorated by their fellow classmates.

In conclusion, Summit School of the Poconos is such an organized, welcoming, incredible school with so many opportunities for students of all ages. There is such a genuine camaraderie between the staff at Summit that inspires students and adults, both in and outside of the school, to strive to be just like them. We really were, and still are like a family at this school, and I'm beyond grateful to have been given the chance to meet such amazing people. If it weren't for Summit School of the Poconos, my siblings and I wouldn't have been able to meet such incredible, down to earth students and adults who have given us the chance to grow in ways that we didn't even know possible.

Chloe Kimmins

Former Summit School Student 2016-2020, 7-10th grades

To Whom it May Concern:

Having taught at the Summit School of the Poconos for a couple of years now, I am proud to contribute to this standard of teaching. Through its movement rich, project-based and democratic driven school culture, children are serviced a unique and real-world pliable learning experience from their elementary school years through their secondary years of schooling. Within this community, I have seen first-hand the confidence, engagement and overall activation of individualized and personalized student interests outright flourish, within this school framework.

Given the opportunity to expand onward as a charter school, children from the entire Monroe County community would continue to benefit from this educational model. As sure as we remain steadfast and true to our vision as a private school, we remain un-wavered by our ideals and goals servicing our students to become independent, free-thinking, citizens of the world. Ergo, when becoming charter, watch us climb.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina A. Wilson, M.S. Ed
2nd and 3rd Grade Teacher
Summit School of the Poconos

November 7, 2020

Pocono Mountain School District
On Behalf of Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has helped my son in many ways. He was in a Montessori school before Summit School had opened. I attended a meeting on what Summit School was about and immediately knew this was the place that I was going to be sending my son. The curriculum and way of teaching drew my attention and the more I heard, the more I wanted him to be in this school. I signed him up as soon as I got home.

Not only was I intrigued with the teaching method and the STEAM program, but it also helped to build his personality and social skills. He had a hard time socializing. I had to stay at his previous school with him until he felt comfortable enough for me to leave. By the end of the school year, I had to send him to a therapist to figure out why he felt this way. The following school year, I sent him to SSP. SSP made him feel like he was part of a group and that he belonged. By the end of that school year, he asked if he could go for the summer. I was surprised that he loved being in school.

This past year, I had to unenroll him due to some financial matters. He has not been the same and asked me if he can go back. If Summit School became a charter school, not only would this help myself, but also many other parents who are dealing with the same situation and cannot afford a private school. I've gone through Montessori, Private and Public schools and by far, Summit School was the only one that I would go back to.

Sincerely,

Daniel DelGiorno

Daniel DelGiorno
Stroudsburg, PA

November 9, 2020

Dear Pocono Mountain School District,

My name is Daniel Moore. I am in seventh grade at Summit School of the Poconos. Summit School is very special to me. When I came to SSP, I was excited to be with my friends and work on projects. But in the middle of third grade, I began to suffer a lot from my social anxiety. . With the help of my parents and great people at SSP, I was able to work through my fears.

I was so grateful for SSP, that I wanted to give back. I wanted to help other kids, and let them know that SSP could help them through tough times while they are still learning. So in the fifth grade, I ran for School Meeting President. While it was really hard to stand up in front of the whole school and explain why I wanted to be president, I knew that everyone had my back. I did win the election, but I won more than that. I won confidence. SSP gave me a chance to overcome my fears and help others. No matter what I do in the future, I will always be grateful to SSP for helping me realize that I can do anything.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'M'.

Daniel Moore

November 6, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Throughout my time at ESU, I spent my tenure there observing and working in different school districts throughout Monroe County, and I can clearly see the need that Summit School of the Poconos fills in our community. At Summit School of the Poconos, you see personalized learning at its best, in our remote environment, the school has worked tirelessly to truly accommodate every student and create individual plans that help facilitate their learning.

As an educator, working at a school like Summit was something I didn't think was an option. To find a school that fully utilizes project-based learning and focuses on growing more than just academic skills is almost like a dream come true. We have true freedom to design curriculum and projects that interest my students and I and align with my strengths as an educator.

This school has created a space for students that don't fit into the mold of public education, it is a reality we all have to deal with and this is the very purpose of the charter school. We live in an area that has a large amount of diversity and we need to accept and facilitate this diverse community.

Sincerely,

Devin Heffernan

Devin Heffernan
Summit School of the Poconos
Secondary Social Studies Teacher
devinh@summitschoolpoconos.org

November 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Summit School of the Poconos in their application for charter status. As an educational leader with a passion for project-based learning and job-readiness skills, I want to express my support for the mission of Summit School of the Poconos and their application as Summit Charter School. Summit School of the Poconos is truly a unique school with a one-of-a-kind purpose that is not replicated in traditional schools in the Pocono region.

In my time as the Education Director at Summit School of the Poconos, I was blown away by the focus on project-based learning that was driven by student exploration and student autonomy. Although project-based learning can be found in any school, the student-driven piece is what makes Summit School of the Poconos unique. Students not only choose projects, they choose topics of interest to them and their community. Students are encouraged to devise school-community partnerships in relation to their areas of choice and often make meaningful impact in the overall Pocono community. There are myriad examples of Summit School students not only creating and devising projects that are relevant and apply to real-world concerns, but those students also brought their work into the greater community for mutual benefit.

Another area where Summit School of the Poconos sets itself apart from any other school in the region is in student self-governance. Student voice is often touted as a meaningful part of learning, but is rarely utilized to an extent that gives students true ownership. At Summit School of the Poconos, students govern themselves and make decisions for the entire school community in a democratic process. This, above all else, makes Summit School of the Poconos completely unique and necessary. In a world where the value of the democratic process is at the forefront, the intrinsic learning in this self-governance process cannot be replicated.

As a public school educator who leads a technical school, I know not only the value of real-world instruction and preparation, but also the necessity of the soft skills that are critical in the workforce. Summit School of the Poconos places a priority on both of these entities. As a comprehensive school that provides work-readiness skills and student voice, Summit School of the Poconos is poised to be a leader in the Pocono region for students and families who prioritize these values. There is room in our educational system for innovators and creative thinkers. Although it is not always easy to adapt to new members of the circle, it is worth making room for Summit Charter School.

Sincerely,

Diana W. Mai

Diana Weston Mai
Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Director of Special Services
Warren County Technical School
maid@wctech.org



933 Ann Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-424-6760

November 11, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

As an owner of a business that has been serving the Pocono region for 50 years, I know a few things about building a solid reputation. Summit School of the Poconos has done exactly that in such a remarkably short amount of time. They have earned support from local parents, businesses like mine, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. There are so many parents in the community who visit my store and I have spoken in depth with them about Summit School, not only as a business supporting their mission, but also as a parent whose child is enrolled at the school. My interactions have revealed to me that our community is full of passionate people who long for affordable access to schools that provide the type of education that Summit specializes in. Approving Summit School's charter application will allow those community members to pursue that education.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I strongly believe that the right people are in place on the board at Summit School. All of the qualifications and degrees in the world mean nothing if there is not honesty and integrity ingrained in the organization. I have never once questioned the integrity of leadership at Summit School. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of the board members as they frequently patronize my store and I know that they all bring valuable insight and experience to

the board. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. They have all of the certifications and degrees to prove their qualifications, but the most important factor is their unity, their honesty, and their integrity. The board has always acted in the best interest of the school and done so very transparently. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Their voice deserves to be heard. Every child is unique and in order to provide the best education for each individual, various education models are needed. A range of school options is an important consideration not only for families moving to the area, but also when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Peschel

Jennifer Peschel
General Manager / Co-Owner



Earthlight Natural Foods
info@earthlightnaturalfoods.com
570-424-6760
933 Ann Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

THE ANN
AND JOSEPH

FOUNDATION



October 31, 2019
Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

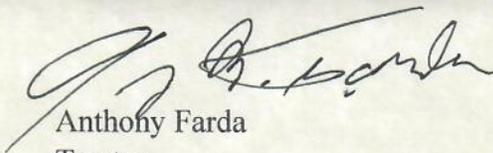
As a proud supporter of the Summit School of the Poconos since its inception in 2016, we would like to show our support for their application for charter as the Summit Charter School.

The school's focus on hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM is a great fit to many students who find difficulty in traditional school settings. They are encouraged to think critically, work together and build upon their curiosity. Students also participate in Shared Governance and civics program that focuses on democracy as a school community. Summit School of the Poconos has earned a great reputation in the community providing families with a wonderful alternative educational choice.

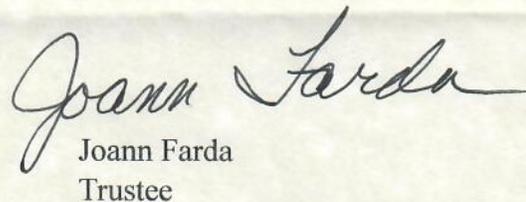
Our parents, Ann and Joseph, were firm believers in educational choice. They worked hard and did their best to provide alternative education for us as we grew up in the Poconos. The Summit Charter School will be able to provide this same opportunity to the families of the Poconos, many of whom would not be able to afford it otherwise.

We give full support, value their mission and have great confidence that the Founders, Board Members, Staff, Parents and Students of Summit School in the Poconos will provide a solid foundation and strong cohesive family building an exceptional public educational choice for our community families.

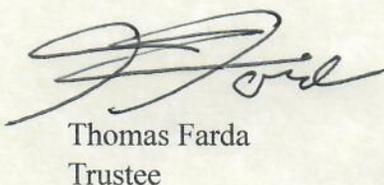
Sincerely,



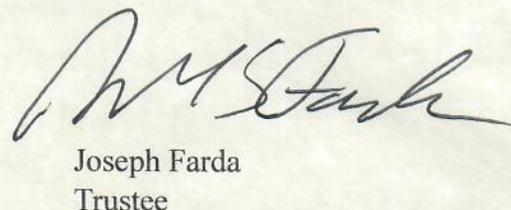
Anthony Farda
Trustee



Joann Farda
Trustee



Thomas Farda
Trustee



Joseph Farda
Trustee



10/30/2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,


Hisham Sobhy

CEO, Generosus Advisors, LLC



Pocono Mountains, PA

November 7, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

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I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Great Wolf Lodge

William Colavito
General Manager

WC/eld



October 31, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current Summit School of the Poconos, an existing licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Since its inception in 2016, Summit School of the Poconos has earned a great reputation in the community providing families with a wonderful alternative educational choice. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM is a great fit to many students who find difficulty in traditional school settings. They are encouraged to think critically, work together and build upon their curiosity. Students also participate in Shared Governance and civics program that focuses on democracy as a school community.

I have great confidence that the Founders, Board Members, Staff, Parents and Students of Summit School in the Poconos will provide a solid foundation and strong cohesive family building an exceptional public educational option for area students.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District and hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice.

Sincerely,


Anthony Farda
Owner

Hi! My name is Hudson. I am a 4th grade student at summit school. I think summit school should become a charter school because it is a great school. If it is a charter school it will let more students come to the school. I like that we have a democracy at our school. Students and teachers both get to decide what happens at the school. I have a voice at Summit. I love my teacher too.

Thank you,
Hudson Kollar
4th Grade Summit

11/8/19

To Whom it May Concern,

It is as a community member that I write this letter in support of the mission of Summit School of the Poconos. The Pocono area has many great community activities and events to offer to their residents, however, it falls short in providing different options for education. Subsequently, many families, mine included, have had to cyber school their children because no other option is available. This places an added stress on the family's financial stability as one adult has to stay home educating the children. Additionally, providing private education may not be financially doable for families.

Perhaps having another public option in the area will alleviate this stress from families and will provide their children with an alternative view to education. Project based, STEAM, and a democratic culture as part of a child's educational experience will be an invaluable option. I hope you consider their proposal and gift our community with educational diversity and this option for our children.

Sincerely,

Ileana Aledo

INTERNATIONAL—
SPORTS
—TRAINING CAMP

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Mark & Kara Major

Dear Reviewers,

I attended SSP for 8th and 9th grade. In just those two short years, I grew more than I thought I would. Aside from the academic skills and knowledge I picked up, I learned about emotional intelligence. Developing empathy for others was a life-changing experience, and one that I'm very grateful for, because it helps me understand real world situations through a new lens. The school district I was attending didn't teach much about any sort of emotional intelligence, they just taught through books and disciplined undesirable behavior. The difference between that and SSP's way of handling things lies in the lessons taught. Instead of putting kids in detention for altercations with other students, SSP sits both of the students down and makes them have a moderated, civil conversation with one another to get to the root of the problem. Through this, empathy is developed.

Another thing I learned from my time at SSP is how to manage my time and work at my own pace. SSP helps you set goals, and then it's up to you to reach them. When something was assigned, a due date was given, and we went to work on it independently. Before 8th grade, none of my classes worked that way. In 7th grade and below, the teachers would go through lessons with us daily, and there was little independent work to be done, other than homework. SSP's education style helped make me a better independent worker in school and beyond.

Finally, I developed lasting friendships through SSP. Before then, I'd never stuck with friends much longer than one school year, but I've been friends with some of my former SSP classmates for nearly four. If I hadn't gone to SSP, I wouldn't have even had the chance to become friends with those people, because we're in different grades. The mixed-age model in this school is great, because it gives you the opportunity to work with people who aren't the exact same age as you, and that can offer different perspectives.

Summit School of the Poconos has so much value, and it shouldn't be overlooked. Summit Charter School should be approved so families in our area can have the option to attend a different kind of school

Jacob Hernandez
Former Summit School of the Poconos student
Son of Katherine Hernandez, Director of SSP

Dear Pocono Mountain School District,

Hello! My name is Jakob Gillow. I am Student Council President at Summit School of the Poconos. I have been attending SSP since their first year and I really enjoy it!

I have never been to public school, but I have heard my friends talk about it. They were saying that at public schools they would learn, but at Summit they would grow. And that is what we want: the school and students to grow. But we can only do it with your help! Please approve the application for Summit Charter School. There are many kids who would be very happy to go to school in a movement-rich environment, a place where their voices can be heard, and where they can get creative and learn at the same time!

I personally think I would be surviving in public school, but I am thriving at Summit. With movement breaks all throughout the day, I get to refresh myself after working. It is great to socialize with others outside and get pent-up energy out. Most of our learning is hands-on and interactive, allowing students to dive deep into subjects.

I am also very sure you want as many children as possible to be thriving in their education.

So please, approve this application to help our next generation grow!

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Jakob Gillow

Why We Need Summit School of the Poconos

My name is Jaz Sockman. I'm thirteen years old, and I'm in ninth grade. I have been at Summit School of the Poconos since 4th grade, but I went to Pocono Mountain East for one week in seventh grade. This was enough time for me to understand the culture. Schools can be put on a culture of learning spectrum. One side of this spectrum is military style culture, and on the other side is a culture of excitement. Summit School of the Poconos is on the excitement side of the spectrum. Pocono Mountain is on the military side of the spectrum. Neither side of the spectrum is better than the other; they are just for different students. The best way to explain the difference in culture and why it matters, is to show my experience of both systems.

I love learning at Summit School of the Poconos. When I wake up in the morning I get excited to find out what I am going to learn. This year, my class is learning about the enlightenment in history. I found myself interested in Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, so I listened to the *Two Treatise of Government* and an abridged version of the *Leviathan*. Afterwards, I wrote a six page essay comparing their philosophies for fun. I did this because I enjoyed learning and wanted to know more. The point is not that every student who comes to Summit will decide to write extra papers. The point is that Summit has a culture which focuses on learning and enjoying learning. To me, the way the school operates is just a mechanism to unchain students from constraints, and let them learn. Whether it is being project based, having a democratic system, or simply paying attention to what every student needs, the point is creating an environment where students can learn as much as possible while enjoying the process. Today my math teacher and I spent an hour and a half playing with different geometric axioms, and determining how they affect the number of possible parallel lines. I used the word "playing" to describe the process because we were thoroughly enjoying math, and even laughing while I learned.

I did not have the same kind of experience at Pocono Mountain East. There, learning is strict, like the military. The military culture schooling system is not wrong, but it does fail to create the proper environment for certain students to thrive. This type of schooling system is very effective at discouraging bad behavior and getting high test scores. However, it is not a climate where I enjoy learning. Last year, I decided to go to Pocono Mountain East Junior High. I did not last more than one week. For me, there seemed to be no excitement to learn. Instead, I felt that I was expected to follow rules and do everything properly. For example, when I walked into gym class for the first time, the whole class was about rules and how you shouldn't break them. I remember feeling like the school didn't care about my learning; they just wanted me to succeed within a system. This culture reminded me very much of the military. Everything seemed to be about order and succeeding on tests.

Many students need this strict disciplinary system, however many don't. For students like me, the system is more of a burden to my learning. I have no doubt that I could have survived going to school at Pocono Mountain. I would have done fine on the tests, and I would have gotten over my original shock at the difference in culture. However, I also thoroughly believe that I will learn twice as much at Summit and have a happier life.

Sincerely,
Jaz Sockman

From: Jeanine Clingingsmith jeaninec@summitschoolpoconos.org
Subject: Charter Letter
Date: November 7, 2020 at 6:45 PM
To: charter@summitschoolpoconos.org



To whom it may concern,

As the Health and Physical Education teacher at Summit School of the Poconos for the past year and a half, it has been a pleasure working and teaching in an environment like that SSP provides. I feel that the atmosphere that is contributed by the staff, teachers, and students allows the freedom and choice to learn and grow in a school community that genuinely cares the about society. It equips students to have an outward projection of kindness that is much needed in today's world.

The way the students learn from project based learning is something that I feel helps grow accountability and engagement through various learning experiences. I am happy that I can be a part of this experience as we continue to grow into Summit Charter School.

Jeanine Clingingsmith

--

Jeanine Clingingsmith
K-10 Health & Physical Education Teacher

H.E.R.O.E.S. Reach for the Summit

www.summitschoolpoconos.org

570-664-1229



**Jillian McDermott
114 Rolling Meadows Road
Saylorsburg, PA 18353**

November 3, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Summit Charter School's petition for approval to become a charter school. I have been a teacher at Summit School of the Poconos since its opening year in 2016. As someone who has taught in a public school classroom as well, I can say that Summit School of the Poconos is providing top-notch education for their students in a way other schools have tried to achieve. The education at Summit School of the Poconos is contributing to students' becoming productive and proactive members of society through its rigorous academic curriculum, in conjunction with high standards of achievement, personal growth, creative thinking, and community involvement.

Students at Summit School of the Poconos are given a voice, which contributes to the effective running of our school. Students realize this as a precious opportunity they are given and become responsible for this newfound gift that has not been offered to them elsewhere.

In my experience at Summit School of the Poconos, I feel honored to be part of a school that celebrates all students' types of learning. I am continuously impressed by our team of educators, our school director, and board of directors in the overall effectiveness of our school. It is with great enthusiasm that I am part of a group that can provide a different kind of educational experience for the students of Monroe County.

Summit Charter School will be small in comparison to other local traditional public schools. This will enable SCS to be refined over time as we grow to meet the needs of the student population in Monroe County. Summit Charter School will serve students who are unable to thrive in a public school setting. It is essential to be able to provide options for these students who cannot afford tuition in an alternative school.

I urge you respectfully to consider granting charter to Summit Charter School. Summit Charter School will also provide a secondary educational option for families in the Monroe County area. As an educator at Summit, I am confident that this kind of school fulfills a need.

Sincerely,

Jillian McDermott

Jillian McDermott

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Jude. I am a 3rd grade student at Summit School of the Poconos. I like summit school because I get to do really fun projects. I also like summit school because all of the teachers are really nice. I like that we get to vote on things in school meeting and I like that we get to move all day and we are not at a desk all day. I think summit school should become a charter school because it would allow more students to go to summit school.

Thanks,
Jude

Kate Curry

Northampton Community College
Monroe Campus
2411 Route 715
Tannersville, PA 18372

November 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kate Curry, and I am one of the full-time faculty members of Early Childhood Education at Northampton Community College. I have been teaching for over 25 years and previously served on the board of Summit School of the Poconos. As educator, I have witnessed many changes in our education over the years, but unfortunately little of this has been in our approaches to teaching. Our school system is mostly run as it was designed 100 years ago during the Industrial Revolution where our goal was to prepare people to enter factories. We now live in a global economy where future graduates will need a far different skill set to be able to engage, contribute, and thrive in the workplace.

As a professor, I have brought classes of my students to observe at Summit as part of their required field experience. During our observations at Summit School, my students are able to observe teachers who exemplify key course concepts being taught in our program. They observe teachers differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners, they witness experiential approaches that make curriculum relevant, and they see students engaging in the democratic process in a manner that teaches them ownership of their own learning and lifelong citizenship skills.

Summit School of the Poconos has been leading the way in our community for several years in an educational landscape mostly absent of curriculum models and experiences our students need. At Summit School of the Poconos students are engaged in their own learning where a growth mindset is both taught and practiced. Students have opportunities to involve themselves in communicating, collaborating, critically thinking, and being creative through relevant experiences that allow them to apply content taught. Teachers at Summit align their lessons with state expectations while also integrating student interests with inquiry-based experiential learning.

In addition to being a college professor, previous elementary school teacher, and a parent, I am currently finishing my doctorate. My research has focused on why college students are graduating deficit of the 4Cs skill set (critical thinking, creativity, communication & collaboration). Findings from in-depth research suggest that our current approaches to teaching students are part of the problem. To address this issue our educational system must move away from "skill and drill" and move towards engaging students in relevant experiences with content that allows them to apply it to their lives. SSP has designed and implemented a curriculum that is hands-on/minds-on where students conduct experiments, do research, share ideas, ask questions, make mistakes, create new solutions to solve current problems and present their learning in various formats. While you might think these things happen regularly in our public-school system, I can assure you they do not. As a parent of two, now grown sons, I can tell you, as could they, that school was a place where they sat in desks, stared at teachers talking, and then regurgitated information they felt was irrelevant. This is what is going on in the classrooms in our community.

If the United States is ever going to lead in education again, the experiences that Summit offers must become the norm and not the exception. We must be creating schools that follow the model of Summit and support schools like this in our communities. All students should have access to the exemplary teaching and learning environment provided at Summit School. Failure to support schools like this is a failure to support the future of our students.

Sincerely,

Kate Curry

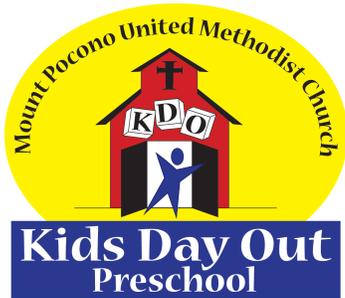
Signed electronically 11/10/20



Nov. 16, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I wanted to write a note of support for the Summit School. After attending a very informative gathering and fundraiser on Oct. 17th I was pleasantly surprised how much I agreed with the school's goals. If my grandchildren lived in our area I would certainly consider convincing my own children to send their children to the Summit School. I hope you continue to grow. Fondly, Kay Tust



Friends, Faith, and Learning since 1987!

November 5, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Helen Van Sise
Director

Kids' Day Out Preschool, Mount Pocono United Methodist Church, 12 Church Ave. Mt. Pocono, PA 18344
(570)839-1646, kdops@ptd.net, www.mtupoconoumc.org

November 5, 2020

To Whom it may concern,

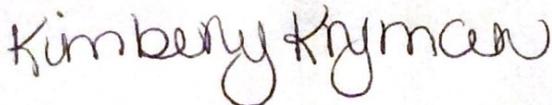
It is my honor to submit this letter of support for the Summit Charter School.

I have had the privilege of being a part of Summit School of the Poconos from our very first day of class in 2016. I have had the pleasure of working with our youngest students to instill a love for learning as the kindergarten and the kindergarten/first grade teacher. I am blessed to be a part of an amazing team of educators, staff, board members and parents that work tirelessly to create a learning environment that recognizes each child as an individual, and offers the space for that learner to thrive.

At a time when educators in our country are disillusioned and discouraged in their daily work for a variety of reasons, I face my school day with joy and gratitude for the supportive environment in which I spend my school days. With a dedicated team of amazing professionals, we give every student the opportunity to thrive by embracing their individuality and giving them a voice in their learning journey. Our project-based approach to learning provides a framework for developing effective communicators that learn from an early age how to collaborate while solving real world problems while honoring developmentally appropriate practices.

I also believe offering students and parents diversity in educational choice is a critical need in our area. I do not believe that parents should have limited choices in public education just because they reside in Monroe County. It is my hope that Summit Charter School will be the option for parents that know their child needs something different than what their school district offers.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Kryman
Teacher

Summit School of the Poconos

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of Pocono Mountain School District and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an incredible asset to my community.

When my oldest son was entering Kindergarten I was very apprehensive about sending him to our local public school. Hudson was constantly moving and constantly asking questions. He was incredibly curious and also very intelligent, but he could not sit still for more than a couple of minutes. I recognized that while some of his peers wanted to sit and listen to a story or color a picture, Hudson always preferred building and creating with his hands. He was constantly on the move and I knew that his inability to sit and be quiet for more than a couple seconds would not be acceptable in the public school classroom. He would be required to sit for much longer periods than his 5-year old body could handle. I was nervous to place him in an environment where immediately he would be labelled as unintelligent or disruptive because he learned in a different way. I honestly did not think that I had any other choice, but determined for my son to have the right educational setting, I started to look for a different schooling choice for my little boy. The year he was to enter Kindergarten Summit School of the Poconos opened. The only problem for our family was that we could not afford tuition for a private education for our child. On a whim, I emailed the director and asked her if it was even worth applying for us. We could pay so little compared to the full tuition. She encouraged me to do so and the school has accepted Hudson and a fraction of the tuition from us every year. They have shown us year after year that the heart behind Summit School is creating a school for every child, not just the financially elite.

I can confidently say that this school has been the best fit for both of my boys. They have flourished in this environment where they can move and explore what they are interested in. Where they can ask questions and learn through projects. They are right at home in this school where creativity is encouraged and democracy practiced. We could not be any happier with their education. Summit School has bent over backwards to help our family afford this kind of education for our children, but I know that this school is not just for Hudson and not just for Jude. When Summit has the opportunity to become a Charter School many many more children, just like my boys, will get the education they so desperately need in an environment that encourages the specific way that they learn.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,
Allison Kollar

November 6, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

My daughter is currently enrolled in Summit School of the Poconos. She absolutely loves the environment and staff. I have many nieces and nephews around the same age. She is however, the youngest, but on the same academic level of all of them. During COVID, it has proven to me that the teaching method of this school has given her a better understanding of what she is learning. Working from home the past couple of months and watching my niece and nephews, I've been able to see how each of them are learning. I've seen my daughter explain things to her older cousins, in the way that she has learned, so they better understand their own work.

After seeing this, my brother and sister would now like to send their kids to Summit School. I told them SSP is applying to become a Charter School. They were thrilled to hear that. It's expensive to give your kids a good education. Becoming Charter would open up so many more opportunities. I started looking for schools when my kids were infants. I was worried I wouldn't find the education I was looking for. Where I came from, there were many schools to choose from. When I moved to PA, I thought I only had one option. Then Summit School opened and I thought to myself, if only everyone would have the opportunity to send their kids here.

Sincerely,

Leimomi

Leimomi Scollon

October 31st, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360



To Whom it May Concern:

I am excited to know that the Summit School of the Poconos is applying for charter status in Monroe County and this letter serves to express my full support of the **Summit Charter School**.

As a family Chiropractor in Monroe county I serve a lot of families that are not only looking for alternative options in health care, but also in other areas of their life. So the subject of schooling for our children comes up frequently and there are countless patients of mine that wish they could send their children to the Summit School of the Poconos because of the wonderful reputation it has built in the last three years. Unfortunately the financial burden of paying for private school is standing in the way of these families benefiting from this school. As the Summit Charter School, this school can be of benefit for so many more children and make our community a more desirable place to live and raise families.

I am certain that the strong leadership of the Summit School of the Poconos, all the connections they have created in our community and the wonderful reputation that precedes the school, will ensure for a very successful future of the proposed charter school.

To start and run a successful business for almost 20 years, all the skills that the Summit Charter School has in their mission and vision are so very important. Every day we have to use collaboration, innovation, critical thinking and take ownership over our actions. Those skills are taught through the project based learning concept at the Summit School - and when we add to that the movement rich environment the school has created, we are seeing healthier children that have an easier time with learning because they are not sitting still at desks for most of their day. To have more schooling options in Monroe county would be a huge benefit not only for the students but for our overall economy as it will attract more businesses and families into the area.

It is my sincere hope that our elected officials will support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bryn A. Gillow
Chiropractor

November 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lynn Warmke and I am writing this letter in support of the charter application for the Summit School of the Poconos. Although I am a new staff member at SSP, I actually have been following the development of SSP for several years. I have owned a vacation home in the area for over a decade and would periodically review employment opportunities in the area. I came upon the website for SSP and loved its mission! I am a second-career educator, having worked for 18 years in the pharmaceutical industry in research and development. I have a strong belief that the American school system is impressive on many levels, but I think there is a lot of opportunity to strengthen relationships between our schools/curricula with our communities, our industries, and our populations.

I feel that project-based learning, community service and access, and integrated and flexible curricula and classrooms are key ways we can improve learning for the variety of students in the U.S.. The small, personal environment within SSP allows students to thrive in a variety of ways beyond siloed subjects and prescribed and paced lessons that all too often disengage learners from our typical classrooms. The SSP model also allows staff to develop talents and interests outside their certificated areas of interest and share those with students.

I would love to see SSP (and other schools) become central features of the communities they serve. Where students are not educated behind brick walls, but where they feel vested in their community, learning from and teaching to others and demonstrating skills not limited to strict academics. As such, Summit School of the Poconos can serve as an important model for the Poconos and deserves to be given charter status as Summit Charter School.

Sincerely,

Lynn Warmke
Secondary Science Teacher
Summit School of the Poconos

November 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Summit school is not like the other schools in our area. They have many different learning formats and materials than most. One of these is a group effort from everyone to accomplish the project or assignment. It truly is a scaled-down version of the real world because as we know it takes more than one person to start a successful business. Life is not lived in a silo. I also like the individual learning that the teachers have in place. If you're behind in your schoolwork, it's always ok because they will help you get back on track without just giving you a bad grade and moving on. If you're ahead, they allow you to move on.

I learned a lot from the four years I was there that I'm not learning currently at my school now. Things like how to effectively social network, and a focus about how a person becomes successful in the twenty-first century. Summit taught me how to have a very good work ethic and I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

Mitchell Olson

November 6, 2020

Attention: Pocono Mountain School District

I am writing to tell you about my experience with Summit School of the Poconos, and how it was a game-changer for my son and his education. I cannot express enough how thankful I am for this school. Their program of project-based learning and individualized learning was so much more beneficial for my son. They believe in the importance of recess, mindfulness, accountability and collaboration, and very important...they do NOT teach to the test. They believe in the students having a voice within their school, which makes students feel they are heard and want to be involved. They have a half hour each day where everyone reads for 30 minutes. The projects are relatable to real life skills, and students working on projects that they have an interest in has them wanting to do them and do them well.

My son has Sensory Processing Disorder, Dyslexia, ADHD, and anxiety. In public school, he did have an IEP and was there until 6th grade. He was given accommodations, but there are many reasons public school was not working for him. He was very discouraged and hated school by end of sixth grade. He also hated reading. Then he started Summit School and right from the start we realized...he didn't even need his IEP there. My son thrived with the small class sizes, preferential seating, teachers that worked with him on his individual level, the importance of being able to have movement breaks and recess. With Katherine Hernandez as his teacher, he read 3 novels that first year...including one not assigned thru school but he asked to have it. The difference was amazing. He even worked on a project with 3 other students and spoke in front of the whole school when they presented it...that never would've happened elsewhere. I loved the school, staff, and students so much that I started volunteering at lunch and then was hired by them to be the lunch/recess monitor. I loved knowing each and every student, their likes and dislikes, and how to reach each one of them. The staff is wonderful as well. I will always fondly remember my experience with Summit School.

My son didn't write a letter, but I asked him what his favorite things were about the school and he said: His friends, recess, his teachers, Miss Emely, and, in his words, not chaotic like public school.

I am forever grateful to the group of women who started this school and I would've sold everything I had if I had to for him to be taught there. I am thrilled that they are becoming a charter school and now many more children will be able to experience the many benefits Summit School can offer.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lynn Smith

PMSD Resident

November 4, 2020

Marilyn Parker
1609 East 31 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the grandmother of a child that has attended Summit School of the Poconos for the past two years (2018-20). I'm also a retired public school teacher with over 20 years teaching elementary school-aged children.

I have observed the education my granddaughter has received at Summit School during the past two years. I am highly impressed with the STEAM curriculum, the quality of teaching, and some of the unique educational facets such as a project-based learning and a school that runs on democratic values. From my experience in a public school system where I retired recently, these are unique elements, especially the combination, and have enriched my granddaughter's experience in Kindergarten and First Grade.

I have also been remarkably impressed with the transition the school was forced to make to a remote learning environment during the Covid pandemic. I have been in the next room while my granddaughter is attending class remotely, and overhearing and observing the level of learning is high, while preserving some of the unique aspects of Summit School.

Please accept this letter from a career public school educator as a validation that Summit School's unique curriculum and staff would be a great benefit to any public school district.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Parker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marilyn Parker

Pocono Mountain School District
P.O. Box 200
Swiftwater PA 18370-0200

November 6, 2020

Marina Spears
Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Pocono Mountain School Board,

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing Summit School of the Poconos charter application. As a member of the staff, I can personally attest to the dedication, commitment and passion our school community feels towards our progression to becoming a charter school. We live in an amazing nation with an underlying foundation of freedom and personal choice. Unfortunately, that freedom does not always exist for parents when it comes to school choice. Our area has wonderful schools, staffed by dedicated teachers and professionals offering a solid and engaging curriculum and programming. With that being said, one size does not always fit all.

There are some students who require something different, and I believe Summit School of the Poconos with its democratic underpinnings, project-based curriculum, and dedication to teaching in a holistic manner can provide exactly what some students will need to achieve their greatest potential. Parents and caregivers should be given the opportunity to decide what is best for their child, and that opportunity should not be based on socioeconomic status. Choosing the best school environment for your child should be available to all parents, not just those who can afford private school. This is why a charter school, such as Summit School of the Poconos can provide an alternate option to serve those families and provide an equitable education for our communities.

I strongly believe in the mission of Summit School of the Poconos, its innovative system to empower students, individualize academic learning, and give back to the community. I hope that we will be given the chance to contribute to our communities at large and work with Pocono Mountain School District to offer equitable and excellent academic possibilities.

Sincerely,
Marina Spears
Guidance
Summit School of the Poconos

November 6, 2020

Matthew and Martina Parker
542 Hallowood Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA. 18302

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

We strongly support Summit School of the Poconos' application to become a charter school serving the Pocono region. We are residents of East Stroudsburg School District, and currently there are no public Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) curriculum schools that offer project-based learning in the area. The transition of the already-successful Summit School of the Poconos to Summit Charter School will open the opportunity of a project-based STEAM education to all public school children in the region.

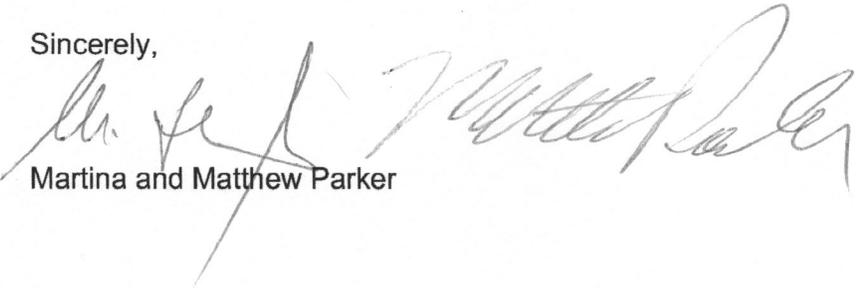
We are both products of public education, have family members who are retired public school teachers, and we support public education. Public school choice, with the addition of an already successful and thriving project-based STEAM school, will be a significant asset to the entire community.

Our daughter has attended Summit School for the past two years, in Kindergarten and First Grade and we've had first-hand experience with the uniqueness and excellence this school offers.

Over the past four years Summit School of the Poconos has proven the need and demand for such a school in the Poconos. Transitioning to a public charter school will spread the success of this wonderful school to the entire region. Summit School is one of the reasons we choose to live and remain in Monroe County.

We have full confidence that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide a solid and successful foundation for Summit Charter School to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

Sincerely,


Martina and Matthew Parker

November 9, 2020

176 Switzgabel Drive
Brodheads ville, PA 18322
connellmj0896@gmail.com
570-656-1132

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of The Summit School and its application for charter status. As a recently retired educator and community leader, I can say with great certainty that The Summit School, once designated a charter school, will serve the Monroe County community with quality educational programs and learning experiences.

The Summit School utilized facilities at the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College; I, and my colleagues observed students engaged in hands on learning, with teachers utilizing appropriate approaches that supported the students growth and confidence. I have had the opportunity to talk at length with staff at The Summit School, and am impressed with their dedication, their focus on the students, and their recognition that they are involved in a enterprise that benefits the students, and ultimately our community. The summit School staff and leadership understand the importance of ethical utilization of resources, and instill this value in its students. I believe The Summit School will be a valuable addition to the community and support its application for charter status without any reservation whatsoever. I urge the appropriate authority to confer charter status on The Summit School.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or with elaboration on the points above. In advance, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Matthew J. Connell, Ph.D.

Michael & Desiree McGuire
194 Shiffer Rd.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

November 5, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

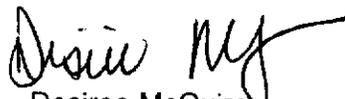
Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community. I believe these traits along with the entrepreneurial spirit Summit School of the Poconos cultivates in their students will help graduate individuals who can compete in the ever-changing business environment we are experiencing in the fourth industrial revolution.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed.

Sincerely,


Michael McGuire


Desiree McGuire

10th November 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of the Pocono Mountain School District and I believe Summit Charter School will be a tremendous asset to the Pocono Mountain region.

My two children currently attend Summit School of the Poconos and actually enjoy going to school! The Summit School of the Poconos (SSP) is a project based school, where hands-on learning is an asset to many children who do not fit into the mold at a traditional public school. With a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching, a democratic approach to self governance at weekly school meetings, and a movement rich environment, SSP offers an extraordinary model of education not seen in this region.

I am very fortunate to afford a private school tuition, however many families in Monroe County are unable to do so. Summit Charter School will allow more families of the Poconos to have a choice in their child's/children's education. This type of educational choice is severely lacking in the area. In fact, I often see many recommendations that families NOT move into the Pocono region for this exact reason.

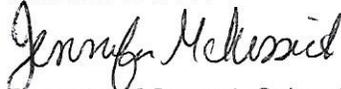
As a licensed private school in Pennsylvania, the Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for the Summit Charter School) is already making a difference in the education of children. SSP is teaching students how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation to be prepared to enter an evolving workforce or move on to a higher education institution.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of the Summit School of the Poconos will provide a solid foundation for the Summit Charter School and in turn, build an exemplary public education choice for students in our region.

I support the approval of the Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. The mission and unique approach of the Summit Charter School will be of great value to the Poconos community and I would be pleased to see this additional choice of education for families and children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McKissick



Parents of Summit School of the Poconos students
Residents of Pocono Mountain School District

John McKissick



November 15, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to submit a letter in support of converting Summit School of the Poconos (SSP) to a charter school in the Pocono Mountain school district. I am the parent of a 4th grader and an 8th grader who are currently in their second year at SSP. I have already seen a vast improvement in both my boys since they started there. The experience has not only strengthened their academic aptitude, but also their self confidence and their attitude towards school and learning, in general.

This is the third school my oldest son has attended in Monroe County and the first one that has not been disappointing. SSP focuses on cultivating the tools that are necessary for children to successfully navigate the real world. My goal as a parent is to raise children who will be able to take care of themselves and their families after my husband and I are gone.

In particular, SSP encourages critical thought and application of knowledge in everyday life which reinforces true learning. SSP does not rely on rote didactic non-interactive techniques and does not teach to the test like many other schools do. SSP also stresses the importance of being involved in shaping your community, which given today's global reach will become increasingly important. Great attention is paid to self management and those qualities that foster success, when your parents are not around to tell you what to do and when to do it.

SSP has been a gift to my family. The school fosters intellectual curiosity without ignoring the importance of physical activity and while valuing the lessons that children learn at home. SSP does not assign enormous amounts of homework and instead only assigns work that is practical and tailored to further contribute to the lessons in school. The careful elimination of busy work has created a more efficient, enjoyable learning process and also allows time for parents to still interact with their children at home for lessons that cannot be learned at school.

My husband and I are very happy we found SSP when we did; we were in the process of relocating outside of Monroe County in search of a location that could support our children's educational goals. I greatly support providing residents of Monroe County with an educational alternative to the ones that are currently available in Monroe County. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our experience with SSP.

Best,
Keir McMullen

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR
SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL

I am writing this to support Summit Charter School in Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Summit School saved my son's life. They embraced my son and my family when we had no good choices here in Monroe County. You see, at a local public intermediate school, my son was brutally assaulted on 4 separate occasions. The school could not stop the violence against him. His grades plummeted from high B's to D's and F's in two marking periods.

After spending a day at Summit School, Keenan said he felt like he was home.

We realized Keenan learned differently than the 'normal' way. He felt safe, he felt accepted and he was ready to get back to learning.

Unfortunately, about 4 months later, Keenan's father, my husband, passed away from cancer. This was devastating as one can imagine. The Summit School reached out and offered emotional support and comfort during the most vulnerable time in my family's lives. One of our last conversations was about my promise to my husband that I would keep Keenan enrolled at The Summit School. He felt Keenan needed The Summit School and they needed him. We saw an amazing difference in Keenan at The Summit School...he became calmer, not so nervous and on edge, happier, more talkative and getting better grades. We learned when one is constantly scared and in fight or flight mode, learning is nearly impossible. All one can think about is getting from class a to class b and not getting beat up. At Summit School, he was safe...the more advanced and nontraditional learning environment was just the icing on our cake. We were home...our school home is The Summit School of the Poconos.

Karen Hughes Meyles

Keenan Andries Meyles, Age 15

Andries Meyles 12/21/1962 - 07/19/2019

*Mountain View Vineyard
Winery, Brewery, & Distillery
2332 Walters Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360*

November 6, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that we are writing this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School. Having earned a solid reputation in our community, the Summit School of the Poconos has earned the support of local families, businesses, politicians and educators since opening their doors in 2016. The School's board members are well known, highly regarded, successful members of our community who come from a wide range of professions. Together, these factors will contribute to the success and future strength of the proposed charter school.

The mission and vision of the Summit Charter School, along with the school's unique culture and curriculum, will prepare graduating students for success in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

Many residential and business taxpayers in Monroe County desire more local school choice, and it is our hope that our elected officials will recognize this and support us in our efforts for this new option. No two students learn the same, each child is unique. As a result, various educational models should be available to serve all students so that more will graduate and become successful members of our community. Having a wide range of school choices is also critical when encouraging new residents to move to the Poconos, as well as to attract new tax-paying businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randall and Linda Rice".

Randall and Linda Rice, Proprietors

Mountain View Vineyard
Winery, Brewery & Distillery
2332 Walters Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

11/8/2020

Summit School of the Poconos

135 Burson Street

East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

There are many crucial times in the development of the minds of our children. When we send our children to school, they are living through these crucial times and the environment of the school greatly impacts the experience.

I have experienced two vastly different forms of education during my teenage years. First, I was a student in a public school containing a few thousand students. There were several dozen students in each class and I never felt any personal attention. After many years, it was clear that my personality demanded a slightly different form of education.

Once I transferred into a much smaller, private school, I felt more interested in learning. There was a personal, student-centered environment which made it more comfortable for me. The teachers were focused on the students, rather than all the students being focused on the teacher.

The Summit School offers this type of learning environment, which is better suited for certain students. Our daughter has been attending the Summit School and absolutely loves the classroom environment. Their emphasis on including STEAM in their curriculum helps prepare students for the modern world.

Allowing the Summit School to become a charter school would allow more families to send their children there to receive a more meaningful education. The public-school system in the Poconos is simply not always the best choice for all students. It is important that we allow parents to have the choice.

Sincerely,

Andrew Narvaez

November 8, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of East Stroudsburg School District and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to the community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Brockmann II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Brockmann II
Father of a Student



October 31, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current Summit School of the Poconos, which is an existing licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

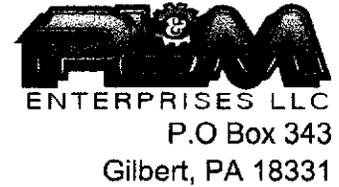
The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM is a great fit to many students who find difficulty in traditional school settings. Summit School of the Poconos has earned a great reputation in the community providing families with a wonderful alternative educational choice. Students are encouraged to think critically, work together and build upon their curiosity. Students also participate in Shared Governance and civics program that focuses on democracy as a school community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice for families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. I have great confidence that the Founders, Board Members, Staff, Parents and Students of Summit School in the Poconos will provide a solid foundation and strong cohesive family building an exceptional public educational option for area students.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District and value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see it become part of our in the community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Farda
Owner



November 5, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community. I believe these traits along with the entrepreneurial spirit Summit School of the Poconos cultivates in their students will help graduate individuals who can compete in the ever-changing business environment we are experiencing in the fourth industrial revolution.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Michael McGuire
Owner

November 9, 2020

Pocono Mountain School District
P.O. Box 200
Swiftwater, PA 18370

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter in full support of the charter school application submitted by the Summit School of the Poconos. Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. It has earned support from parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since its inception in 2016. The school's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Providing parents and students with the ability to choose the education that works for them is an important goal and one that will suit our Poconos workforce for generations to come.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as its unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community. Furthermore, it's vital to help students achieve this kind of goal through education that is not reliant on private school tuition.

Every child is unique. Therefore, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

It is our hope as a hospitality and tourism industry to see the Summit School continue to produce graduates with skills needed to enter the workforce or further their education in any number of ways. In this way, our region's youth can reach one summit in their education and be prepared to climb and reach many more along their professional and personal journeys.

Sincerely,



Chris Barrett
President/CEO
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau





November 1, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of Pocono Raceway and the Mattioli Foundation, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Nick Igdalsky

CEO, Pocono Raceway
Director, The Mattioli Foundation

November 9, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to express interest and support in Summit Charter School (SCS). As an educator at Summit School of the Poconos, I believe that SCS will be an important addition to the Monroe County school community.

SCS will provide a different learning approach to many students that will benefit from learning a fully engulfed project-based curriculum. SCS will provide a different school choice in Monroe County for students and families who are not thriving in the public school system. SCS is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but if SCS can benefit a fraction of students in Monroe County, then it would be worth it.

There are many students in the community who need alternative school options in the area. SCS may not be the better option for *all* families and students, but it is the better option for *some* families that are struggling in the public school system and that is why it is important for SCS to be an option in our area.

With small class sizes, flexible seating, creativity, and shared governance structured around the integrity of the school, I am confident that SCS will be an enormous asset and success in the county.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. As an educator, I believe SCS is needed in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha ZeRuth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samantha ZeRuth
Secondary English Language Arts Teacher at Summit School of the Poconos

Jim Schlier
Schlier's Towing
P.O. Box 465
Tannersville Pa, 18372
570-629-0293

November 5, 2019

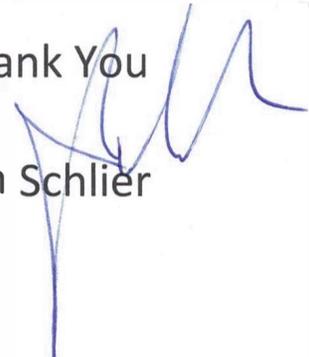
To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of Summit School of the Poconos as Summit Charter School. We believe that the Summit Charter School will benefit not only the community but the children that will attend. Also the job opportunities this will bring to the community.

This School will certainly be an asset to this community.

Thank You

Jim Schlier



November 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Until very recently, I have been a resident of Pocono Mountain School District for 11.5 years. I will continue to be a Monroe County resident for the coming years. I have 3 children, ages 20, 12 and 9.

I have successfully completed my entire K-12 education in a Pennsylvania public school, graduating in the top 10 of a class of over 350 students. I attended a 4-year college, graduated with high honors and continued on to receive my Masters in Public Health, also with honors. Public-school worked for me.

My daughter was always very focused in school. It was her personal goal to do well in school and get into a great college. She attended one of the elementary schools, the junior high and the high school on the West side of the district. She took honors and AP classes, volunteered through various clubs, tried various sports and almost never complained about school. She graduated with honors and was accepted and received scholarships for several tough nursing programs as a result of her success in school. My daughter is the example of a student who was able to succeed with little support. She made friends easily, kept to herself, stayed focused on her schoolwork. She was diligent, high performing and had very little difficulty throughout her educational experience. She was able to succeed by listening to lectures, reading the books and sitting in a classroom all day. Her success was built within her, within her ways of working, within her ways of learning. We see this same success at the college level as well. She has easily transitioned from classroom work to remote work during the pandemic and is demonstrating the same level of success.

One of my other children attended an elementary school on the West side of the district. He was similar to my daughter, with the natural ability to make friends easily, adapt to situations, handle emotions and complete work with little assistance and/or difficulty. He could learn easily by sitting in a classroom or by performing hands on work. He also adapted fairly easily to the remote learning atmosphere that most of us are experiencing today. He listens and learns.

My other child was different. He also attended an elementary school on the West side of the district. During his preschool years he was always very active, constantly building, playing and running around as young children should be able to do. As he entered kindergarten, he was excited to build new friendships, ride the bus and be "a big boy". Over the course of the year, it became evident that the public-school setting would not work for him. He began having difficulty interacting with other children, he would get very anxious when being called out in front of the class, he would hold back his answers in fear of being told he was wrong and he had difficulty focusing due to the inability to freely move throughout the day. He stopped showing interest in learning new things because to him, those new things were pointless because "he would never use them in his life". This persisted for several more years. He was not able to learn by sitting behind a desk. He needed his hands on the subject. He needed to manipulate the items so that the subject would make sense to him. He needed to understand how he could use the information in his life now and in the future. He needed to see the connection. This was not provided to him. As parents, we had countless meetings to discuss how he could be successful. We were pushed to get psychological evaluations and told that he may have a learning disorder among other things. He began showing signs of depression and anxiety, vary rarely smiling and barely talking to us at home. We wanted to do everything we could for our child who was

struggling. We were willing to do whatever was necessary to help him, make him comfortable and get him the assistance he needed to be successful. We took him for those evaluations and ultimately, he was not diagnosed with any disorder. He just needed to learn in a different way.

Throughout these struggles, we were introduced to Summit School of the Poconos and it has been a blessing to us for the past 4 years. At first, we transitioned my one child to the school and he blossomed. He was able to “get his hands dirty” with the project-based learning. He was able to make connections between the content he was learning and his personal life. He was understanding how to transfer the knowledge he was gaining in school to his life outside of school. He learned how to express his feelings through Restorative Circle. He was able to freely move about and sit in various positions if he felt it necessary in order to focus on the topic at hand. His curiosity was fed through teacher/student driven projects and he once again became the little boy that we knew and loved so much. He laughed, he smiled, he talked about what he was learning in school and most importantly he was happy.

The next year we transitioned our other child to SSP and he has blossomed as well. Becoming increasingly curious about the topics and excited to learn every day. We have been with SSP every day since.

Based on the points made above, you can see that we understand how students have every ability to be successful in the public-school setting. However, we also understand that the public-school model does not fit every child. Some children learn differently and Summit School of the Poconos (and eventually Summit Charter School) is able to provide that learning.

The teaching staff at SSP continually go above and beyond their requirements to ensure that each child is involved, learning and being successful, not just in the classroom but also outside of the classroom. They ensure that educational, social and emotional progress is being made while teaching content that is useful to all children and not just to pass a test. They feed the student’s curiosity, by allowing student led projects and create ties with the community through community service projects.

Summit School of the Poconos values the voice of every single child within the school. They have rules and regulations that are required to be followed but also rules that are created and voted upon by the student body. Each child has an opportunity for their voice to be heard and participate in the democratic process, which we know as a result of this most recent election, is so very important in this country. Additionally, rather than ruling as authoritative figures and shutting down students’ thoughts, feelings and opinions, SSP lifts students up, encourages them to voice their thoughts and feelings which is a prime example of acceptance and inclusion. Each staff member encourages the respectful discussions of personal opinions to further understand each child rather than assuming they know how they are feeling and what they are thinking. SSP values student’s individuality and allows them the freedom to express that individuality as appropriate.

Finally, Summit School of the Poconos ensures that each student understands how they can influence the wider community. They understand how they can take their thoughts and ideas and put them into action to make the world a better place. The students feel empowered and driven. They take hold of ideas and develop them to fruition to help the local community. They design and start their own businesses. SSP creates entrepreneurs, that will set this community and world up for success.

SSP is not just some other school trying to take money from a public-school budget. SSP is a school that is making a difference in Monroe County, changing family’s lives by providing an alternative to standard public-school ways of teaching and learning. My family is fortunate enough to be able to afford to send our children to SSP as a private school, but what about those families in Monroe County that can’t?

What about those children who are struggling, those are not learning in their own way, aren't able to succeed in the huge public schools of this county? Do we tell them to figure it out? Do we let them fall behind? Do we forget about them? When a child isn't immediately successful, do we look within to see what we could do differently to support that student and help them be successful or do we pass them off and assume their lack of success is due to their own actions? I say NO. I say that we, as adults, educators and parents/guardians, owe it to our children, the future leaders of this country, to take every avenue possible to support them and guide them towards success and so does Summit School of the Poconos.

I am not an educator, but I consider myself a continuous learner, always interested in learning something new. I think education is the basis for all success in life. So, who are we to say to families and children that are struggling in a public-school setting that they deserve less and are not worth it? As educators yourselves and people responsible for the education of so many young people of our county, you should also say no. Say no to denying this application AGAIN just to prove a point. Say no to turning a blind eye to those in need. Say no to refusing to allow school choice within Monroe County.

I urge you to look at the work that the Board and staff at SSP have done to comply with all of your demands and points of improvement. They have worked tirelessly over the past 1.5 years to meet all requirements and ensure that the students of Summit Charter School are able to continue to be successful and meet all state requirements. Remember that it is YOUR responsibility to provide opportunities for success to ALL students of the Pocono Mountain School District, whether or not they fit into YOUR mold. School choice is a right that all families in Monroe County deserve. I encourage you to truly think outside the box. Are YOU going to deny them that right? I guess we will have to wait and see.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Thompson

Dear Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) panel,

I am writing this letter to share my son's previous experiences in public schools and his contrasting experiences at SSP. My six year old son attended a public school rated 10/10 in New Jersey for Kindergarten. The teaching was completely geared towards teaching for standardized testing. Significant amounts of homework was assigned. Quickly my son "hated" school and homework was a nightly fight for our family. This school was great for lots of kids and lots of parents were happy but it was not right for our family. SSP's project based learning has helped our son discover a love for school. I believe he would never have achieved without SSP. Our son is excited to write, read and share with his SSP class. Something that was not allowed in his crowded and strict structured Kindergarten class. He is now near the top of his class in Math and Reading. I hope that you will approve SCS' charter application to give other students the opportunity to fall in love with learning even if they don't thrive in a traditional school setting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rebecca Jackson
Parent



October 31, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,
SKI SHAWNEE, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Fredericks", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nick Fredericks
President

Shawnee Mountain Ski Area

9 November 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my full support for acceptance of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District located in Monroe County. I not only support Summit Charter School because I am an employee at Summit School of the Poconos, but also because I am an educator who believes that all children need access to the education that fits them best.

Summit Charter School's education model is not a "one size fits all", but it is a very much needed model for many students located in Monroe County. SCS would provide all students from grades kindergarten through high school opportunities for movement, flexibility, personal choice, and for their voice to be heard.

Unlike most traditional school settings, students are able to use their personal choice and voice for seating arrangements, project themes, school meeting topics, and much more. Students are given the opportunity to voice what is most important to them for their own learning needs and school environment.

In addition, throughout all grade levels, students work collaboratively with a variety of different technologies, tools, and peer groups. SCS also offers students opportunities for justice committee, entrepreneurship, and community service, just to name a few. Summit's education model, including its project based learning, shows the importance of being prepared for the ever changing real-world.

Monroe County is in desperate need of a school like Summit. A school with a different education model than what is represented in most traditional public schools. A school where each student gets what they individually need to be successful in the real-world. I feel as though it is unfair to keep the gift of Summit Charter School available to only those who are able to afford it. If SCS were to be accepted, many more children in Monroe County would have access to this different, but very much needed education model.

Thank you for time,
Sophia Betancourt



**THE SPEZIALE FAMILY
1322 Mutton Hollow Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

To the Pocono Mountain School District:

Katelyn very recently said to us “I like THIS school”.

This may not seem like something of significance to most families with an 11 year old, but for us this is monumental. Before this year, it became more and more difficult to get through each school day. Words like “hate” and “dislike” were regularly part of Katelyn’s description of school. When she started fifth grade at Stroudsburg Middle School, her issues in the classroom became more pronounced and we watched her struggle. We arranged for testing and confirmed the reasons for her learning difficulties. We notified the school. Together, we put together a plan, which included one-on-one help. Before the COVID pandemic even struck, we recognized that, while this helped a little, she was not progressing.

Katelyn is in her first year at Summit School of the Poconos. Even in this remote environment, we see a positive change. We see Katelyn wanting to participate in school. We see Katelyn developing a passion for doing community service. We see Katelyn developing an interest in subjects that she had no interest in previously. We even see her forming a different perspective for a subject that she has loathed – math. This change happens when a child, who dreams one day of becoming a chef, is given an assignment in math that requires her to find recipes she will prepare for our family and to use math skills to double and triple recipes based upon the number of persons she will cook for and to use those skills in putting together her shopping list. This is just one example of what she experiences on a daily basis.

Summit School of the Poconos offers its students an experience that no public school in Monroe County offers. This is not saying that Monroe County public schools are a failure or are not doing an incredible job for the majority of their students. It is a statement that recognizes that public school simply cannot be everything to every student. We say this from first-hand experience. We, Katelyn’s grandmother and grandfather, went to public school and then were each public school teachers. We, Katelyn’s mother and aunt, went through public school. I, Katelyn’s aunt, thrived in public school. I, Katelyn’s mother, much like what Katelyn was experiencing, struggled terribly and want Katelyn to have a different experience.

We accept without challenge the fact that there are students who elect to go to vocational school and that students pick colleges based upon the specialty of the college. Similarly, it cannot be denied that people learn in different ways. Public school simply cannot offer a curriculum that addresses all of those learning styles. Summit School of the Poconos provides an option for children in Monroe County that learn best in a movement and project based education system. Summit Charter School will continue this system and will offer this opportunity for those students who learn best in such a system.

We believe each of our goals is to provide our children with the best possible foundation so they can be successful adults. We implore you to approve the charter application of Summit Charter School. In doing so, you will be making a decision that puts our children first and puts in their hands the right to make a choice about their education. This is a choice and opportunity that WILL change their lives forever.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely – Kim Speziale, Loren Speziale, Pat Speziale and Joe Speziale

November 11, 2020

To the Directors of the Pocono Mountain School District,

As a community college professor, sociologist, and founding member of the Summit School of the Poconos, I whole-heartedly recommend SSP for charter status. Schools around the country are implementing promising innovative strategies to help students become global citizens, SSP is well-positioned to provide this model
ing and leadership for Monroe County, fulfilling the initial promise of the charter school mission as an incubator of new ideas and practices.

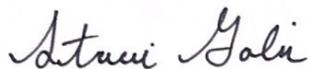
Honoring a holistic approach to educating the student, SSP embraces democratic practice as central to its educational core. Providing avenues for both voice and decision making, SSP gives students agency in organizational practice, using democracy as a tool to teach civics and government and socializing the next generation of citizens. Research shows that students who are democratically engaged in school are more civically engaged as adults. Teachers who embrace democratic practices report higher student "buy in." Students take ownership of their learning and report higher levels of confidence. As the last quadrennial election demonstrated, the power of young-person participation has powerful results in organizing governmental structures.

Two main SSP strategies strike me as particularly innovative: School Meeting and Justice Committee. Unlike traditional student government, School Meeting is a weekly gathering of the whole school, with all members granted voice and vote. Thus, teachers and students have an active role in not just fundraising or school social activities, but dress codes and learning environments. Why can't students wear hats in class? Why is the robotics program not working for some students? Why are teachers allowed coffee in class while students are only allowed water to drink? These questions are not superficial. They give students a sense of value and a role to play in the operations of the school.

The Justice Committee (JC) provides an additional avenue of agency. Research has demonstrated that punitive disciplinary measures decrease the likelihood of high school graduation. And the lack of a high school degree is a key indicator of incarceration. Once again, staff and students serve on JC, together. SSP community members bring complaints to the JC, JC members hear both sides of an issue, make rulings, and decide consequences.

As mentioned above, schools across the country are fielding strategies to reinvent schooling for the twenty-first century. Practices, including the School Meeting and Justice Committee, did not begin with SSP. However, SSP has adapted these practices in unique ways to work for the children of Monroe County, making the school an innovative leader for the County's educational community. I look forward to seeing SSP continue to foster student agency as Summit Charter School, mentoring local teachers and administrators who seek to implement these programs in their home buildings. Working together, our educators can fulfill the original promise of the charter mission, and improve educational outcomes and civic engagement in Monroe County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacie Golin".

Stacie Carolyn Golin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Sussex County Community College

Vice President and co-founder, Summit School of the Poconos

November 3rd, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I was thrilled when asked to sit down and write this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School. Pablo Picasso once said "The meaning of life is to find your gift, the purpose of life is to give it away." I have watched some truly amazing people help bring the Summit School to fruition. The passion they show for not only their own children, but for the love of learning for all children is awe inspiring. It is no surprise to me the wonderful reputation they have earned from not only parents but also local businesses, educators, and politicians in our area. This year we were lucky enough, with support from my own mother who was one of the top Middle school principals in Ga until her retirement, to be able to send our daughter Katie to the Summit School. The biggest difference I noticed right off the bat was the huge smile she had on her face every day getting in the car. Where she was once quiet and uninterested in talking about her day, now she is beaming to tell me all about her whole day and the things she's engaging in. As a parent, what more could you ask but for the actual love of learning and passion for the world being ignited in your child. In the short time we've had there I've already seen so much change, and I can't wait to see her continuous growth. The project based learning and use of movement throughout the day have been a proven advantage in education and I know my daughter is thriving in this environment filled with a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM.

I love that the School's board members represent an array of successful professionals. As a small business owner myself, knowing my child is getting the tools and confidence she needs to flourish and maybe own her own business one day, make this school the right choice. There are so many more children who would benefit from a school like this that focuses on critical thinking, innovation, and personal growth.

Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school. They say children are our future, and the reality is schools like The Summit School are the types of places that families are looking for right now, right here in Monroe county. The Summit School will encourage new tax paying families and businesses to move into the area and that helps everyone. I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice.

Sincerely,
Krysta Staudenmaier
Owner at Sweet Paws Dog Grooming

1098 State Rd
Effort PA 18330
(570) 269-6623

November 8, 2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of East Stroudsburg School District and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to the community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

I am confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

I support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. I value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and I would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Brockmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "B".

Theresa Brockmann
Mother of a Student

The Apple Tree
726 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

November 12, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sinkevich
President

November 7, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

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I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Wilkins, CEO

Stroudsburg Office
BHG Business Campus
7164 Route 209
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570.421.8950

Bushkill Office
5226 Milford Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
570.588.3440

Mt. Pocono Office
1398 Pocono Blvd,
Suite 201
Mt. Pocono, PA 18344
570.839.4174

Milford Office
The Historic Upper Mill
149 Sawkill Avenue, E1
Milford, PA 18337
570.296.6946

www.BHGWilkins.com



Vincent & Charlie Lynn
TRAPASSO

November 4, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

As residents of Monroe County for 50 plus years, propitiators of numerous residential and commercial properties and local businesses, and proud parents of three children ages 34, 24, and 19, we value and respect the Summit Charter School's mission and vision.

Although our children had access to the local public-school system, we opted for a private independent education (pre-k through high school) at a school 50 minutes from our home because a school that focused on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, and a meaningful project-based curriculum wasn't available to us in Monroe County. All three of our children are successful, independent young adults who are currently thriving as productive members of their respective universities, businesses, and community. We attribute much of their success to the diverse educational programs afforded to them at a private, independent school. We support wholeheartedly the need for advanced educational programs in Monroe County and would certainly have opted to educate our children locally had the Summit Charter School been available to us.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who like us, desire more local school choice options.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Trapasso
3329 Mountain View Drive
Tannersville, PA 18372
570-269-4164

Trap Enterprises – 611 Pub/Desaki Restaurant and Swiftwater hotel project
Swiftwater, PA

Trapasso & Abraham – Sullivan Trail Development
Tannersville, PA

Abraham & Trapasso – Sanofi Project (gas station & convenience store, medical facility)
Swiftwater, PA

Vincent & Charlie Lynn Trapasso Development
Smithfield storage unit development



Trip Ruvane
Publican-President
RR#1 Box 185 - Sullivan Trail
Tannersville, PA 18372
570 629-9399
trip@barleycreek.com

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

After becoming familiar with the request, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Respectfully,



November 9, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed Summit Charter School.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Troy Nauman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Troy Nauman, President

11/9/2020

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. I am a resident of the East Stroudsburg Area School District and I believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to my community as I am the parent of three school-age children.

The Summit School of the Poconos exercises the positive traits parents seek in a school. The teachers are highly skilled and versatile professionals, who perform well with diverse populations including and not limited to gifted students and students with individualized educational plans. I am particularly impressed by their motivation to constantly update their knowledge and educational skills to better serve their students. The adjectives that describe the work demeanor by the entire Summit School of the Poconos staff is competent, intelligent, organized and dedicated to the students. Additionally, they establish and maintain pleasant working relationships with staff members, students and the families of the students.

As a taxpayer, I unequivocally support the vision of the Summit Charter School. I support their mission to challenge, support and motivate students towards their optimal potential. In addition, the opportunity for students to explore many different interests through clubs, groups and service projects illustrates the school culture that the Summit Charter School represents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verenys Avelino'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'V' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Verenys Avelino
Parent

Bonnie K. Vogt
Charles J. Vogt
383 Cherry Lane Rd.
Bartonsville, PA 18321

November 9, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

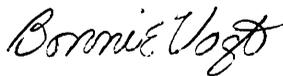
We are writing to express support for Summit School of the Poconos and their application for Summit Charter School. We are a residents of Pocono Mountain School District and believe that Summit Charter School will be an asset to the community.

Summit Charter School will provide a strong educational choice to families, something we currently lack in Monroe County. The school's hands on project-based curriculum with STEAM opportunities is attractive to many students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting. As an already licensed private school in Pennsylvania, students at Summit School of the Poconos (the foundation for Summit Charter School) are already learning how to think critically, work collaboratively, and cultivate innovation through curiosity. Together, students practice democracy in their school community.

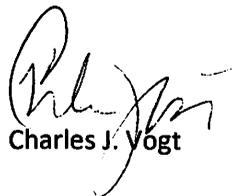
We are confident that the founders, board members, current staff members, parents, and students of Summit School of the Poconos will provide for Summit Charter School, a solid foundation from which to build an exceptional public educational choice for students in our area.

We support the approval of Summit Charter School in the Pocono Mountain School District. We value the mission and approach of Summit Charter School and would be pleased to see a school of choice in the community.

Sincerely,



Bonnie K. Vogt



Charles J. Vogt

November 8, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit School of the Poconos has a solid reputation in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

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I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying businesses to the area.

Sincerely,



Kevin Yurko
Founding Member
CFP, Financial Advisor



October 29, 2019

Summit School of the Poconos
135 Burson Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support for the proposed **Summit Charter School**, submitted by the current board members of Summit School of the Poconos, a licensed private school through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Summit Charter School of the Poconos has filled an important need in our area. They have earned support from local parents, businesses, politicians, and educators since their inception in 2016. The School's board members represent a cross section of professions, many of whom are well known and highly regarded in the community, all of whom have enjoyed success in their respective fields. Together, these factors point to the future strength and success of the proposed charter school.

The Summit Charter School's mission and vision, as well as their unique school culture and curriculum, align with the skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the 21st Century. A school that focuses on critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, a meaningful project-based curriculum rich in STEAM, and an environment that encourages students to take ownership of their education, actions, and personal growth is a welcome asset to our community. This type of education is not being provided by public schools.

I hope that our elected officials will recognize and support the residential and business taxpayers of Monroe County who desire more local school choice. Every child is unique. Thus, various models of education are needed to best serve all students and to graduate a large percentage of students who are ready and able to succeed in the 21st Century. A range of school options is also an important consideration when considering our desire to attract new tax-paying employers to Monroe County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl M. Weiler".

Karl M. Weiler
Chairman Emeritus, Weiler Abrasives

November 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I got married 23 years ago and instantly became a stepmother to two young boys. I was committed to them and their education and spent a lot of time focused on their schools, teachers and curriculum. I immediately recognized a difference between what I expected from the boys and what was rewarded at school. I expected the boys to perform to the best of their ability while the school expected the boys to perform to a predetermined level representing the average of other students their age. Even when I knew they could do better, the school gave them grades that said they had done enough. There was no reason or motivation to push themselves, minimal effort resulted in average grades. Unfortunately, that minimal effort combined with an expectation of success has materialized in their adulthood, disappointing both them and me.

Fast forward 10 years and I had a daughter. I wanted her to experience an education that engaged and challenged her. I wanted her school to know her and help her be the best student she could be. So I sent Isabelle to a local Montessori elementary with an extremely small class size. She was thriving and I was happy. There was only one problem, the school only went to the 5th grade. I was getting nervous because the only option in Monroe County at the time was for Isabelle to return to the same Public School system I felt had failed the boys.

Other parents of my small school were worried too and we decided to create a better choice. As the founding group of the Summit School, we committed to create an institution that would provide a personalized approach to education, a school that would honor each student and their individual personal development. That first year we received letters from so many parents telling us that their kids, who had been lost and miserable in their previous schools, were now coming home engaged and excited. The work I put in, together with a group of the most amazing and dedicated women I know, is definitely the work I am most proud of in my lifetime.

The founding group was committed to the principle of inclusiveness, and despite being a private school we worked hard to provide as many scholarships as possible. But it's not enough. Granting Charter School status to Summit School of the Poconos will provide an alternative educational model to students and parents who would benefit from a more individualized approach. And for those kids, the foundation of self-motivation that is at the core of this school, will serve them in further education, their careers and throughout their 21st Century lives. Please consider granting the Charter application for the Summit School.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Hilsky

Yvonne Hilsky
Sr. Director, US Market Access
Seqirus USA