

February 1, 2023

Senate Committee on Education
Regarding: Education Measure SB 767

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

In 1908, neighbors eager to educate their children in the Green Springs area about 20 miles east of Ashland Oregon, worked together to build a one-room schoolhouse along the Emigrant Trail. A path led to a “one-holer” out back. The school, named after nearby Beaver Creek, had two-seater desks, a wood stove, a water bucket and dipper, and a blackboard. Soon, it was remodeled to state standards, including an upgraded wood stove. The “little red schoolhouse” was built in 1930 at its current location.

Source: "History of Pinehurst: A Little History About Pinehurst School." Pinehurst School, Pinehurst School, Web. 29 Dec. 2013

This letter begins with a short reminder of how many years have gone by since the beginning of Pinehurst School and the many, many Greensprings students that have received a high-quality, individualized, joy-filled education providing them with the solid educational foundation necessary for succeeding in high school, attending college and becoming a successful, contributing members of society.

Throughout its one hundred and fifteen year history, the Pinehurst School District has met and overcome many challenges. World wars, recessions, low student counts, forest fires, pandemics, and now the latest one: a request to sponsor a charter school whose approval has the very real possibility of threatening Pinehurst’s survival as a Rural School District.

As a current Greensprings resident, homeowner, taxpayer, previous Pinehurst School Board member, and retired school teacher, I write in support of Senate Bill 767. Please protect the Pinehurst School District and Pinehurst Elementary School by passing Senate Bill 767.

Sincerely,

Russ Branson

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