

To: Petoskey Public Schools Board of Trustees and Superintendent Leslie

RE: Petoskey Montessori Children's House

February 14, 2024

I am the grandmother of one of the children who has attended the Petoskey Montessori Children's House (PMCH) since his infancy. He is currently eight years old.

When my daughter-in-law's employer assigned her to work in Northern Michigan, the fact that Petoskey had a Montessori school for her new baby was the main reason they chose to buy a home there.

Though I am a life-long Michigander, I had not been very familiar with Petoskey, but I certainly spend a lot of time there now. And one thing about your city that I continually find so remarkable is how much it loves its children. There are SO many facilities and activities and special opportunities for kids! The beautiful Library, the Winter Sports Park, the Bear River Park, the lake front parks, the incredible, best-I've-ever-seen, old downtown business district, the summer camps, the Art Center classes, and the Little Traverse Conservancy preserves, are some that we enjoy and are grateful for. But the Montessori School that my grandson adores and thrives in is the pinnacle.

My son and daughter-in-law are active in PMCH maintenance and decision-making. I am aware of the very unfortunate embezzlement by the previous Director. The current PMCH Board of Trustees, all of whom are parents of children attending, picked up and rebuilt the absolute shambles left behind, in less than a year. Those are some very devoted and visionary and talented parents.

I am not aware of any of the circumstances that could justify the Petoskey Public School Board attempting to cripple PMCH by drastically reducing and then eliminating financial support. You owe the PMCH parents, grandparents, children, and the whole Community a very specific and honest explanation, and a good faith effort of mediation to a mutually agreed upon solution.

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cc: Support Montessori Children's House supportpmch.org