

Superintendent Hoffman and Members of the Board,

My name is Brett Barley and I am the Superintendent of the California Montessori Project. This is my second year in this role and I have been honored to partner with the Board and the District to serve our students and families.

CMP has been serving students in Elk Grove Unified for 20 years. During that time, we have developed a track record of success and strong partnership with EGUSD. CMP has been renewed by the Elk Grove Unified School District Board twice already. We are seeking our third, five-year renewal.

CMP currently operates at two locations: one small school on Elk Grove Boulevard located in the Cosumnes Community Services District building complex across from Joseph Kerr Middle School and one larger site on Bradshaw Road. We currently serve a little more than 100 students in kindergarten through 3rd grade in five classrooms at the Elk Grove Boulevard site. The Bradshaw site sits on 10 acres near the corner of Bradshaw Rd and Elk Grove Blvd. The Bradshaw site was built with the support of Prop 55 funding and opened its doors in September 2013 and currently serves a little more than 400 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. We have 16 classrooms, a large elementary playground area, a separate kindergarten play area, a middle school physical fitness area, outside classroom work areas, and a multipurpose room where we can hold student and family events.

We believe CMP-Elk Grove's renewal is an easy decision for the Board. This past summer the California Department of Education released performance levels for all charter schools that were up for renewal this year. Pursuant to the new charter law, AB 1505, schools were placed in either High, Middle, or Low performance levels. All four of CMP's schools across the four districts we operate in were either in the "Middle" or "High" performance level. CMP-Elk Grove is in the Middle Performance level. Pursuant to AB 1505 that qualifies CMP-Elk Grove for another five-year charter renewal.

In addition to CMP's long and successful track record in Elk Grove Unified there are four additional elements we'd like to share with the Board today that we believe make a strong case for renewal:

1. CMP-Elk Grove has seen a significant increase in its enrollment of students with disabilities.

CMP's enrollment of students with disabilities has nearly doubled over the term of the charter. This is evidence that parents of students with disabilities view attending CMP-Elk Grove as in the best interest of students. Currently, 16% of the student population at CMP-Elk Grove is comprised of students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which is 33% higher than the state average of 12%, and double the percentage of just five years ago. Families with children with disabilities come to CMP-Elk Grove because of our full inclusion practices and the benefits of Montessori education for students in this population.

2. CMP-Elk Grove has focused on and been successful in diversifying our student population since our last renewal.

CMP-Elk Grove has made a proactive effort to serve a more diverse student population. We have more work to do, but are proud of the progress we have made thus far. Over the last three years, the number of Asian students attending CMP has grown 23%; the number of Hispanic students has grown 32%; and the number of students who are two or more races has grown 10%. CMP is also serving 8% fewer White students than we were three years ago. Before the pandemic, CMP-Elk Grove participated in the Elk Grove Multicultural Festival for four years running. Last year, we also began what we hope will be a longstanding tradition of having a table at the African Market on Florin Rd.

3. CMP-Elk Grove has had strong academic outcomes for its students.

CMP-Elk Grove families also select CMP because of Montessori's literature-rich pedagogy. Montessori education, by design, exposes students to a wealth of literacy opportunities. CMP's scores in English Language Arts in Grades 3-8 on CAASPP were higher than the state in two of the past four years, and higher than EGUSD in one year.

4. CMP-Elk Grove is a school students want to attend and has clear commitment to keeping students in school.

As demonstrated by the California School Dashboard, CMP-Elk Grove's suspension rate improved from Orange to Green between 2018 and 2019. CMP-Elk Grove's suspension rates have been lower than the District in every year of our most recent charter. CMP staff have been trained in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports to keep our students at school. CMP-Elk Grove also employs restorative justice and peace education while encouraging students to take a proactive role in understanding appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

CMP – Elk Grove has scored Green for chronic absenteeism on both the 2018 and 2019 California School Dashboard. In each year of our current charter term, CMP-Elk Grove had a lower chronic absenteeism rate than both the state and the District. In fact, CMP-Elk Grove performed in the top 25% of EGUSD elementary and middle schools for Chronic Absenteeism.

CMP creates a school climate where our students want to come to school. Our students have loving teachers, small class sizes, and access to a well-rounded curriculum that keeps them excited to come to school.

It has been a true honor to serve students in Elk Grove for the past twenty years in strong partnership with the District and the Board. We look forward to the next twenty years.

Thank you.