

From: conniefayebrown@yahoo.com
To: [Olivas_Linda_M._PED; //www.ped.state.nm.us/comments](mailto:Olivas_Linda_M._PED://www.ped.state.nm.us/comments); leonardgorman@navajo-nsn.gov;
pkinlichee@yahoo.com
Subject: DREAM Charter School
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2013 11:37:04 AM

This email is in support of DREAM Charter school! I spoke at Hearing and this is a continuation to my comments. The Dine way of intergenerational transmission of our language, culture and way of life was severed by the BIA and public school. DREAM serves to reverse culture and language shift..for our culture is imbedded in the language! We have already been indentured in the Western education and can incorporate that into the daily class schedule appropriately.

The Folks in Kirtland wanted their own district but didn't get it approved due to Civil Rights violations. Instead they w/drew their kids n many resigned due to the quality of education at CCSD. . CcSD can't cry Civil Rights w/DREAM Charter school so they make excused of noncommunication and of course money.. I recall, in 2008 the current CCSD supt made this statement when he was TBA Princ, "I don't know why this district isn't run by all Navajos". Then he proceeded to systematically show us the door..! I witnessed him allowing kids rights be violated. I witnessed him sit in his ofc the entire 4yrs he was at TBA. He doesn't care about our childre!! He and his minions only care about money and power!! Tyranny need to stop in the lives of our children, teachers, staff!!

We, Dine also question the quality of education our children receive on a daily basis at CCSD, therefore we are creating DREAM Charter School to ensure the best quality education that honors our Dine heritage and language. All content areas can be taught to mastery using Dine' philosophy and teachings. Our children don't need to be verbally, mentally, or spiritually abused by the school system that they currently experience. NMPED will continue to see 40% proficient and 60% failure..

Let DREAM prove that our way of teaching is the best for our children!! Your approval sends a message that we Dine have rising to the plate, earned our degrees at universities and now can take over our schools! Thank you for hearing us and we look forward to your favorable reply.

Sincerely,
Connie Bernally
Parent, community member, NM Level-III-A instructional Leader, former CCSD middle school CORE
rdg/soc studies Teacher

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: Milton Chee [5thworldstudio@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2013 7:59 AM
To: Olivas, Linda M., PED
Subject: Dine Charter School

I support the creation of the 'Dine Charter School' 100% with total relevant Navajo curriculum and operation in respect to/with basically a human rights issues also; relevancy of truly a Navajo education about Navajos, their goals, their history, etc is over due by over 140 years; the school system that operates by surrounding state's standard and funding from state and/or federal has put the Navajo people in the state of poverty / Thank you

With all due respect from
Milton Chee

From: Anna Redsand [aredsand@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 4:26 PM
To: Olivas, Linda M., PED
Subject: Letter of Support for Dream Diné Charter Application

Dear Public Education Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Dream Diné Charter School application. I attended the hearing in Shiprock on 8/19/13 and was very impressed with the expertise of the presenters and with the model they propose to implement.

As an educator with 39 years of experience, 13 of them in Navajo Education and seven of them in a New Mexico charter school, I believe that the Dream Diné application offers unique and much-needed opportunities for Navajo children in the Shiprock community. It beautifully integrates Navajo worldview and traditions with best practices and with close attention to the Common Core Standards.

I would especially like to address the question raised by one of the commissioners regarding the impermissibility of teaching religion in New Mexico schools. It appeared that he equated teaching from the traditional Navajo worldview and Navajo philosophy of learning with teaching religion in the classroom. I am not Navajo but have worked extensively with traditional Navajo scholars and have come to understand these teachings and philosophical approaches not as religion, but as cutting edge science. For centuries, traditional Navajo philosophers have understood the interconnectedness of all beings, matter, and energy (*k'e*) in ways that quantum physicists have only begun to "discover." This precious knowledge and the language for understanding it in depth, if it is imparted to Navajo youth at Dream Diné Charter School will enable them to fully function in Navajo society and to provide leadership in US society at large in ways we have yet to experience.

I urge the PEC to approve Dream Diné's charter application and not to make the mistake of equating the teaching of traditional Navajo values and worldview with the teaching of religion.

Sincerely,
Anna Redsand

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author: *Viktor Frankl: A Life Worth Living (Clarion, 2006)*

Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People

New York Times Best Book for Teens

Bank Street Best Children's Book

School Librarians International Honor Book

<http://annaredsand.com>

<http://spanningpeoples.blogspot.com>

<http://ayearofstandingstill.blogspot.com>

Dream Dine Input from Public Comment Site

Email	Name	School	Comments
reservation_babe@yahoo.com	maxine arviso	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/21/13 8:21 am	Thank you all for having a public hearing locally in Shiprock for Charter school vision of Dine education also known as "Dream Dine", which is really an idea that implements the modern native Navajo in every aspect. That is exactly what I observed as the vision there at the Shiprock Chapter House. Not going back in any way, but moving forward into the future and implementing all those ideas that sustained the Navajo people over time. If we embrace the vision with the task force people who are taken on the task, then all we should see is Navajo children taking back all that education that might be lost. Our Navajo children will also see Navajo adults and elders interested in their children's and grandchildren's education, a good role model from the task force, keeping that Navajo interest in mind for our children to see. This keeps our minds on the positives. Good work! I saw the article in the Daily Times newspaper dated 8/20/13, it was a good article. It reflects what truly took place there at the Hearing. If other local schools are concerned, will let's keep them on their toes. Thank you people on the NMPED panel for listening, and thank you for honoring our differences, and to see that our Navajo people will put Navajo/Dine learning first and foremost, this is a long time coming for the Shiprock area.
reservation_babe@yahoo.com	maxine arviso	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/21/13 8:38 am	Thank you for holding a public hearing locally in Shiprock. What I observed was a vision for Dine education through the "Dine Dream" process of a charter school. This vision helps us all to look forward into the future and involve the modern native Navajo concepts for education for Navajo children. I did not see, for us to look back in anyway, but to move forward into the future. I support the task force because of the positives, and the vision. They have in mind our Navajo children, as they are Navajo role models themselves serving their community by giving back and working on this task force to see this charter school through. Good Work! I saw the article of the local newspaper the Daily Times and it was a good article telling the truth about what took place at the hearing and its intent. If other local schools are concerned, maybe they should be, keeps them on their toes and working harder for our Navajo children, to ensure that Navajo Dine education is first and foremost, not just an on the side learning. Thank you Shiprock Chapter house for holding this public hearing it shows that you value education, and the communities interest. Thank you NMPED panel for hearing our concerns, our interest, our differences, and honoring what our little community in Shiprock, New Mexico is concerned about. Thank you.
rosen13@hotmail.com	Rose Fasthorse	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/20/13	I am in full support of getting Dream Dine Charter School operating as soon as possible. I have grandchildren who will be enrolling. I was at the public hearing and I absolutely am shocked at Scott Nicolay from Central Consolidated School District misinforming the Commissioners about several things. First, their immersion school is all disorganized and full of ugly politics with the latest being that two teachers were forced to teach immersion because the district could not recruit highly qualified native teachers due to the political mess they have created. Second, he was saying that the people starting the charter school were disgruntled employees. We all know who the members of the planning committee are and they have been planning this for a couple of years. They have retired from CCSD or no longer there, not disgruntled. Third, he said Lula Begay violated Dine culture by using Navajo emergence stories, but he's so ignorant about Navajo culture that he didn't know that Lula Begay didn't tell an emergence story. These are examples of the dirty politics that have infected our children's schools at CCSD, so Dream Dine is going to be a blessing for our community. Please give our community of Shiprock and Gad'ii'ahi a chance to show NMPED that we are able to be self sufficient in guiding our children and grandchildren to be successful through a culturally relevant education. Please, I beg you to give us a chance. Thank you.
codie.mcgeever@gmail.com	Codie McGeever	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/18/13	As a former teacher at Shiprock High School and an adaptive education teacher at the Shiprock Adolescent Treatment Center, I can testify firsthand to the importance of opening a charter school as a pathway to academic success for Shiprock students. An environment of achievement, collaboration, and community support for children is absolutely needed. I fully trust that the Dream Dine' Charter School will provide the Shiprock community with much-needed opportunities. I urge the Commission to support this proposal and bring this "Dream" to reality.

Dream Dine Input from Public Comment Site

Email	Name	School	Comments
tyjnez@live.com	Titus J Nez	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/21/13	I'm in support of the Shiprock Dream Dine Charter School. As a elected official I feel this is vitally important to continue our Navajo language and culture. For years my elders have been talking about how we can re-vitalize our language, teachings, culture and basic way of life. They have seen the negative effects of modern main stream america and how it is shaping out nation. After reviewing the plans and work of the administrators and community members I feel this is something we need for our future generations, who one day will lead our great Navajo Nation. A lot of homes within the Navajo Nation have families that still to this day speak 80% Navajo and 20% English. When educators teach our Navajo children they only speak in the English language, this causes our children to understand small portions of the teachings. By allowing this Charter school to begin we will see promising results in the common core and standards set the Public Education Department.
J_noschisy@yahoo.com	Jack Noschisy	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/20/13	I have been reading and hearing on news reports how bilingual people are much more better learners. I beleive a kindegardener or preschool who learn some things about their cultuire will grow up with a knowledge and pride that others peers will not possess. Also, research has proven that children ages 2 to 5 years old will learn a second language the best, which is probably the best reason to approve this charter school. If only 5 to 8 of 30 children take a sincere intrest a school year or semister, then those are the ones that may be leaders to preserve some language, cuilture and pride in communities. So we need you to approve Dream Dine Charter School to start operating in Fall 2014!
Joyce_rock@hotmail.com	Joyce Rock	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/19/13	Will this school include accommodations for teen parents and online learning? With the push from CCSD to close Career Prep an alternative school will be needed in the Shiprock area. Please do not put this school under the CCSD umbrella.

Dream Dine Input from Public Comment Site

Email	Name	School	Comments
mikkotbhs@hotmail.com	Michael Thompson	Shiprock - Dream Dine' 8/19/13	<p>To the Public Education Commission: I am sorry I could not attend the hearing today in Shiprock for hte Dream Dine' charter, but I am meeting my students at San Juan College for their first day of class. However, I would like to make a few comments regarding the Dream Dine' school charter application and its plan to implement the Common Core State Standards. I have been a part of the community planning group for Dream Dine' for the past two years. I have also served on a leadership team for the National Writing Project for the past three years, as part of the Literacy Design Consortium specifically concerned with implementing the Common Core. I feel very confident that the Dream Dine' planning group is committed to integrating the CCSS into its day to day learning process. Let me note briefly a few of the major shifts that the Common Core expects of schools and their relevance to the Dream Dine' vision: 1. Greater Focus. The Common Core Standards focus on fewer topics but address them in greater depth. This means that the Dream Dine design of balanced learning in both Navajo and English will have the time to engage in-depth learning on specific concepts in both languages, each reinforcing the other. 2. Coherence. In the past, many state standards simply repeated the same topics year after year. The CCS, and the Dream Dine' school, will build on students' understanding by introducing new topics not just year to year but season to season, topics that build on the foundations previously laid. 3. Skills, Understanding, and Application. For the CCSS, students will need to know procedures, develop conceptual understanding, and apply their knowledge to solve problems. These goals are absolutely compatible with the Dream Dine' plan to make experiential learning the heart of its learning process. 4. Emphasis on Practices. Mathematical practices include making sense of problems and persevering to solve them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, using appropriate tools strategically, making sound arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others. These practices are also critical to the experiential learning process to be used at Dream Dine'. 5. Informational Text. The Standards call for more emphasis on understanding "informational texts." For Indigenous people, the earth and its inhabitants have always been the primary source of learning. Dream Dine's plan for students to learn by exploring the world, and especially the community around them, honors this new emphasis on informational text. 6. Focus on Evidence. The CCSS expects students to use evidence to demonstrate their understanding and to make claims. Students must cite evidence to justify statements rather than rely on opinions. As Dream Dine's entire approach to learning involves accurate observation, discussion, explanation, and reflection, their students will be well-equipped to use evidence in making claims, both in speech and in writing. 7. "Staircase" of Text Complexity. Students will be expected to read and comprehend increasingly complex texts. This aligns with Dream Dine's expectations that students will progress to more demanding, more complex performance levels in both English and Navajo on a continuous basis. 8. Speaking and Listening. The Standards expect students to demonstrate that they can speak and listen effectively—aspects of literacy rarely emphasized in state standards. Dream Dine' teachers expect students to engage in one-on-one and whole-class discussions in two languages and will evaluate their understanding on a daily basis. 9. Literacy in the Content Areas. The Standards expect literacy in history/social science, science, and technical subjects. This reflects an understanding that each subject area requires a unique set of skills. Again, the experiential nature of Dream Dine's learning process will enable students to develop hands-on knowledge of many subject areas through active learning on a daily basis. I am personally committed to assisting the Dream Dine team in developing a world-class school that honors Navajo language and culture every day and also meets the highest levels of the Common Core Standards. I urge you to approve their application. Michael Thompson, Humanities Dept. SJC</p>

Tim Kienitz
3810 Majesta
Farmington, NM 87402

8/28/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a statement that, to the best of my knowledge as the former Assistant Superintendent for Academic Enhancement at Central Consolidated School District, Ms. Roselyn Begay did resign on good terms and in good standing with the district.

I was in conversations with the other district administrators, including the Superintendent, during the time of her resignation at the end of her contract, and her decision to leave was not forced by the district, nor was she disgruntled. To my recollection, Ms. Begay had made the decision to pursue other goals in her life at that time.

Nataani Nez Elementary School had received recognition under Ms. Begay's leadership as a school that had achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and the school and Ms. Begay had been praised for that accomplishment by the administration. Her demeanor and attitude throughout her last year at CCSD was professional and positive.

After Ms. Begay left the district, she was invited back to the schools to present in classrooms and to participate in committee meetings. During any of those events that I attended, Ms. Begay was never negative toward the district, but she sought ways to work toward constructive improvement of the district and its services in a positive way.

If you should need further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 505-324-0352 ext. 1402.



Tim Kienitz
FHS Principal
Assistant Superintendent for Academic Enhancement at CCSD from 2009-2011