

March 31, 2026

Lincoln County School District  
Board of Directors  
1212 NE Fogarty Street  
Newport, OR 97365

Chairman Vince and Board of Directors

I am writing to share my thoughts on the Siletz Valley School. As a resident of Siletz for five years, I am familiar with the school, and I feel I have a neutral perspective.

First, as I'm sure you are aware there is an extremely strong emotional connection to the school within the community as many community members grew up here attending the school and are reminiscent of those times.

What isn't discussed is that back when they attended the Siletz School there weren't anywhere near as many students per class, there was a more equal balance of tribal and non-tribal students, most students came from a home with at least one biological parent who was involved in the accountability process, and IEPs were rare.

We now have a large population of students living with a guardian, class size is significantly larger, a larger tribal student population, and a large number of IEPs, as I'm sure you are aware of.

Students leaving school without resistance, disruptive classes, frequent outburst that prohibit teachers from teaching and frequent use of abusive language from students with very little corrective action from parents or guardians. This is controlled chaos.

I see three possible options, while I'm confident there are many other alternatives.

- I. Close the school, considering the ongoing issues with the charter and compliance.
- II. Eliminate most of the classes and retrain Headstart to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at the Siletz Campus. With the 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students transferring to other schools within the district. Extracurricular classes could still be available after school; culinary program, tribal cultural heritage, drumming, and language, for example.
- III. Relinquish the school to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to create a tribal school. They, in turn, could hire an all-tribal staff that would address many of the behavioral challenges and meet the tribe's needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts during your decision-making process.

Sincerely,



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