

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 14:54:46 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Comment for Oct 22nd Board meeting

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 2:50:55 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Sara Johnson

To: Information SMCOE

Hello, I am writing in favor of the opening of Oceanlight Charter School within the Pacifica School District boundaries. I would like the Oceanlight School charter to be approved and I would like to enroll my child in this charter school. We have felt stuck and unheard at our current school and do not feel the school is serving our child. My child hates his school and we have no options to get him to another school due to lack of opportunity to switch schools. I support Oceanlight School charter because I think parents should have options for where their child goes to school. I think school choice is very important and this sounds like a wonderful opportunity for our children.

Best Regards,

Sara Johnson
650-922-2062

SAN BRUNO EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Board of Directors
Heather Latta, *President* • Alexis Petru, *Vice President*
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Dear San Mateo County Board of Education members,

I am writing as President of the San Bruno Education Foundation (SBEF) and on behalf of all board members of our Foundation. SBEF is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization dedicated to the benefit of the public school students of the San Bruno Park School District. From that vantage point, we have helped to support and further develop the betterment of the educational opportunities provided by the San Bruno Park School District and would like to share related information relevant to the decision before you regarding whether to approve the Oceanlight School as a county charter school.

Review of the petition for the creation of the Oceanlight Charter School makes clear the loss felt by the community of Ocean Shore School in Pacifica due to the closing of that school, and their desire to re-create that school for their community. However, there is no compelling need for that school across the rest of North San Mateo County. In fact, the petition mis-states the availability of similar programs that meet similar needs already in neighboring districts.

In particular, in the San Bruno Park School District, adjacent to Pacifica, many of our schools have programs very similar to what Oceanlight would like to offer:

- Two of our four elementary schools offer a STEAM curriculum that includes project-based learning through team-based projects. Specifically, all students in these schools from TK-5 attend weekly classes with a dedicated STEAM teacher in a dedicated STEAM space that provides them opportunities to work on hands-on projects that teach applied science and engineering concepts.
- All four of our elementary schools offer a Lego Robotics program to promote hands-on use of math and engineering concepts in a team-based environment.
- Three of our four elementary schools have school garden programs that provide hands-on learning of life sciences and environmental impacts while combining a focus on community service that school families are encouraged to support through monthly service projects.
- All of our elementary schools offer leadership opportunities through a district-wide student council made up of 4th through 8th grade students who design leadership projects to improve their schools and involve other students in those improvements.
- These leadership and STEAM opportunities build and continue in our district's middle school where all students come together to benefit from opportunities for hands-on learning in areas such as Lego Robotics, coding, and leadership.
- All of our schools have efforts focused on our students' social emotional learning, with adult support available in a variety of wellness fields and related concepts taught throughout the year in assemblies and then reinforced in the classroom.

The fact that these similar programs are already offered in San Bruno may in part explain the very limited demand for Oceanlight Charter School from San Bruno families. As evidenced in the petition itself, this school is overwhelmingly being demanded by Pacifica residents and not residents across North County. Just 4 families living in San Bruno signed the petition to indicate interest in their children attending the school. Also notable is that of the families surveyed about their interest to attend, only 59% of those families would send their children to the school if it were located in West San Bruno.

Finally, the proposed location of the charter school makes it unlikely that its student body would be representative of North San Mateo County including by having an average number of socioeconomically disadvantaged across north county districts, as their petition attests. The proposed location of the school in either Pacifica, west Daly City or west San Bruno would place the school in an easier commuting distance to the wealthier parts of the North County area and make it difficult for the more socioeconomically disadvantaged families on the east side of North County to be able to commute their children to attend the charter school. As a result, the charter school is likely to pull wealthier students with parents with more time available to commute their children over to the school location. Having such a student population would lead to the charter school disproportionately taking students away from our existing public schools whose parents have a desire for active engagement in their children's schools and the financial resources to help support that engagement.

For these reasons, I ask you to consider denying the application for this charter school on the basis that it would be demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate. In addition, the proposed charter school is unlikely to achieve a balance of racial and ethnic diversity reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted. It also has the potential to undermine the ability of local school districts like the San Bruno Park School District to continue to provide existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings that are demonstrably similar to those that the charter school proposes but which San Bruno Park has successfully been able to provide to broader populations of students including two Title I elementary schools.

Thank you for your consideration.



Heather Latta

President, San Bruno Education Foundation

Subject: Public comment on Oceanlight Charter School
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 4:24:37 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Alexis Petru
To: Information SMCOE

Dear County Board of Education Trustees,

I am a 20-year resident of San Bruno and very involved member of the San Bruno community. My children have attended public schools in San Bruno since they were in transitional kindergarten, and I am an active elementary school PTA member, middle school PTO board member, school volunteer, and Education Foundation Vice President. I have also been involved in local Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops.

I am writing to ask you to oppose the establishment of Oceanlight Charter School, a charter school in Northern San Mateo County, as it will take away critical resources for our Northern County public schools -- including both government funding and parent/family involvement. I feel for the parents and families who were affected by the Pacifica school closures, but I think a better solution is to work together to strengthen our existing local public schools with their diverse populations that reflect San Mateo County demographics.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Alexis Petru
3500 Crestmoor Dr, San Bruno, CA 94066