

Dear Board,

My name is Natalie Hall. I have taken over in room 211 as the lead guide through Jill's leave. I have been a teacher for 5 years, in 3 separate elementary schools in various grades and for a bit in Special Education. That being said, I've seen a lot of unfortunate decisions, tough administration, and bending of rules out of necessity or political pressures. What I had never seen, and have seen here, is the consistent dedication of a staff and volunteer pool to come through for kids. This is why I would like to put in my vote to PLEASE do right by these dedicated adults and children to appeal the current Commission ruling to revoke our charter. I am more than ready to stand by the school and fight.

In the time I have been here, I have seen a lot of unbelievable things in this school. My first day was the day one of the staff members passed away, and the day after Jill sharing the details of her unfortunate medical leave. I saw the turmoil of previous error and holes left behind by irresponsible previous staff. I had every reason to believe everyone would jump ship and bail—which I had seen in every other district when things got hard. That was not the response. We banded together, made changes, flexed, showed up, and fought alongside our community and students. I intend to keep that rolling.

The special thing about this school is the model of flexing to support all students in academic, social, emotional, and practical skill building. Every single one of my first and second graders this year are able to read books, many above their level. We do not teach to the test as many public schools do. We are transparent with families, in a way public schools tend to restrict and sweep under the rug. And we fight through to show up for our kids—in ways other union-bound schools do not. For this reason, I will be leaving education if this school closes—if our community is one that won't stand by these principles, I do not wish to contribute my service any longer to other less genuine agendas.

Our staff, community, and students deserve this school. Those of us who came later and took no part in the unfortunate decisions deserve to continue our careers in the place we've impacted in the best ways and grown to love. We should not abandon them. Please vote to appeal for my students.

Thank you,

Natalie Hall