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Sauvie Island Resident

Sauvie Island is the Largest Island in the Columbia River and one of the largest islands in the United States. The Islands Northern half is a wildlife refuge and the southern half is predominantly rural farmland with small residential areas. Access to the island is by a single bridge off of Highway 30 ten miles outside of Portland. The Population of Sauvie Island including its houseboat residents hovers just around 1100 according to the most recent census. There are approximately 300 homes within the dike's boundaries. Those of us who are blessed to call the island our home appreciate its uniqueness, its beauty but foremost we are grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

It is my hope that by coming here today I can help you more clearly understand the need for Sauvie Island Academy to maintain the waiver of ORS 338.125 which allows Sauvie Island Residents criteria for attending Sauvie Island Academy.

We understand your concern for any public charter school to try and become exclusive within it's student population; but this is not a possibility at Sauvie Island Academy. Sauvie Island is restricted in growth by the counties strict development laws. Due to Multnomah Counties Land Use Ordinances the number of homes on Sauvie Island will never be able to grow in any substantial numbers, thus controlling the number of Sauvie Island Students attending Sauvie Island Academy. In fact Sauvie Island Academy continues to be reliant on students coming from **off the** island to fulfill its enrollment goals.

A few important facts about the development restrictions on Sauvie Island

1. Over the last 8 years only 1 new home has been built on the island.
2. A substantial number of Sauvie Island Properties are zoned EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) which prevents any development, including single family residence unless the property owner is able to prove that their land supports an annual gross income of \$80,000 for several years prior to being granted a building permit.
3. The EFU zoning also requires 80-acre minimums to divide large tracts of land.
4. There are only a handful of buildable sites on the entire island that have the correct zoning and most of these are tied up in people's horse arenas and gardens.
5. Without substantial changes in the laws for State Land Use there is not the opportunity for any significant growth or development on the island.

There are currently 213 Students at Sauvie Island Academy with only 55 of them being Sauvie Island residents. When Sauvie Island Academy Converted to a public

Charter in 2011, the school had 176 students and 45 of them came from the island. Over the course of 4 years the on island student population has remained the same and never exceeded more than 25%.

It is important to note that if a public school other than Sauvie Island Academy existed on the island or in close proximity to our Sauvie Island Families we would not be here today to ask for your help in renewing the already approved waiver.

However, given that a "public" charter school exists less than a few hundred feet from my own front door and in close proximity to all island residents; the critical question becomes, "Is sending the student off the island to Scappoose area schools many miles away good for kids? Or is a better solution for these students to be able to attend the school next door? I do not believe busing students to another zip code the solution, but rather allowing them to continue to attend the school closest to them, is what is best for kids.

To help give you perspective, I recently contacted First Student Bus Company who supplies transportation for the Scappoose School District. I think it is important to understand the bus schedule the Sauvie Island children would be expected to follow in order to attend a Scappoose School, the only other option in our district.

The Daily Bus Routine for my 5-year-old kindergartener would look something like this:

Parents would need to transport their child to Bus Pick-up Location at a chosen location on the island

Bus Pick-up at 7:05am

Arrive at High school in Scappoose at 8:00am

Transfer to Bus which takes student to Grant Watts Elementary School 8:30am

Total Bus Time: 1:25

*Return Bus trip to Sauvie Island*

Pick up at Grant Watts 2:55pm

Bus takes student to Hub (Scappoose Middle School) Arrive at 3:30pm

Transfer Bus takes to Sauvie Island, Arrive at 4:30pm

Total Bus Time: 1:35

If my kindergartener were able to attend Sauvie Island Academy, it would be a short 2-minute walk from our front door.

According to the National Sleep Foundation a School Age Child ages 5-10 needs 10-11 hours of sleep each night. In order to meet the outlined bus schedule a child would need to wake up each morning at around 5:30 and be in bed at 6:30 each

night. If a child doesn't arrive home until after 4:30 this leaves a total of 2 hours of time to eat dinner, spend time with their families and get their homework done. 2 hours of down time is arguably not enough for an adult, let alone a child.

The Academy of Pediatrics or AAP released [a new policy statement recently saying](#) that "insufficient sleep in adolescents [is] an important public health issue that significantly affects the health and safety, as well as the academic success, of our nation's students.

According to the AAP Chronic sleep loss contributes to higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and obesity. Long-term deprivation has also been shown to be a factor in lower test scores, decreased attention span, tardiness, concentration, and overall academic achievement

It is unfortunate if the waiver is not renewed that this becomes the reality for our elementary aged children. The potential stress on our children and on our Sauvie Island families is insurmountable. It is our duty as parents and as educators to put systems in place, which help our children have a happy and healthy childhood. To protect time for them to be free of the impending stresses that life brings about, especially as a kindergartener learning how to be a student for the first time. Sending the children of Sauvie Island into Scappoose for school, with the 3 hour commute attached to it, is asking too much of our children especially when another option exists. The option is having criteria to send the Sauvie Island children to Sauvie Island Academy.

In conclusion, I ask that as the State Board of Education you do what is best for kids and allow the Sauvie Island Academy waiver to be renewed and remain in place for the coming years.