

Lastly I have heard you ask

Why was our waiver original approved - ?

What  
I would  
say is →

We are an island! - growth is limited

The number of island residence will always be limited to the number of homes - SIA will never be filled by island residents

We are the neighborhood school - there is no other school on the island, the alternative is a 45 min to an hour 20 bus ride to school

We will always have a need for non-island residents - in order to survive

Before your work session -

→ I encourage you to come see SIA. It would help in your discussion and decisions regarding our waiver. Come meet those which your decision impact the most.

Our doors are always open, and you are always welcome -

Thank you for your time

Therefore,

it is the Law, not the waivers - fighting <sup>against</sup> your idea of equal access for all!

SIA's waiver <sup>simply</sup> establishes criteria for island residents in our lottery - however it does not guarantee them a spot!

In fact, 37 of our 55 island students are siblings and that is what gives the "priority" access according to the law -

This leaves only 18 (or 8%) of our island students accessing SIA through the criteria of our waiver → again this is not a guarantee, it just establishes where they are in a lottery

→ I have island students on my waitlist!

In previous meetings:

② I have heard the board's concerns about waivers potentially limiting minority students access to public charter schools.

The reality is for us - that our minority population comes from the island, therefore having the waiver for island residents actually supports our migrant families on the island to access SIA.

With out the waiver they would simply meet the "priority" of in-district students - but this falls after the returning students and after the sibling - so the odds would not be good for them.

In all actuality, SIA is dependent on students coming from off the island to be self-sustaining.

SIA's charter is written in such a way that classes are limited to 24 students per grade and only one class per grade. Our Cap is 216.

Currently we have 213 students - with only 55 (or 25%) being island residents. When we converted in 2011, we enrolled 176 students and 45 (or 25%) were island residents.

Therefore, since 2011 to Now the percentage of enrollment full filled by island residents has remained the same. 25%

Also in prior meetings:

③ I have heard the board's concerns about "equal access for all students to charter schools" however the current ORS 338.125 3(b) states

"(b) After a public charter school has been in operation for one or more years, the public charter school may give priority for admission to students who:

A) - were enrolled the previous yr

B) - have siblings who are + have been enrolled

C) - in district students

These "priorities" are beyond SIA's control - they are the law - so the equal access that you are speaking of is already impossible because of the law -> <sup>the</sup> out of district students

are last and lucky to get into a charter school

## Darla Meenwsen - Sauvie Island Academy

Today - I want to share some information with you regarding Sauvie Island Academy, which is important for you to consider before your work session on charter school waivers.

Sauvie Island Academy serves not only as a school, but also as the community center for the island. The island is an agricultural and rural community. The island does not have a post office, a grocery store, or even a gas station, but <sup>what</sup> it does have <sup>is</sup> a school. The residents have worked long and hard to maintain a school on the island, a school with in their community. Even if it meant converting, to a public charter school, to exist.

In your prior board meetings:

Ⓐ I have heard you speak of concerns that our waiver would allow our school to be filled only by the island students, but the reality is that this is not possible.

Due to the fact we are an <sup>island</sup> and the constraints placed on the island from the state, the county and the city - regarding land use, construction, and restricted growth - the island's ability to grow is simply self-limiting. Meaning the current population of homes and home sites that exist is unable to increase due to the land use restrictions.

This limits the number of homes and families that will ever be on the island - thus controlling the number of children potentially attending SIA.