

Received via email at office@alpinewy.gov on September 11th, 2024.

Dear Mayor Green and Alpine Town Council

We are unable to attend the meeting but wish to express our support for the Town of Alpine leasing the land dedicated for a school NOW, as intended by the Alpine master plan. It is hard to imagine a better opportunity to get this building constructed at any time in the future. We need to seize the opportunity now!

It is important to note this is a commitment to a school, exactly as the master plan has provided. It is not a permanent commitment to a particular charter or curriculum. In fact, Superintendent Erickson has noted that as long as the building is built to the state school standards, the district could potentially take this location under its wings in the future. However, the only other alternative Alpine has for a local school is to wait for the state facility process, which is extremely slow and not designed to respond to dramatic population shifts, such as we have already seen in the last 5 years.

It is also important to note that in Wyoming charter schools are 100 percent funded by the state school foundation. There is no cost for tuition, and no impact on local property taxes. This is a fiscally responsible decision to provide stability, opportunity, and equity for Alpine families.

Committing land to a school sends a strong message about the kind of community Alpine wants to become: a family friendly, sustainable, and supportive community. It will offer a positive option to families and students whose mental health and academics are currently at a profound disadvantage.

This is an opportunity to work hand in hand with community partners to obtain something Alpine residents clearly want and support. It accelerates a process that would take decades if we wait for the state. It should not be missed!

Neal and Pauline Zeren

Nordic Ranches