

From: Haley Heinz <heinz.hale@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 7, 2025 5:19 PM

To: Eric Green <mayor@alpinewy.gov>; Emily Castillo <emilyrosewy@protonmail.com>; Shay Scaffide <shayscaffide@gmail.com>; Jeremy Larsen <jlarsen@alpinewy.gov>; Andrea Burchard <aburchard@alpinewy.gov>; janine.teske@wyoboard.gov; cindy.delancey@wyoboard.gov; fred.vonahrens1@wyoboard.gov; john.masters@wyoboard.gov; alan.buss@wyoboard.gov; doug.chamberlain1@wyoboard.gov; joseph.feiler@wyoboard.gov; john.wahler@wyo.gov; elaine.marcas@wyo.gov

Cc: Monica Chenault <clerk@alpinewy.gov>

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Alpine Charter School's Approval Process

Dear Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board, Alpine Town Council Members, and Mayor Green,

My name is Haley Heinz, and I am a long-time educator in Wyoming with eight years of experience in public schools. More importantly, I am a resident of Alpine, Wyoming, and I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the approval process for the Alpine Charter School.

I have been closely following the developments of this project and, while I appreciate the revocation of American Preparatory Academy (APA) as the charter school provider, I am still left with numerous questions and reservations about the path forward. Most notably, I am troubled by the potential partnership with Academica and its ties to Opportunity Education. A quick review of Joe Ricketts, the founder and CEO, raises concerns about his involvement in controversial real estate developments in Bondurant and Pinedale, Wyoming—both communities have voiced significant opposition to his projects. Given his history, I ask: how confident are you that Academica's involvement will not bring similar issues to our town?

Additionally, during the public hearing in September 2024, several community members voiced concerns about the original plan for a simple, cost-effective stick building. At that time, we were promised a transparent, well-thought-out process. However, now it appears the solution is to place modular buildings and to do so with a special use permit that bypasses the town's Land Use Development Code. Can you clarify how this decision aligns with the original community assurances, especially considering the funds allocated for this project? How can the town justify this deviation from what was initially promised to the public?

For the Town Council and Mayor Green, I am particularly concerned about the plot of land behind the fire department where the modular buildings are proposed. While other locations, including near the sewer and Melvin Brewing, were considered, but not granted because Dave Jenkins worried it wouldn't pass the traffic study- that he never did! The decision to place the school near one of Alpine's largest residential neighborhoods raises valid questions about safety and community impact, yet there seems to be little effort to address these concerns in a meaningful way. The optics of granting prime land to the charter school without a comprehensive traffic study and without full consideration of the

community's needs and feedback are troubling, especially knowing they didn't want the land by the sewer.

Mayor Green, in [our email exchange](#) from December 2024, I commended you for requesting vital information, such as traffic studies and enrollment studies. However, these essential documents are still missing. How can the project move forward without these crucial assessments? It is disheartening to see that the concerns raised by the community, myself included, remain unaddressed.

Lastly, it is concerning that the Alpine Charter Board, despite having the opportunity to purchase land, has instead resorted to placing temporary modular buildings on town land. These buildings, which may not meet the community's expectations for a safe and lasting educational environment as they are rumored to have mold and to have never been inspected, are a poor substitute for the robust, permanent structure that Alpine children deserve. I ask you to consider halting this project until a proper, permanent solution is found; one that aligns with the values and aspirations of our town.

In conclusion, I urge any of you on the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board, the Town Council, and/or Mayor Green to take a step back, listen to the community's concerns, and ensure that this project is done with the long-term welfare of Alpine's children and families in mind. Alpine deserves a school it can be proud of—one that serves our children's needs for generations to come, not just a temporary fix.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Haley Heinz
Alpine Resident

Mr. John Wahler or Ms. Elaine Marces, could you please forward this email to Mr. Steven Lupien as his email is not provided on your website? Thank you.

Clerk Chenault, could you please enter this into the public record? Additionally, Councilwoman Scaffide's email isn't listed on your website like the other members. Could this be fixed? Thank you.