

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

**Sent:** Monday, June 9, 2025 5:25 PM

**To:** Eric Green <mayor@alpinewy.gov>

**Cc:** Monica Chenault <clerk@alpinewy.gov>

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

Dear Mayor Green,

While I have only lived in Alpine for two years, my husband is a proud graduate of LCSD schools (elementary through high school) and we moved back here with a strong sense of commitment to this community. We care deeply about Alpine and its future.

To suggest that my concerns are less valid because I do not have children is not only deeply personal, but also inappropriate. Many residents, parents or not, are engaged taxpayers and community members who care about how public land is used and how decisions impact the integrity and future of Alpine. I respectfully caution against using parental status as a qualifier for civic engagement. You don't know what someone may be going through privately, and this kind of rhetoric shuts people out of the conversation instead of bringing them in.

Regarding your question about solutions, I've laid out specific concerns about the charter proposal, including the fact that it violates our Land Use and Development Code and requires the donation of public land. I've also cited data from the National Center for Charter School Accountability showing that 26% of charter schools close within five years, and 55% within twenty. As someone earning a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, I believe Alpine deserves something stable, accountable, and publicly governed.

If we're serious about increasing school access for Alpine families, I would strongly support working with LCSD to expand the Etna Elementary School into a full K–6 campus. That's a viable, long-term solution that doesn't require circumventing the LUDC or gambling on a charter model with a high national failure rate. I encourage you to push for that option with Superintendent Erickson and Senator Dockstader.

Lastly, I've offered more than once to meet and discuss this constructively. One instance was on October 9, 2024, and the other was on April 17, 2025.

A superintendent I once worked with and had as a mentor had a guiding principle: "We do what's best for kids." I encourage you to ask yourself the same question as you prepare to vote next Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Haley Heinz

Alpine Resident & Wyoming Public School Teacher