

LARA WEISIGER

From: Lindsay <lindsay.revelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 2:06 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Small Size Big Mind 2nd Campus Project at Alameda Point

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Small Size Big Mind Second Campus Project proposed for Alameda Point on the West End. There is a desperate need for high-quality childcare and preschools in Alameda and the Bay Area as a whole. The Small Size Big Mind program is a unique one, concentrating on early childhood learning and a true care for their development. The school would benefit the community a great deal, and it would help in job creation, valuable West End development, and encourage use of the existing Main Street ferry terminal. We wholeheartedly support this proposal and hope that the City of Alameda agrees that this will be a great addition to this beautiful City.

Thank you,

Lindsay Revelli

LARA WEISIGER

From: Jennifer Jeffers <jennifer.r.jeffers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 11:53 AM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Michael Balster
Subject: Letter of Support: Small Size Big Mind second campus (CC agenda item 6E for 7/24/18)

Dear City Council Members:

My family has been avid supporters of Small Size Big Mind (SSBM) for the last 2.5 years. We are writing in support of the SSBM Campus Agenda Item 6E on tonight's agenda. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the meeting in person to voice our support, but appreciate this note reaching the City Council members prior to the meeting.

One of our children is currently in SSBM's Pre-K room and the other in the Infant Room and we cannot say enough about the quality of care and learning they receive, the community we have met, and the commitment to the students the SSBM owners and staff exemplify.

We moved to Alameda nearly three years ago and were shocked to find a lack of quality child care centers available on the island (and those that were had literally years-long waitlists). We still feel very fortunate to have gotten in at SSBM when we did, and would implore the City Council to approve a second campus for the school to help address and alleviate the child-care demand of fellow Alameda families. In particular, a second campus on the western end of the island would serve many existing and future families in that area, alleviating driving/commuting/congestion concerns on the rest of the island, and it would also be located close to the Main Street Ferry -- a fantastic resource for working parents commuting to/from San Francisco.

Alameda is a wonderful place for families to call home, but ensuring available and accessible high-quality child care options goes hand-in-hand with attracting and keeping residents. Approving the SSBM Second Campus will go a long way toward improving the current deficit of child care options on the Island and also positively contribute toward the education and development of our children. Thank you for your consideration, and hopeful approval, of the project.

Regards,
Jennifer Jeffers and Michael Balster
1334 Grove Street, Alameda

LARA WEISIGER

From: Vidya Sundaram <vidsquid@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 10:40 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Comment of support for Small Size Big Mind

To the members of the Alameda City Council:

I would like to express my support for Small Size Big Mind to open a preschool at Alameda Point in the West End of Alameda. I am traveling out of town this week and wanted to share my comments by email. I am an Alameda resident and a parent of two young scholars at Small Size Big Mind. My daughter has attended the school for two years, and my son began two months ago.

My family chose Small Size Big Mind after researching more than one dozen preschools in Alameda. **The school is exemplary in its focus on all aspects of child development.** Small Size Big Mind stood out for the incredibly engaging facility (and beautiful playground lovingly maintained by the owners and staff), professionalism of the owners and staff, and the caring and respectful community surrounding the school. My children are nurtured both socially and academically. All staff members are committed to creating a stable and caring learning environment.

For parents, the decision of where to send our children to daycare/preschool is one of the most important and difficult decisions we'll ever have to make. In our case, Small Size Big Mind made it easy for us. During our walks along the bay, my daughter (as a 2 year old) would point excitedly at the colorful playground at Small Size Big Mind as we passed and began to call it "Park School" and told us she wanted to go there. When we began to research schools, my husband and I were won over as well by the staff. Both my children have thrived at Small Size Big Mind. My daughter, now 5, is starting Kindergarten next month and thanks to her teachers, is exceedingly well-prepared.

We feel incredibly lucky to have secured spots for our children at Small Size Big Mind, and hope that the incredibly dedicated owners, Malyka and Laurence, will be able to open a second campus to make their high-quality program accessible to more families.

Sincerely,
Vidya Sundaram
2913 Bayview Drive
Alameda CA

LARA WEISIGER

From: Lauren Davis <laurendavis820@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 8:39 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Small size Big mind
Subject: Support for Small Size Big Mind's new campus

Hello,

I am an Alameda resident (since 2015) and first-time home buyer (2017) and my son has been attending Small Size Big Mind since 2015 (he was almost 2 years old). He is now 5 and will be attending Maya Lin kindergarten in the fall.

Small Size has been an incredible environment for my son's very formative early years, he has flourished there. The teachers and community of families became a big part of our choice to stay on the island and endure the very difficult process of house-hunting and eventually becoming home-owners!

Small Size provided an incredible introduction to the sense of community and inclusive, loving and community-minded values that we feel embody this wonderful "city". We've become dear friends with many of my son's classmates/parents and know that these bonds will remain long past our fast-approaching transition to kindergarten.

My only regret is that we didn't find (or rather get into!) Small Size sooner! As it was, we were only able to get a spot for our son on a "temporary" basis due to a very full enrollment and wait list....Very luckily for us, a permanent spot opened within months and my son was able to enjoy 2 1/2 years as a student there.

I know there are many, many families on the wait list who would benefit greatly from the new campus opening. We have always lived on the "west side" and though I will miss Small Size greatly, I will not miss the commute from the Main Street ferry station across the island every morning and afternoon during "rush hour"! This can take ~45 minutes round trip from the central/west side (Weber and Central) to Small size and all the way back to the Main Street Ferry parking area. I've missed my boat numerous times because of unexpected traffic/parking delays.

The West Side is growing so quickly with the new developments on the base and neighborhoods. Opening a 2nd Small Size campus here on this side of the island would benefit so many existing and new families. I wholeheartedly recommend the new location!

I am unable to attend the hearing tomorrow due to work commitments.

Please contact me if any additional information would be helpful.

Warm regards,

Lauren Davis
mother of Rowan Davis (Small Size class of 2018, Alameda High Class of 2031)
Resident of 1345 Weber Street
Professional life: Government Affairs, Genentech

LARA WEISIGER

From: yvonne obenchain <yobenchain5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 4:16 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Small size Big Mind Preschool opening

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the potential opening of the preschool on Alameda's west end. I am the on site director of Small size Big Mind Infant Care and Preschool and also a teacher in the two and three year old class. I have known the owners, Laurence and Malyka for 17 years and have worked at their existing campus for 9 years.

Watching their preschool grow and grow over the years has been amazing. Their preschool has made such a positive impact on the Alameda community. I have witnessed first hand how many families have benefitted from the quality education their child has had at Small size Big mind and how prepared the children are as they head off to kindergarten.

Laurence and Malyka truly understand the importance of a positive, high quality early education for children. They strive to have a beautiful environment, a phenomenal curriculum and a superb staff. All of which produce a successful beginning for our young children.

As a preschool teacher I am proud to be a part of this wonderful school. As a director, however, there is a part of my job that is not very pleasant. And that is to tell a potential family who has reached out to us for placement for their child, that we are fully enrolled until the year 2021. This leaves most families no opportunity to become a part of our school community as most children will be off to kindergarten by the time we have an opening. Alameda needs more high quality preschools. Laurence and Malyka have proven to our community that high quality is what they stand for and what they deliver.

A second Small size Big mind campus is just what the city of Alameda needs. Many many families will be grateful.

Thank you,
Yvonne Obenchain
Director Small size Big mind

LARA WEISIGER

From: Amanda Guilbeaux <aguilbeaux@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 3:23 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Small Size Big Mind Preschool support

Hello!

I wanted to send a message of support for the 2nd campus location of Small Size Big Mind Preschool. My family has decided to choose this school for our son because of how happy the children are at their current location and the clear love and support the school has for these children. Olive, is my first and only child and as such I am very protective of him. Its not an easy decision to choose child care for this reason and I had searched for a perfect fit since I was 4 months pregnant. I've been on waitlists and viewed other schools but none have impressed me as much as Big Size Little Mind.

The moment I visited the school, I was greeted with such warmth from the owners and given an impromptu tour. The amount of time they spent with my family was very kind and thorough. They explained all of the different programs and activities and really put my mind at ease. I also notice how extremely HAPPY the children were. The school really has a unique approach visually and takes an artistic approach. I loved added measures they took to explain how they help shy children or children who come to school with anxiety.

The idea to have a campus at Alameda Point is wonderful! Not only will that ensure my child a place in this school but they can expand the playground and the children will have so much space for new activities. What a fantastic way to learn! I might even start to use the ferry due to convenience. I enjoy that area currently and would be able to spend more time there.

I'm unable to make the City Council meeting tonight, but please take these thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Guilbeaux