



August 19, 2022

Via Email

Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Board of Trustees
c/o Superintendent's Office
P.O. Box 1031
Monterey, CA 93942-1031

Re: Affordable Childcare Facilities

Dear Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board:

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Monterey County Hospitality Association (MCHA) regarding the urgent need for affordable childcare for our workforce.

The hospitality industry in Monterey County employs over 23,000 employees throughout the county. Most of our employees reside in Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside and Marina. Many employees within our industry have young children and almost every family is challenged to find a pre-k childcare. As an industry, we see a significant need for additional childcare, especially during the pre-k stage.

Our membership participated in the recent childcare survey conducted through Bright Beginnings. The survey was extensive and has a lot of valuable information in it. Although we did not have a large number of participants, it is clear there is huge demand for additional childcare facilities.

Our employees are faced with both the high cost of childcare and the lack of availability. Our industry continues to face a worker shortage and many people who would like to return to work are forced to stay home to take care of their children.

We believe the survey results clearly demonstrate the need for additional childcare facilities. Both the Monte Vista and Foothill Elementary school sites deserve to be studied to see if they are viable options to help alleviate the need for affordable pre-k childcare facilities.

We ask for your support to take the next step to study how to transition these sites into affordable childcare facilities. There is no doubt there is significant demand from our industry here on the Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Watson". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Mark Watson
Chair, Monterey County Hospitality Association