



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

Senator Jeb Bradley

State House, Room 120
(603) 271-3207

July 8, 2020

Representative Mary Jane Wallner, Chair
Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Representative Wallner and Members of the Fiscal Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School located in Conway, New Hampshire. Northeast Woodland would be New Hampshire's newest charter school. Northeast Woodland will be a Waldorf inspired public charter school that will focus on outdoor education. You can learn more about Northeast Woodland at www.northeastwoodland.org and I urge you to do so.

Northeast Woodland has hired a Harvard educated woman with significant experience to run the school and she has moved to New Hampshire. The school has offered contracts to a number of highly qualified teachers. Northeast Woodland has broad community support with 134 enrollment applications and likely will fill their cap of 143 students. Northeast Woodland has leased the former Granite State College building.

At this point, the major obstacle to opening in September is the necessary start up funding of approximately \$375,000. Northeast Woodland has proceeded through the process with the expectation that their start up costs could be covered by the \$46 million federal grant. To the best of my knowledge this is the first charter school application to be impacted by not accepting the federal grant.

I hope the Fiscal Committee will reconsider its position and move to accept the grant. Many families and most importantly, many students will be adversely impacted if Northeast Woodland cannot open.

Please look carefully at the documents I have forwarded with this letter from Jason Gagnon who chairs the board of Northeast Woodland. If you have any further questions, Mr. Gagnon can be contacted at 603-986 9921 and jngagnon@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeb Bradley in black ink.
Jeb Bradley

FIS 20-029 Additional Information #2

July 9, 2020

Joint Fiscal Committee
NH State Legislature

Dear Honorable Members of the Fiscal Committee,

As you prepare to again consider acceptance of the Federal Charter School Startup Grant funds tomorrow, I wanted to provide an update on where Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School currently stands. When the federal startup funds were originally on the agenda for acceptance, Northeast Woodland had not yet officially received its charter from the Board of Education. Our charter was officially granted in March of this year and we are preparing to open in September of this year. We need your help to ensure that happens.

About Northeast Woodland:

- We are the first chartered public school to successfully complete the updated, more-rigorous charter school application process and were commended by the Board of Education for our model application.
- With almost two months remaining before opening day, we have already received 120 completed student applications for enrollment from early childhood through seventh grade (our year one cap is 143, including early childhood).
- We have hired a Harvard educated, nationally recognized educator with both Waldorf and traditional public school experience as Head of School. She has packed up her family and relocated to New Hampshire specifically for this opportunity and is in the process of purchasing a home in Madison.
- In addition to our Head of School, we have hired an excellent faculty of educators, some of whom have also relocated their families to New Hampshire specifically for the opportunity to teach at Northeast Woodland.
- All told, Northeast Woodland is creating at least 18 new, high-quality jobs providing competitive pay and full health insurance benefits to teachers in a part of the state heavily impacted by COVID-19's effect on the tourism economy.
- Northeast Woodland is the first public Waldorf-inspired, outdoor education focused school of its kind in the northeastern United States. Our outdoor focus in particular works to develop the foundational skills needed to support the outdoor recreation economy of the Mount Washington Valley and northern New Hampshire.

Attached to this letter are photos showing the families of Northeast Woodland including why, in their own words, the educational opportunity provided by Northeast Woodland is so important to them.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking the time to look through the photos as you get to know the Northeast Woodland community and why your acceptance of these funds is so important to so many New Hampshire families.

Respectfully submitted,

Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School

CC: Governor Chris Sununu
Senator Dan Feltes
Senator Jeb Bradley
Senator David Watters
Senator Jay Kahn
Senator Tom Sherman
Senator Martha Fuller Clark
Executive Councilor Michael Cryans
Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky
Executive Councilor Russell Prescott
Executive Councilor Ted Gatsas
Executive Councilor Debora Pignatelli
Commissioner Frank Edelblut

The background features a stylized sunset with a large orange and yellow arc at the top. Below it, there are silhouettes of people walking in a line, rendered in shades of blue and green. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Community is one of our core values at Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School.

We want to share with you some of

Our Community,
and why they need this school to succeed & thrive.



Hello I'm
Sarah Arnold
I am so excited to
become a
NH citizen.

I was drawn to the Mount
Washington Valley for this
unique opportunity to join
a Waldorf-inspired
public school with
an outdoor education
focus.

Kindergarten
Teacher
Carolyn
Harrison loves
taking her
class outside
to learn.





The Miller Family
Conway, NH



Waldorf education, with its focus on arts, music, and movement has transformed my oldest child from an easily distracted, frustrated learner who was constantly in the Principal's office & losing confidence in himself into an engaged, active participant in the education of his entire class. The outdoor time, physical activity, and arts integration at Northeast Woodland are crucial to his continued academic success.
~ The Gagnon Family



Jack's attention for learning in the outdoors is where he thrives most. Without it, he struggles emotionally & developmentally.

~The Wood Family

We have two boys & sending them to Northeast Woodland is ideal for our family. Our sons love the outdoors and are very active, Waldorf allows our sons to be up moving and learning.



~The Platt Family



Our little guy is high energy not ready to sit all day in kindergarten so we were first drawn in by the kindergarten program. After which our daughter was so excited she asked to switch.

With all of the things going on in our world so grateful for this school year.

Amber and Philip Eastty

I am excited to MOVE to North Conway and start my teaching career. Outdoor time has been proven to be beneficial for people, it impacts their stress levels & emotional states.

Dominic
Casamassima,
2nd Grade Teacher





I am MOVING TO
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FOR THIS JOB
because I've seen
the impact and
the beauty that
accessible Waldorf
education can have
within a community.

Elizabeth Emmet
Kindergarten
Teacher



Awareness of a child's social emotional and spiritual well being is very valuable to us and other families we know.

Kelly Gagnon- Math Specialist &
Assistant Head of School with 22 years of experience



Our family has been in a constant struggle to make ends meet and still provide our daughter the education that best fits who she is. Northeast Woodland will enable so many families to experience an education they never could have afforded otherwise.

Jen & Abby



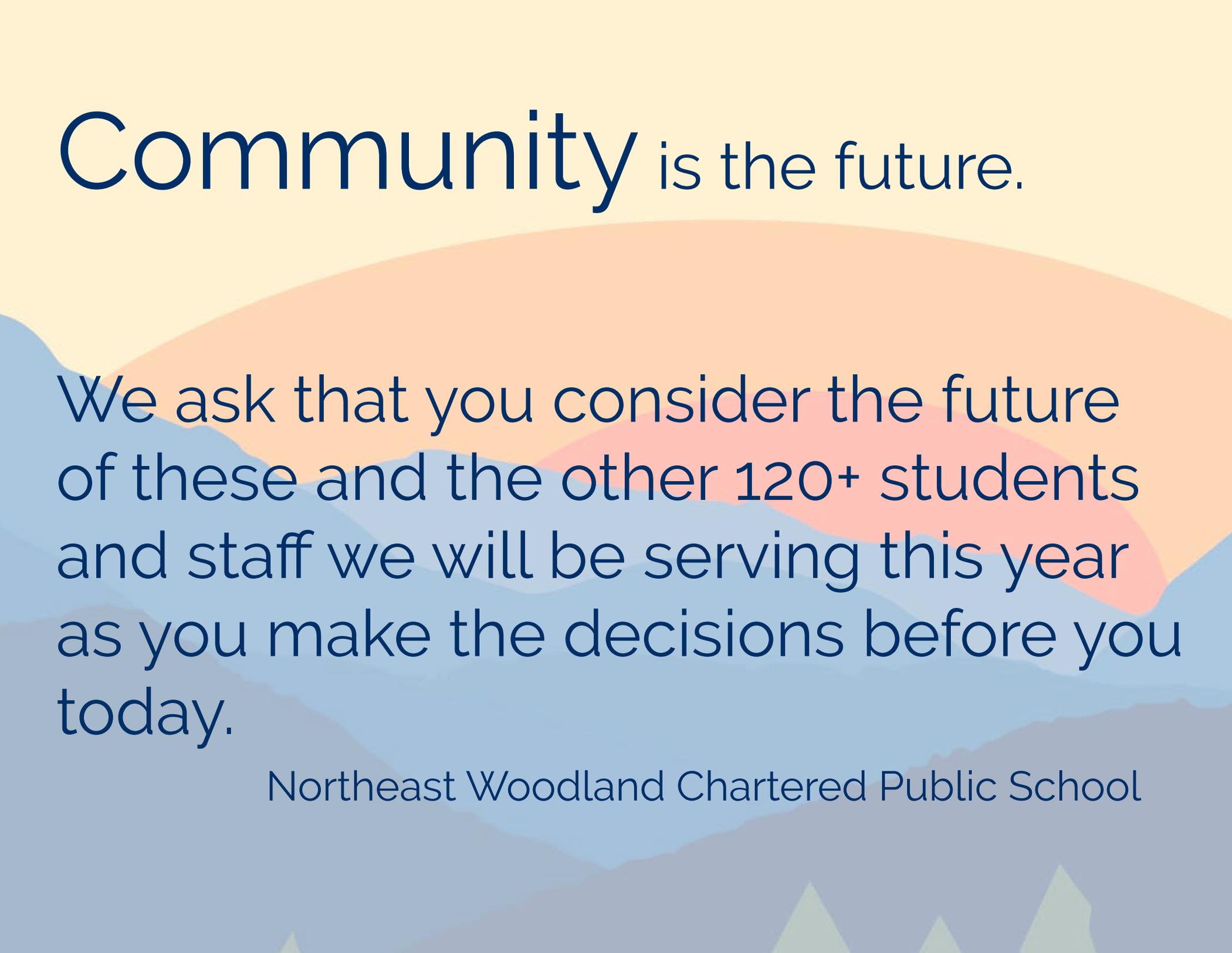
A strong focus on outdoor learning, allows for growth of the whole child. Physically, mentally, and emotionally. We feel strongly that this is the best environment for children to be educated in.

-The McKenney Family

With two active children our family is thrilled at the opportunity for them to attend Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School.



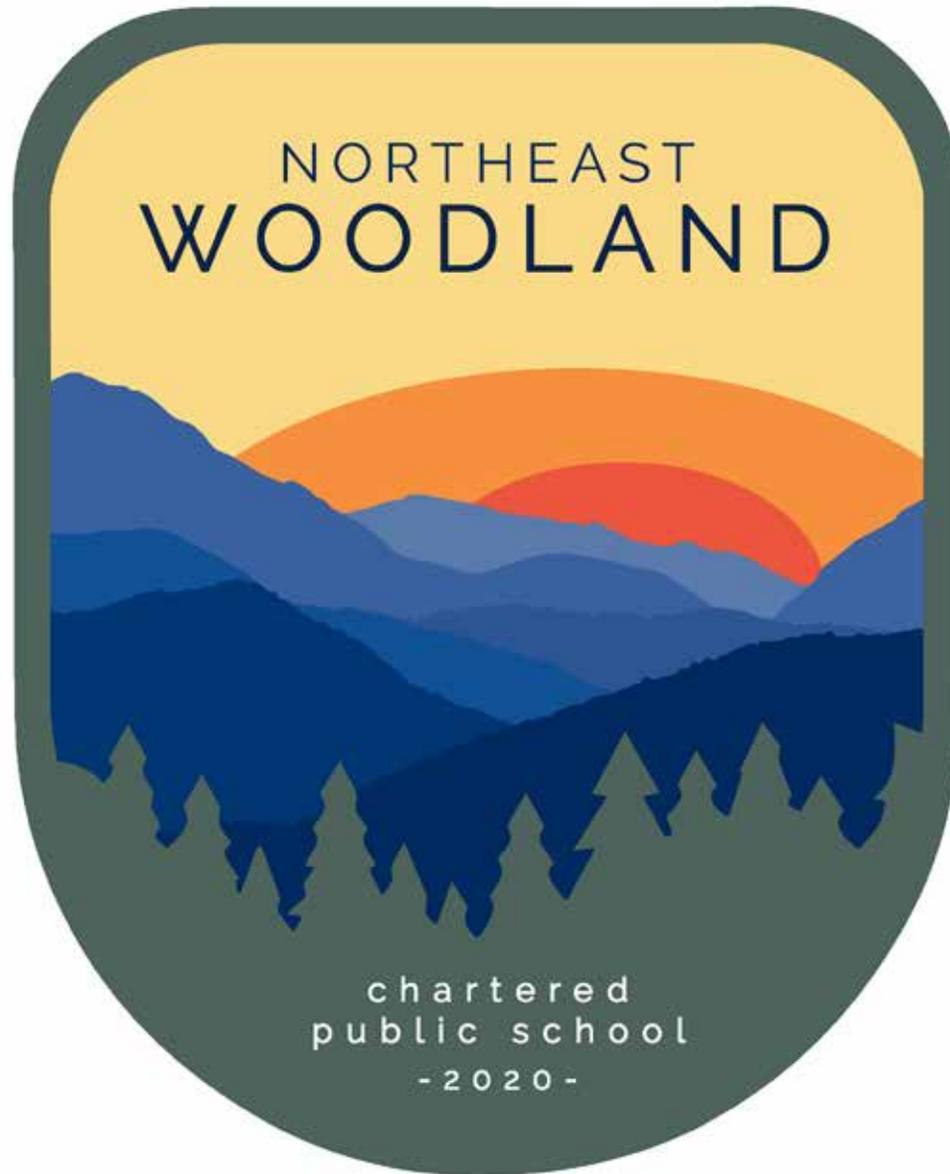
**Lydia
&
Brogan**



Community is the future.

We ask that you consider the future of these and the other 120+ students and staff we will be serving this year as you make the decisions before you today.

Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School



conway, new hampshire