

family relocation

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To: Dave Williams <dave.williams@bend.k12.or.us>;

Dear Bend LaPine School District Athletic Directors,

This letter is written, at the request of Mr. Williams, to document our family's rationale for relocating to Bend and, in particular, Bend Senior High School. We will discuss our parenting philosophy, why Bend is home for our family, why we desire our son(s) to attend Bend High School specifically, and ramifications on our careers as a physician and a physical therapist, as they pertain to this decision.

We have tried to raise well rounded boys who participate in a broad spectrum of activities. We have strived to influence them to be good students, friends, and teammates. Through Amy's influence, they have been competitive ski racers since a very young age. Through society's influence, they enjoy playing football. Forces beyond our design have exposed them to lacrosse. Our goal as parents is to facilitate our boys' participation in their three extra-curricular activities of choice, while not compromising their education. This is a difficult task in today's world where most children stop playing sports in middle school and many of the rest "specialize" in one year-round activity. Unfortunately, we have long recognized that if either of our two boys desired to competitively ski race in high school, it would be academically impossible from Vancouver, WA. When our older boy confirmed his desire to continue ski racing in high school, we approached his freshman high school counselor. The high school counselor respectfully recommended we take him elsewhere for the winter, as the travel and time commitments required of him would not be tolerated by teachers in Vancouver. The prospect of our boys transferring in and out of high schools every fall and spring seemed ill-advised from an academic and social perspective. Therefore, the seemingly obvious solution to us, our extended family, and circle of friends was to consummate our family's permanent relocation to Bend, where we have owned a condominium since 2008, in anticipation of this eventuality.

Owning property in Bend since 2008 has allowed our family and, in particular, our boys to partially grow up in Bend. Our boys attended countless craft and outdoor camps through Bend Parks and Recreation when they were young, were first introduced to lacrosse at a camp in Bend, have attended summer ski camps on Mt. Bachelor, have trained with MBSEF in the winter, and have attended other summer sports camps through Bend Parks and Recreation as they got older. We have friends throughout the community involved in various walks of life. Amy and I would like to work, live, and die in Central Oregon. As parents, we have been preparing for our permanent relocation to Bend for several years, should our boys decide to continue ski racing into high school. In the summer of 2014, I contacted my friend Dr. Ray Tien, neurosurgeon at The Center, Dr. James Verheyden, hand surgeon and president at The Center, and Dr. Ken Hanington, hand surgeon and colleague at Desert Orthopedics, informing them of our intent to permanently relocate to Bend. As one might imagine, my professional relocation to Central Oregon is welcomed by some, but perceived as a potential income threat by others (although possibly unwarranted). Our boys have always felt at home in Bend and their almost immediate acclimation to their schools and social groups speaks to that effect.

We enrolled our older son, Luke, at Bend Senior High School so that he could participate in the IB

Programme. We perceive that, in the competitive college application process, the IB Programme will best prepare him for success. IB Programmes were not available to us 30 years ago and we would like him to be exposed to that academic rigor. The local IB Programme in Vancouver was not a solution to our goal of allowing our boys to participate in their three chosen activities (ski racing, in particular) while attending one consistent public high school, the social benefits of which we feel are important. As such, we began our search for a house in Bend last spring. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2015, we made offers on four separate properties, all in the Bend Senior High School boundary. Unfortunately, we were out bid on all four in this over-heated real estate market. When it became apparent we were not going to secure a larger home than our condo in the immediate future, we moved the family to our condo at Mt. Bachelor Village and requested a boundary exemption for Luke to attend the IB Programme at Bend Senior High School, while we continue our home search. Coincidentally, as of 2/22/16, we have submitted our 5th offer on a property in the Bend High boundary. It is currently active and we are awaiting a response.

Moving a family is not a small project, especially when there are established careers involved. Amy, as a physical therapist, resigned from her employment in Vancouver and plans to explore professional opportunities in Bend as soon as she gets her Oregon PT license. Currently, she is most needed getting the boys settled into school and facilitating our move. My extraction from my practice is understandably slower and more complicated. Furthermore, it has competitive ramifications for physician practices in both Vancouver and Central Oregon. Therefore, I respectfully request that the information regarding my career contained herein be kept strictly confidential. As alluded to previously, I have friends and colleagues at both Central Oregon orthopedic practices, which complicates this matter further. My friends and colleagues at both the Center and Desert Orthopedics are aware of our family's permanent relocation to Bend. Confidentially, I am currently in formal discussions with one of those two groups regarding joining their group. However, such discussions at this stage of my career are quite complex and do not have a well-defined timeline. In the meantime, a percentage of my income is now subject to Oregon state income tax. We do not intend, nor can we afford, to maintain our residence in Vancouver, WA. However, until we can exchange our 900 square foot condo in Bend for a house, we have no real place to move our furniture. We are confident it will eventually all come together.

We hope this letter has allowed you to understand that our decision to relocate to Bend and, in particular, Bend Senior High School, is motivated by parents doing their best in an imperfect world. We are trying to raise well rounded young men, to the best of our ability. We believe, in order to do that, kids and young adults should be encouraged to participate in multiple activities, pursue their dreams, make lasting relationships, excel in school, and have fun. Had this move been motivated by the pursuit of "athletic supremacy," especially with regards to football, it would have been much easier to enroll our sons in one of several private football "powerhouses" west of the Cascades or allow the older boy to attend defending football state champion Summit High School, the boundary in which our current condo resides. Instead, we enrolled our older son in Bend High so he could participate in the IB Programme and be influenced by its staff and student body.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy and Doug Musgrave