

December 12, 2023

Dear Honorable Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers,

Thank you for bringing forward the resolution in Item 4.4: Support of Child Care for All at your December 12th meeting. The Council's commitment to enhancing child care services is a significant step towards fostering the overall development and well-being of the families in our community.

The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) is dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood learning experiences. We understand the critical role these programs play in supporting families, ensuring children receive a strong educational foundation, and allowing parents to participate fully in the workforce.

Sustaining these early childhood programs, especially those that provide care and enrichment at no cost to parents, requires collaborative efforts at the federal, state, and local levels beyond what MVWSD can alone provide. The City's support in advocating for increased funding and resources maintains and expands MVWSD's early childhood initiatives. We currently provide high-quality learning experiences for preschool-aged children through two programs:

1. Our award-winning preschool program provides foundational learning experiences for our youngest learners. Currently the program serves 140 students ages 2.9-4 years in both free and paid programs. MVWSD contributes \$538,000 per year in addition to funding received from the state. MVWSD is also considering expanding preschool for the 2024-25 school year to serve more students for a longer school year and longer school day at a potential total cost of \$1,400,000.
2. Our transitional kindergarten (TK) program bridges the gap between preschool and kindergarten for 4- to 5- year olds. This free program serves 163 students, and MVWSD contributes \$1,800,000 annually. Providing a TK program to all eligible children is required by state law.



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As a community funded school district, MVWSD does not receive financial support from the State; this unfunded mandate is paid for through our local taxes. Due to increased demand, MVWSD will expand TK next year at a total cost of \$2,800,000.

We anticipate a total cost of \$4.2 million next year for our preschool and TK programs, with costs increasing in 2025-26. While these programs prove immensely beneficial, their sustainability, and possible expansion, depends on continued financial support. The Council's leadership on child care makes a substantial impact on the lives of countless families in our community. Thank you. MVWSD looks forward to the opportunity for further collaboration with the City in supporting the well-being of our children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devon Conley", written in a cursive style.

Devon Conley
President, Mountain View Whisman School Board

Cc: Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager