

Up-Island Regional School District
8 State Road
PO Box 60
Chilmark, MA 02535



Susan O. Stevens, Principal
Mary Ambulos, Secretary
508 645-2562 phone
508 645-2460 fax

**CHILMARK
SCHOOL**
SINCE 1683

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2022

Town of Chilmark
Board of Selectmen
Front Desk

Chilmark Select Board
Chilmark Town Hall
Beetlebung Corner
Chilmark, MA 02535

Attn: Bill Rossi
Warren Doty
Jim Malkin

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing on behalf of the Chilmark School. As the Head of School at the Chilmark School I would like to have some help with our spacing needs for next year. I know there has been a great deal of discussion about our problems with space. I am excited that we have been growing, as that is the task that you presented to me when I was hired. Little did I know that by working toward that goal I would run into so many obstacles, the main one being space.

I have enjoyed working with the Chilmark Preschool, thru Chris, Heather and now Anya and have tried to include them in activities we do whenever possible. We also include them in our Yoga classes by providing a time for them to have their own yoga class. When we built the playground, we generated a playground piece just for the preschool. They join us in lunch services, come to our performances, play after school with our students and have joined us for community lunch. We have tried to include them whenever possible. We still want them to be a part of our community, we just don't have room in the building anymore to house them. When that room was declared excess, there were only 30 students enrolled at the school. We could divide the 30 into 3 classrooms, so there was excess space. We currently have 70, and based on the ages and number of students we now need 5 classrooms. This does not leave extra space for small group meetings, SPED services that are provided by the district, small group lessons, or individual testing that needs to be done outside of the classroom. We are using every nook and cranny of the school to try to make it work.

At the last Select Board Meeting, it was stated that the town would be willing to offer up land for the Chilmark Preschool to use in building a permanent building, which is great. We love the preschool being a part of our campus, but can no longer house them in the building without having to go elsewhere with our students. The Chilmark philosophy is built on the idea of community. We do many activities with ALL of the students together to build that community

in the school. It was suggested that we move one of our classes over to the CCC. While that is an option, it compromises our community idea and separates one group of students from the larger group.

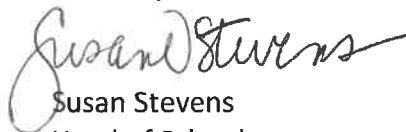
I am asking you to support moving the preschool into the smaller side of the CCC for next year, in hopes that a solution is found during the year, or the following year. They were there once before and it worked fine with the school continuing to use the building for gym on inclement days. I am sure they would need a commitment that there would not be any other uses of the space they were using. The big room could still be used by the community by using the ramp entrance, thus not causing the preschool to move out and back in whenever there was a community event.

Please let me know if you need any additional information, or have any questions on anything in this letter. I am hoping you all want to keep the Chilmark School open and flourishing, and we need this space to meet those goals.

I can be reached at 508-645-2562 or by email at sstevens@mvyps.org.

Thank you in advance for considering this request. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Stevens". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan Stevens
Head of School
Chilmark School