



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 are blue, layered mountain ranges. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of a crowd of people walking, with some wearing backpacks.

**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





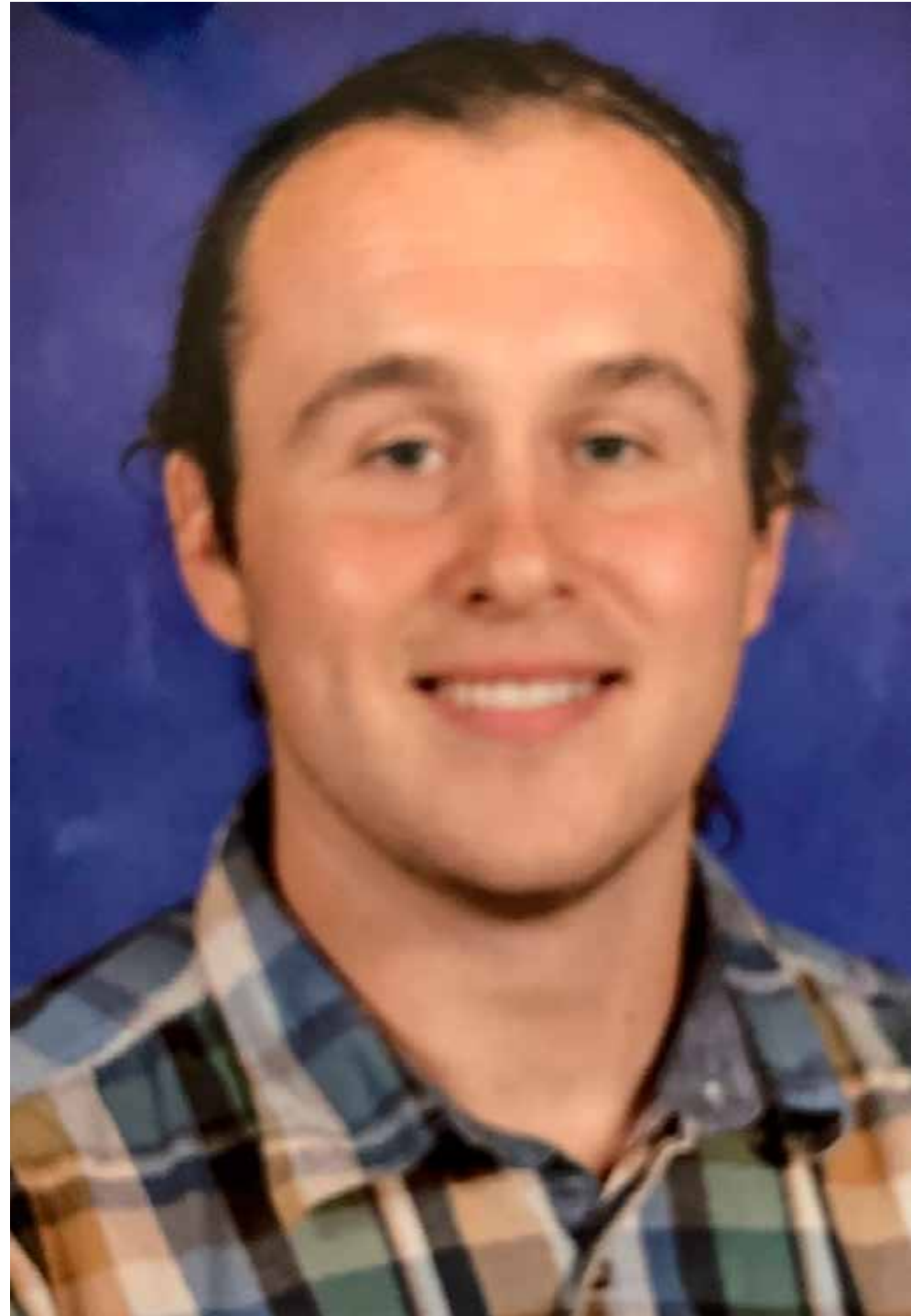
Our little guy is high energy not ready to sit all day in kindergarten so we were first drawn in by the kindergarten program. After which our daughter was so excited she asked to switch.

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.



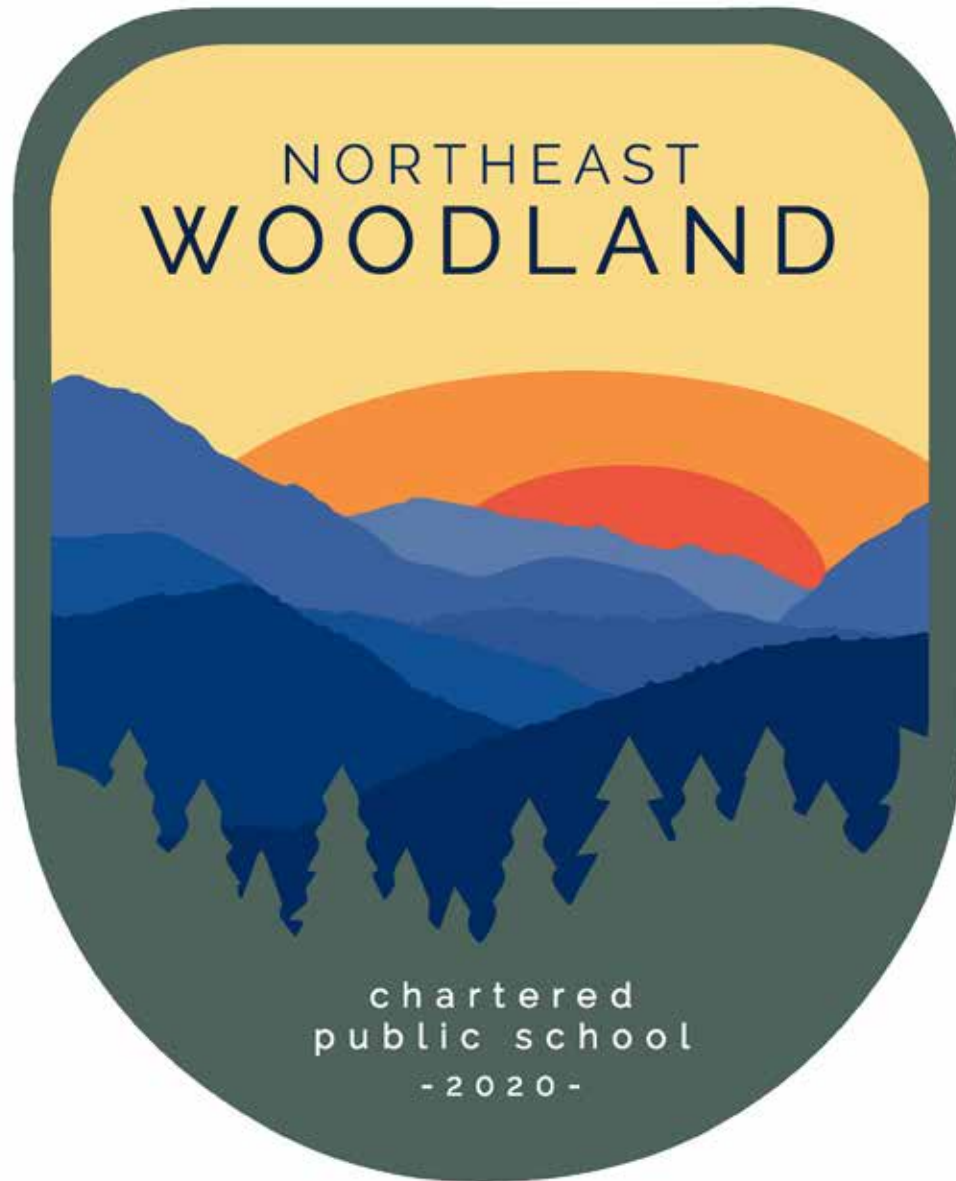
**Lydia  
&  
Brogan**



# 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