



The Nature School
of Central Indiana

17 March 2025

Education One
1 University Avenue
Angola, IN 46703

Subject: Letter of Intent to Renew the Charter of The Nature School of Central Indiana

Dear Education One,

This letter serves as formal notification that the Board of Directors of The Nature School of Central Indiana intends to seek renewal of its charter with Education One at Trine University.

The Nature School of Central Indiana remains committed to its mission of providing central-Indiana areas' learners with an exemplary education in a nature-based setting calling upon several academic principles, including, but not limited to, the pedagogical philosophies of Montessori and Waldorf as well as the concepts of experiential learning. In addition, continuing to address the needs of each child holistically and ingraining in them a lifelong love of learning, an awareness of their role in and connection to both their local community and the world, and a deep understanding of their individual abilities and potential with the ideal that nature is the best teacher.

We as a school board believe that The Nature School of Central Indiana has demonstrated the capacity, commitment, and results necessary for continued operation as a successful public charter school. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff over the current charter term, including

- **Start-Up:** School leadership successfully opened a brand-new charter school facility, demonstrating remarkable creativity, leadership, organization, and perseverance. This reflects the organization's capacity to create a new

educational environment for area families and students, while maintaining compliance with all standards, regulations, and requirements, despite unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Construction of a new yurt classroom and adoption of additional nature-based classrooms and spaces, highlighting a commitment to innovative and nature-based learning environments.
- **Recognition and Funding:** Awarded multiple grants and awards, showcasing the school's excellence and ability to secure external resources.
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** Development of successful club and extracurricular programs each term, supported by dedicated staff and family members, that expand student learning beyond the classroom.
- **Exemplary Arts Program:** Establishment of an exemplary drama club, supported in the community via a partnership to use the local theater for our productions, demonstrating a commitment to fostering students' artistic talent and expression as well as strong community ties.
- **High Demand:** A waitlist that nearly exceeds current enrollment, clearly demonstrating strong public interest in the school's programs and educational approach.

We understand and will adhere to the requirements and timeline established by Education One at Trine University for the charter renewal process. We look forward to reviewing the comprehensive renewal application that details our performance, demonstrates our ongoing commitment to high-quality education, and outlines our plans for continued growth and improvement.

Please consider this letter as our official declaration of intent to pursue charter renewal. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with Education One throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christen Rees', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christen Rees
Board Chair, The Nature School of Central Indiana