

# Letters To The Editor

To The Editor: *Oct. 27, 2016*

First, I want to thank the community for the support and hard work it provides to make our school district great. I am very proud to be your superintendent. Childcare for children under age 5 is a problem that also needs your support.

Studies have clearly demonstrated several benefits about high-quality daycare for children under age 5, which are better outcomes in education, social and economic status, and health as adults. Furthermore, children's brains develop to 90 percent of their capacity by age 5. Thus, not investing in childcare puts children at risk socially, mentally and in health.

Childcare is an invisible issue that affects our community in several ways. We have lost over 10 students in the past year due to parents taking their children to another community because they have a daycare that they can attend. This translates to a loss of over \$70,000 that our district cannot spend on our community's students.

Having the largest workforce in the county, we have had staff that has had to take their child out of our district and missed days of work when a daycare issue comes up. Business leaders in our community have told me that they and their employees face the same challenges.

Our community would benefit from a good childcare organization in many ways. Children are our future work-

force, so providing them with a quality local daycare helps prepare them to learn and grow. Good daycare correlates with a good workforce. Parents are able to stay locally for childcare, which contributes to their value as workers and consumers in the community. This will help reduce employee turnover and absenteeism. We all have a stake in providing a quality daycare in our community. Investing in good, local daycare would benefit our community, its economy, and its children.

We are currently planning to have Kiddie Cats Daycare attached to Mease Elementary in Dakota City. It will be a nonprofit organization for providing daycare for our community's children. We are currently half way in raising funds of \$1.5 million. They need your support financially to be successful to fill the void our community has. You can go to [www.Kiddiecatschildcare.com](http://www.Kiddiecatschildcare.com) or contact Alissa O'Connor, Humboldt County Economic Development Association Director at 332-2557 or myself if you have any questions or want to donate. Putting an investment into Kiddie Cats Daycare is an investment in both our community's workforce and its children.

Thank you for your past and future support! I feel blessed to be your superintendent and want to continue to aid our school and community to be the best.

**Greg Darling, Humboldt and Twin Rivers**

**Community School  
Districts Superintendent**