



June 5, 2018

Dear Green Hills Administration and Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in response to the redirection of "teacher resources for the 2018-2019 school year." It has come to my attention that one of the changes involves moving Miss Sprofera to third grade. As a parent and fellow educator, I feel it would be a disservice for me to not speak on behalf of Miss Sprofera and the potential negative repercussions a change in class assignment like this could do.

From a parent perspective, we could not have asked for a more rewarding first grade experience for our daughter, Isla. This is largely due to the educational environment that Miss Sprofera, an experienced classroom teacher, created. She put in place consistent routines and procedures and encouraged our daughter to become the best version of herself, as the Green Hills philosophy promises. Our daughter is very sensitive and Miss Sprofera always took that into account and appreciated her "rose colored glasses" view of the world. Miss Sprofera is truly an asset to Green Hills School and we feel very fortunate that Isla has had her as a first grade teacher. Our hope is that future students can also have this experience with Miss Sprofera being their first grade teacher.

I have been teaching in Sparta Township Schools for 18 years. I am very aware of how our educational system has evolved throughout the years. My district converted to trimesters and standard-based report cards last year. During this change it has been imperative that we had our most experienced and knowledgeable teachers at each grade level. I am certain that much like Sparta, Green Hills invests money and time into their teachers professional development. Therefore it is safe to assume that most, if not all, of Miss Sprofera's professional development has been at the first grade level. Especially after teaching ten years at this specific grade level. This is the kind of teacher that Green Hills should want leading the first grade team during this transitional time. A grade level change would mean professional development in that new grade level and curriculum, requiring her to be away from her classroom and students next school year. I do not understand how this is a valuable use of teacher time and district money.

Although we like to think of educators as being well-versed in our whole educational system, they still have areas that they would consider themselves experts in. Is that not how the world works? Find your strength and excel in it. Never is this more true in the teaching profession, because a teacher's passion for what they teach directly affects student achievement.

I respectfully ask the school administrators and board of education to reevaluate the decision to move Miss Sprofera's current classroom position for next year. Her talent and passion for the first grade level is unlike anything that I have seen in my 18 years of teaching. In the words of our Green Hills motto, she truly is "second to none."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristi Diklich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristi" and last name "Diklich" clearly legible.

Kristi Diklich

CC: Mr. John Nittolo, Superintendent
Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Principal
Jonathan Ernst, President, Green Hills Board of Education
Anne Marie Cooke, Vice-President, Green Hills Board of Education
Miss Sprofera, classroom teacher