

Timestamp	Email Address	Name (First and Last)	Town, City, or School District	Which stakeholder group do you represent?	Do you have school age children?	Would you plan to send your children to a Charter School if it is approved?	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine.	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the Vitals Charter Academy.
9/22/2024 20:48:07	jcup000@gmail.com	Jacob Gampe	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	After much research, I have found that the American Preparatory Academy is not a good fit for Alpine. First and foremost, the school has multiple violations recognized by the ACLU. They would not allow students to speak the home language during the school day. With an increase in our multi-lingual population, this school does not provide the educational knowledge and acceptance that we need in our community school. Also, based on the website, their EL programs are at the critical needs level. Secondly, our town did not take the time to properly vet this school. It was a rushed decision. Many teachers I have talked to mentioned how this is not a quality school with state licenses teachers. Wyoming has a reputation of having very highly qualified teachers with high student performance. A school like this will tarnish that reputation. Thank you for you time and once again I am opposed to the American Preparatory Academy being given a permit to reside in the town of Alpine.	This looks like a great, honest Charter School that will provide support for home schooling families.
9/25/2024 15:14:55	nfrost@silverstar.com	Nancy Frost	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	After researching the APA and reading about the closing of the Nevada location, the administration, I question the integrity of this particular school. When the question was asked on 9/11/24 if the school would be funded indefinitely, the answer yes was very weak and vague. I see now why after reading about the Nevada location. These schools cannot abuse the community and the community cannot be side swiped with because of mishandling of funds. I can't support this organization.	I am in favor of all home schooling. I believe this Charter Academy helps parents who are able to be home with their children and teach their children all fundamentals that the public schools lack today. Not in favor of DEI. It is not being used the way it's described.
9/18/2024 23:14:51	rgmd@aol.com	Robert Goldberg	Alpine	Community Member	Yes	Yes	Alpine is a rapidly growing community and desperately in need of a school. A charter school would fulfill the needs of an educational facility in our expanding town. It is a school that can meet the needs of all residents in the valley looking for an alternative option. Please vote in favor for this well needed educational opportunity. We all know in order for our children to have a bright and productive future, that comes by providing them a solid education.	I have well educated professional friends using the American Preparatory Academy in Utah for their children and have the highest regard for the curriculum and educational opportunities it offers. Please grant Alpine the well needed opportunity to provide our local children as well as the rest of Star Valley a facility that can allow them to receive the best possible education available. It is dangerous, cruel and unnecessary to have our children commute 45 minutes to well over an hour during winter conditions. This can and must change. I urge you vote in favor for a charter school in Alpine. Thank you.
9/25/2024 19:04:58	carolyn.cushner@gmail.com	Carolyn Cushner	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	Alpine is in desperate need of a school as the largest growing community in Wyoming. We also need to minimize our children's travel time on dangerous winter roads, while preserving the few hours a day that we do have together as a family. We need to prioritize our children's balance between time at home time at school and time for sleep and rest, which is affected by spending hours a day on a school bus.	Cody already has multiple school options. Please support Alpine.
9/23/2024 19:58:17	selenaojeda@gmail.com	Selena Ojeda	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No	American Preparatory Academy has several lawsuit against them, they also don't support immigrant families, I have found no positive evidence that this school will do any good for the kids of alpine. We as opposed to this charter school being built.	Opposed for this charter school to be built.
9/25/2024 15:02:43	abrogiekin@hotmail.com	Angela Brogie-Kinn	Alpine	District/School Staff	Yes	No	APA has a dubious reputation in Utah regarding misappropriation of sped funds and questionable comments from their director regarding immigration. I think Alpine needs to wait for an appropriate not for profit charter school or traditional school, even if that means waiting a number of years. I believe the plan is too short sighted, the expected student population inflated, and planning for the school rather vague for Alpine to sign on to this school in particular.	
9/18/2024 13:13:41	katermetz@gmail.com	Katie Metzler	Alpine, WY	Community Member	No	Maybe	APA has a well-documented history of misappropriating funds and has been sanctioned by the Utah Department of Education for neglecting to turn in their required financial statements - thus causing them to lose state funding. APA also has been cited for racism within their schools and specifically against children and families who are Hispanic. As the Hispanic population in Alpine grows, and are contributing and thoughtful members of our community, the APA Charter is a disservice to the communities needs. Additionally, in Alpine, at last week's meeting on September 11th, they (APA) also refused to confirm that the curriculum taught in their schools is grounded in fact-based science and an accurate representation of our country's history. This entire process feels rushed and lacks transparency. APA is NOT prepared to serve the Alpine community through a rigorous, proven curriculum for Alpine's kids and a forthright, transparent administration.	
9/25/2024 10:17:46	jennybaker58@gmail.com	Jenny Baker	Lincoln county#2,	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No	APA has history of Mismanaged funds and lawsuits in Utah and Nevada. Open to charter school but needs to be reputable and competent. A failed school does not help community.	Na
9/20/2024 17:55:15	christineshirk@gmail.com	Christine Shirk	Alpine, Wyoming	Community Member	No	Yes	As a grandparent and as a community member for over 15 years I am in strong support of a charter school giving the option for my family to remain in the community and receive the necessary education, socialization, and environmental support that has been missing for far too long. Although our small community may be unable to meet every single school age child's needs, this opportunity offers the majority of families a chance to become much more cohesive in an area stressed by unhealthy, lengthy distances separating parents from their children. I have experienced this personally with my children and grandchildren. As an avid grandparent for education with a Masters in Science degree, I have researched the success of charter schools and understand there are multiple studies promoting the success of charter schools. We are at a critical time to take the necessary steps to bring education to our rural community.	
9/23/2024 15:15:52	amyjofoydt@gmail.com	Amy Floyd	Alpine, WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No	Dear Members of the Wyoming State Charter Board, Thank you for visiting us in Alpine. As it was made clear at the September 18th meeting, our town is desperate for a school. However, the American Preparatory Academy is the solution. I regretfully would like to voice my opposition to the APA. As a long time resident of Alpine and a mother of 2 young boys I can say with confidence that I have not spoken with one fellow parent that will pull their children out of the LCS02 Elementary Schools to attend American Prep. We (the parents of this community) have researched APA and are alarmed by our findings. The 2026 moratorium ends in one year and three months. Let's take critical time and care in a 100-year plan for our Alpine students and families. Alpine can investigate many other Charter Schools across Wyoming. We have options and dozens committed to finding a great school! Keep WY tax dollars in WY! Put kids in a school they will want to attend. Again, thank you for visiting our town! As you saw Alpine needs a school but sadly this is not the APA is not the solution.	
9/23/2024 20:58:39	brianculpepper33@gmail.com	Brian Culpepper	Etna,WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	Having an option for my 4 children to be able to go to school together until 8th grade and possibly high school without riding a bus to Afton in bad snow conditions will make it much safer. I currently volunteer for as much as I can in the community including flag football coach for first and second graders and my kids would benefit from local school activities and sports, the more things happening on this end of the valley means the more we could attend and be a part of. Lincoln county school district doesn't want to help so this is our only option. This is the fastest growing area in Lincoln county and should be rewarded with a plan for the future education system. Thank you	Doesn't Cody, WY currently have a school option for their children. I wish them the best but it's Alpine's turn for a school option
9/22/2024 21:11:47	scoobac@mac.com	Sandy Coobac	Alpine	Community Member	No	Yes	Hello. A few years ago we moved to Alpine from Michigan, where we lived and raised our children in a town similar in size to Alpine. We were surprised to learn that Alpine didn't have ANY schools (unlike Cody's 5 or 6 elementary schools, one middle school, and two high schools). If our children were still of school age, there is no way we would send them on a bus every day from Alpine to Etna, Thayne, or Afton to attend a Lincoln county public school. It is appalling to think that parents could be working in Jackson, over an hour drive from Alpine, while their children could be an hour away in the opposite direction at the nearest public school. Just in the short time we've been here, we've seen tremendous growth in the Alpine area. A local school would build cohesiveness in our community, provide parents with much-needed peace of mind, and relieve local children from the danger, boredom, and wastefulness of sitting on a bus for hours every day. Alpine needs a school! Thank you.	

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9/20/2024 13:51:14	mgn.mz@gmail.com	Megan Rumsey	Lincoln	Community Member	No	Maybe	<p>https://kutv.com/news/beyond-the-books/american-preparatory-academy-ordered-to-pay-28-million-this-time-for-real "Brian Quisenberry, of the Utah District Attorney's office, represented the state. In the state's reply to APA's appeal, they stated, "In short, according to APA, the situation it now finds itself in is everyone's fault except APA, which has done nothing wrong." The USBE board agreed, though on a tight vote of 8-7, to hold APA accountable for the entire disputed sum." Alpine kids and parents deserve better! APA sadly is NOT #1 in our state. These are the friendliest potential fraudsters you will meet. Please pump the brakes, do not fall for it! APS dba APA Carolyn Sharrette, David Sharrette Jr. are concealing material facts from us. Shame on them! These are people's lives and their children. These are not per head commodities with dollar signs attached. Anyone involved (potentially Howard Headlee brother of Carolyn Sharrette who both were investigated and found to engage in unusual fiduciary activity by KUTV Utah Beyond the Books) is acting in bad faith. APA has controversy but they have even better spin and the PR machine is at work! An estimated 7.8 million dollars of misplaced funds related to Special Education in Utah. I directly talked to USBE this is valid, its factual, APA broke the law -APA Charter still owes them 2 million. But what is funny is that the school is paying USBE back not the governing board! It's likely this is why APA attempt to build school in Pleasant View UT was unsuccessful. They are whitewashing their image attempting to build here and we will in part "remake" their image so they can continue this fraud. The audit is real the money is owed. Dave this is not "bias." utah.gov/pmh/files/672031.pdf Yet Dave Sharrette Jr spun a story of bias and put in question validity of owing funds. This is PR at work and blatant misrepresentation. There might be other legal words that come into play here? Town Alpine Atty. Sanderson? Phone: 307-885-1776 Look at the public record call USBE auditors The letter an attorney sent to Alpine is believed to "sugarcoat" this issue. It is essential you inform yourselves to avoid Alpine enriching this private business and Carolyn Sharrette and family. It is not easy to get out if a charter wrapped up in land bonds etc. We work so hard and no one deserves to be embroiled in controversy simply for trying to get a school for kids. Dave Jenkins you are accountable we will hold you to this. APA has been sanctioned in Utah. There charter was revoked in Nevada due to non performance and allegation of PPP fraud Our community needs to hold off and fo its diligence. These are not builders they are unethically bulldozing us. Going forward will cause finger pointing, blame, lawsuits. Avoid this nightmare at all costs, please! Dan Dockstader, Ogden Dinikili all leaders please call a special town meeting for 100% transparency and its now time SteveFunk to let us vet the "angel investors." You owe these kids and parents full accountability. This is a town it is not a resort and the simultaneous land issues in conjunction conflict. Red flags are everywhere. Lets not have a disgrace cause as the controversy in the selection of Dave Bliss at APA Las Vegas or the Charter being https://kutv.com/news/beyond-the-books/nevada-charter-school-ends-business-ties-with-american-preparatory-schools-in-utah Utah petition against APA http://www.shameonapa.org/ Hate Speech? https://www.qslltake.com/news/2016/06/29/anti-trans-utah-school-board-candidate-comes-last-place-primary-election/ Constitutional rights violation at the school thats reads constitution but doesn't practice it? Kids cannot speak their native language. Steve Funk this was absolutely not debunked and the racism is not only documented it was rampant. Steve we are a town and as a guest of our town please act in good faith and work with us to find a solution. I ask you to stop the land dealings as 36 acres are not priority - Kids are! You should be 100% financially liable if anything whatsoever caused any hard earned tax payers dollars to be diverted inappropriately. I hope to speak to you and Dave Jenkins and others direct in friendly hopeful conversation. Please invite Carolyn and Dave Jr. and Casey if he can avoid backing folks into corners and speaking harshly as he did to me after the meeting. We have every right to go ask questions in a room that was designated to do so. To interrupt that is to block our right to have good information. The truth has been hidden and its time Alpine learn what a mistake it would be to welcome APA to our community! https://www.standard.net/news/education/2022/dec/06/american-prep-ivacant-pleasant-view-building-to-launch-new-school/ https://www.actu.utah.gov/sites/default/files/19-01-03-Letter-APA-Sharette-Hatoh.pdf https://kutv.com/news/beyond-the-books/beyond-the-books-apa-charter-school-blew-nearly-500k-in-botched-expansion-plan https://www.buckfinancial.net/buck_financial_projects.php if you have hours upon hours of time you can learn about the controversies of APA https://kutv.com/news/beyond-the-books Nevada Bill with direct involvement of past APA NV https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NETLIS/REL/8142021/Bill/8023/Overview https://www.amplus.academy/pdf/Governing/Supporting%20documentation%20(June/June-18/Meetings%20Minutes%20from%2006_11_20%20Approved%20on%2006_18_20.pdf https://caseltext.com/case/am-preparatory-sch-inc-v-nevada-charter-acad https://www.kirtomconline.com/news-125 And if you want to really scratch your head try to figure out why this guy was hired to coach at APA??? Astounding that this guy was "given a second chance all in the name of win win win." And be careful because one online video is re-cut with quotes out of context to make it appear as though there is still question that Coach Bliss did not FRAME a student who was murdered at Baylor College. Winning is everything?? https://www.reviewjournal.com/video-tag/nik-hulet/ If anything here is proven other please I am all ears. We should be able to respectfully sit down and talk this out to make a measured decision based on information. Dan Dockstader I have tried and tried to call you today. Please pick up. There is no vm option. "When people tell you who they are believe them- the first time..." - Maya Angelou https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/beware-of-affinity-fraud One if who knows how many companies that finds might be funneled to. Who knows? But what we do know is Carolyn Sharrette is confused about borders walls and a lot of things. https://motherswithoutborders.org/ Watch the entire DISGRACED movie and maybe there is a parallel to what is going on. Misinformation deflection blame and bad actors. We do not get a second chance! If you are not questioning this you are NOT paying attention. This cake will not unmake itself. And my heart breaks because I do want any of you parents to think I am trying to take away your ONLY cake. We can come together and build a great community and a solution exists for a school. APS dba (whatever shell company operating) as APA AINT IT! If you want to see how Charter schools enrich themselves and divert to their own interests work search Glenn WY NC and AZ. Perhaps thats a template for what Sharrette is attempting here. https://www.paramountpressexpress.com/showtime/releases/?view=4708 Lynn Fries if you are the angel please disentangle yourself from this and perhaps open a tiny private school with free tuition for those who want a christian school. Steve I think "Refuge" would be a perfect name for a Christian school on your property.</p>	Can they share their online content with Alpine in interim until we find WY based charter school curriculum with oversight abd transparency.
9/19/2024 6:18:36	Villagepantyr@gmail.com	Scott Lee	Alpine	Community Member	No	Yes	<p>I am 100% behind bringing a charter school to Alpine. It has been a long time coming and will only solidify the members of our community. Driving great distances to attend school, wastes time and energy, and disrupts potential social connections within Alpine.</p>	
9/25/2024 14:42:31	aleck.c.rossfrye@gmail.com	Aleck Ross-Frye	Alpine, Lincoln Co	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	<p>I am firmly against American Preparatory Academy of Alpine. While my preference would be for the Lincoln county school district school to build Primary and secondary in Alpine, I am not opposed in principal to the construction of a local charter school. But to be crystal clear, I would not/will not send my child to APA-Alpine, and I believe it would be a tragic failure of governance for that school to be approved. The quality of Wyoming's public schools was perhaps the primary reason I moved my family to Wyoming. APA does not share that record of excellence. A quick glance at US News school rankings show below 50th percentile national rankings across APA's schools—even falling to the 30th decile in some cases. APA is failing their students. Reviewing past students' shared experiences on Reddit reveals what may be described as a pattern of exclusionary and potentially abusive treatment of latino and lgbtq students. This is backed up by the executives of APA themselves sharing racist and bigoted posts on their own social media. Accordingly, APA is facing a host of litigation from aggrieved families and the ACLU. Moreover, in APA's own documents for promoting this potential school they claim to be against "CRT, DEI and SEL". This is a thinly veiled dogwhistle to say that they support racist and extreme right wing political ideology. There is no place for politics in education, especially not publicly funded education. We need our schools to bring up the next generation of leaders, people capable of critical thinking and self examination, who can judge merit and action without being blinded by prejudice or belief. That is not APA's goal or effect. If that we not enough to reject APA, they also have a long and well documented track record of financial malfeasance. APA is being sued by Utah and Nevada to recover millions in misappropriations, and have already been ordered to pay back at least \$2.8 million. It is appalling that our Wyoming tax dollars would go to APA and be spent on their defense in other states. And would we be surprised when they start playing games with our money here? No. The Town of Alpine's decision to authorize a long term nominal cost lease to APA-Alpine already strikes of insider dealing while APA-Alpine board members Funk and Jenkins are negotiating to annex 32 acres of their property into the city limits. Given APA's current and potential legal troubles, the likelihood of APA-Alpine failing both financially and educationally is too great. We cannot fall our children here. Please vote No on American Preparatory Academy of Alpine's charter.</p>	I hope for Vitalis to be approved if only to prevent the harm that APA-Alpine portends for our community
9/25/2024 15:56:55	robertkinn@hotmail.com	Robert Kinn	Alpine, WY	District/School Staff	Yes	No	<p>I am not in favor of this particular charter school, especially considering the APA's lack of success in other communities. I believe the land the town of Alpine has set aside for a school should be reserved for a regular public school, not a charter school.</p>	If the Vitalis Charter Academy is on-line, and aimed at homeschool children, I support this. I do not support a site-based school using any town land that should instead be preserved for a public school open to all students in the given geographic area served.
9/24/2024 20:47:24	wendisaуз@gmail.com	Wendi Walton	Alpine Wyoming	Community Member	No	Maybe	<p>I am not in favor. This school has way too many red flags especially in regards to being sued by the state of utah and owing them money. Also I don't believe it will solve the issue of our kids being bussed to Afton</p>	
9/25/2024 10:19:21	jeffcabarnhouse@yahoo.com	Jessica Barnhouse	Alpine, WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	<p>I am not opposed to a charter school in Alpine. I am opposed to the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine. The American Preparatory Academy currently has multiple lawsuits with the ACLU and has been sued by multiple states, including Nevada and Utah. They are currently paying back the state of Utah for approximately \$6 million that went missing. Their educational track record is similarly dismal. I would not send my child to a school run by this organization. I do not support the Town of Alpine's decision to give a long-term lease to this organization despite our need for a school. Given the American Preparatory Academy's current legal troubles, it is not outside of reason to anticipate that this school may fold. If this were to happen, the town and state would lose the land and still not have a school. The Town of Alpine and the State of Wyoming should seek a responsible school organization with a proven track record of excellence that doesn't have a history of litigation and financial claims against it. This is a long-term decision for our children and potentially their children that cannot be entered lightly. Entering into a partnership with the American Preparatory Academy does not make financial or educational sense for Alpine or the State of Wyoming.</p>	no comment
9/23/2024 12:43:06	grimes.rachel81@gmail.com	Rachel Grimes	Alpine, WY	Community Member	No	No	<p>I am opposed to this application for 5 main reasons: 1. The organization has a history of infringing on a basic human right, freedom of speech. 2. The organization has embezzled taxpayer dollars in other communities where they reside. 3. The organization is seemingly pretentious and does not value transparency. 4. As a neighboring property owner of the proposed location for this school, I am not in favor of decreased property values in the greater Alpine area that it will surely cause. 5. I am a passionate advocate against more privatization along the Snake River corridor in Alpine. River access and enjoyment must remain open to the general public for the greater good of the community.</p>	
9/24/2024 22:11:24	lkcarlike@q.com	Lora Carlile	Alpine	Community Member	No	Yes	<p>I am the grandmother of a child in Alpine who I want to attend American Preparatory Academy for his entire K-8 education. Good quality education is immensely important for the children of our community and the community itself. It is also rare to have such a wonderful opportunity like this. NOW is the right time and APA is the right school. Please accept the APA application.</p>	

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9/19/2024 19:02:44	heinz.hale@gmail.com	Haley Heinz	Alpine	District/School Staff	No	Maybe	I am writing as an educator and community member of Alpine. I have extreme hesitation about this school potentially coming to Alpine. They have very intense policies that would limit candidates in my opinion. In Policy 1.8, they have a very low base-pay, where educators in this county couldn't afford to live. In Policy 4.1, the only days teachers can take off are sick days, no personal days. In Policy 5.1, it outlines teachers getting merit pay based on performance. Their curriculum isn't aligned with Common Core State Standards. In Policy 10.8, I believe they are using the outdated Discrepancy Model and not using MTSS/RTI practices for special education. These policies and many others on the APA website are going to significantly deter quality educators from coming to this school. I live across the street from the proposed site, and I would still commute 30 minutes rather than work here. Also, having my master's degree in Educational Leadership, I understand the ins and outs of schools. I do not think the values of this school, deduced from their policies, align with our community.	
9/25/2024 13:40:39	dean.cassie@gmail.com	Cassie Dean	Alpine, Lincoln Co	Community Member	No	Maybe	I do not support American Preparatory Academy of Alpine for the community of Alpine. Three of the proposed locations for the school in the application have been withdrawn. The school reportedly has a policy of academically punishing students for speaking a language other than English when not in class. This school has not guaranteed space for local students. This school uses buzzwords to attract potential students, creating a political environment that is unacceptable in education. The proposed school feels misleading to me.	
9/19/2024 20:17:09	thartnett@silverstar.com	Tim Hartnett	Alpine Wyoming	Community Member	No	No	I don't believe our public lands should be used for an elitist school of already privileged children. Public lands are for public children. If they want a school for your privileged few they should buy their own land for it. As a land owner who pays the majority of my taxes to the school district, I do not believe any of my school taxes should go to a charter school. Especially not this school. They won't help all of our students. Just the ones like them.	
9/22/2024 11:21:10	melindapavek@yahoo.com	Melinda Pavek	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	I don't want charter schools siphoning off our students and tax money from our public education system, especially this one. The more we split children up the more our democracy suffers without improving our overall educational outcomes. And specific to this school, a school that promotes "academic rigor and moral development" should not have so many issues with racism, embezzlement, and other moral turpitude. Past behavior of this group tells us what kind of negative education and other issues they will bring to our community and children. I own property next to the location of this proposed school, and I am very opposed to this plan.	I don't want charter schools siphoning off our students and tax money from our public education system. The more we split children up the more our democracy suffers without improving our overall educational outcomes.
9/24/2024 18:07:41	chels300@gmail.com	Chelsea harris	Meeteetse, hot sp	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	I have not reviewed the application but I do support school choice.	Vitalis charter Academy is a school option that falls very closely in line with my vision of the education I want to give my children. There are many different reasons why a family might choose alternative education over traditional public school. I have four children who have different interests, strengths, desires, and goals. Giving them a tailored educational experience will give them the greatest opportunity to be who they are meant to be. Communities are strong and healthy when individuals and families are strong and healthy. I believe that this school choice will be a great blessing to our Big Horn Basin.
9/19/2024 18:29:06	lindseykneuve@gmail.com	Lindsey Kneuve	Alpine, WY	Community Member	No	No	I oppose the application as the school has demonstrated discriminatory and extreme practices, as demonstrated by its Utah chapter.	
9/25/2024 14:21:07	allegillen@gmail.com	Allison Gillen	Jackson, WY	Community Member	No	Maybe	I respectfully oppose the proposed charter school, American Preparatory Academy of Alpine, that seeks to establish itself on public land, particularly given its clear political agenda. While I support establishing a public school in Alpine, it is crucial to consider the implications of allowing a school with such specific beliefs to operate within our public education system. Furthermore, there is a potential conflict of interest regarding the financial ties between land developers and members of the charter school. Such relationships could prioritize profit over educational integrity, undermining the interests of our community and our students. We must ensure that our public resources serve all students equitably, free from political and religious influence. I urge the board to consider these factors carefully in your decision-making process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.	
9/19/2024 18:57:32	glg1730@gmail.com	Laura Woolley	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	I STRONGLY oppose this charter school. Here is the email I sent to our mayor and all city council members outlining why I oppose this school: Having been unable to attend last night's meeting, I am writing to share with you my strong opposition to the charter school, The American Preparatory Academy, proposed for our town of Alpine. As a member of this community, I fully support and understand the immense need for having a school in Alpine. However, I vehemently believe this is not the right school for us. Our community needs a school where all of our students are welcome. A school that brings us together. A school that embraces who we all are. A school where all parents can send their children knowing they will be treated fairly and with respect. A school where our teachers can proudly work and know they are providing a quality education and meeting the needs of all of their students. The American Preparatory Academy is not that school, and its record as a charter in Utah shows this. It is easy to get excited about the possibility of having a school close to home where the children of our community don't have to be bused or drive long distances to get the education they deserve. But let us not compromise who we are as a community to make that happen. We are all Alpine Proud and we ALL want the best for our kids. I implore you to decline leasing our city's land to the American Preparatory Academy. I am attaching some reports on this charter that have given me cause for such great concern. Let's build a school that gets reported on for all the good it does for our students, not one that has repeatedly shown to violate our students' rights. Thank you for your time and for all you do to make our beautiful community what it is.	I apologize but I have not looked into this charter school so I cannot comment. Thank you for your time.
9/23/2024 23:08:14	COMTECH.DAVE@GMAIL.COM	David	Burchard	Community Member	No	Yes	I want to encourage the WCSAB to approve this application for the following reasons: 1) Alpine's growth and physical distance have created a situation where many families are struggling with time! Kids involved in sports don't get home till about 7pm if they are lucky enough to be able to have an activity bus. The average student spends an additional hour every day on a bus so those students that live in the lower valley. That time adds up and it cuts into homework time and family time and even into sleep. My son is at college now because we as a family fought hard every day to keep him on a path so he could earn the privilege to attend University of Wyoming (truly a blessing). Many many many nights we were still at the kitchen table at 10:30 pm finishing school work. Often there was more homework to be done in the morning.....before getting on the bus at 7am. We would give anything to have those precious hours back and we want that for all future young families. 2)Alpine has had this land set aside for our school for 30 years. Our town wants to be able to start out our little ones walking them to school. Then to watch as they meet up with others and begin to walk or ride bikes on their own. When there is a recital or play that parents might attend we would love the opportunity to "hop on over" to the school and share and support the experience. This family involvement goes a long way toward the healthy development of a child. 3) Alpine has a rich history of personal sacrifice and volunteerism. For instance when we needed a new fire station built we had four community members who volunteered to sign 2nd mortgages on their own homes in order to secure the financing needed. They took that risk because they believed it was worth it to build a future for our town. We have many dedicated volunteers that serve with Alpine Fire & Rescue and Star Valley Search & Rescue. We also have the Top of the Rockies club which dedicates many hundreds of volunteer hours every year to support recreational access and to support our community. They very successfully host events such as Thanksgiving dinner, Car Show, Bingo Night and other fund raisers to help community members in need. When there is a need this town pulls together and finds solutions to raise up our neighbors. This school will become a proud focal point for our town and there will be no shortage of volunteers to make it successful! 4)I believe this charter school can become a shining example of how a community can work together with state and local government to provide not just an education for our kids but a truly amazing educational experience. As a community and as parents we don't just want to deliver our kids to a school to be baby sat, we want to be involved in their school activities and we want them to be immersed in the community. In OUR community. 5) I have investigated the American Preparatory Academy and I believe they have developed a successful program for helping families raise good community members who are prepared for futures either in the trades or to advance to college. They are RIGHT for Alpine! Please consider what this charter school can mean to the future families of Alpine. It will become the heart of Alpine. We are a unique and diverse population that never fails to come together for a good cause especially when it helps children. This is our greatest cause ever! Yours Truly David Burchard	I believe that Cody is also a really great town and I hope that they too can be afforded a charter school opportunity. If only there were two to be given!
9/23/2024 22:57:40	mgpowski@gmail.com	Matthew Gridley	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	I would be excited to see a school in Alpine as I believe it's the core of any community. I also believe it will provide more quality time with during the school day with less time spent going to and from school.	
9/23/2024 22:57:45	mgpowski@gmail.com	Matthew Gridley	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	I would be excited to see a school in Alpine as I believe it's the core of any community. I also believe it will provide more quality time with during the school day with less time spent going to and from school.	
9/18/2024 13:45:05	skyahamilton@gmail.com	Skyla Hamilton-Holderman	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	I'm very concerned regarding the curriculum that would determine whether my child attended or not.	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name (First and Last)	Town, City, or School District	Which stakeholder group do you represent?	Do you have school age children?	Would you plan to send your children to a Charter School if it is approved?	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine.	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the Vitalis Charter Academy.
9/24/2024 20:29:55	bari.bucholtz@gmail.com	Bari Bucholtz	Alpine, Wyoming	Community Member	No	Yes	<p>I've lived in Alpine since 1998 and since then, there's been talk of Alpine getting a school. I taught in Jackson for 20 years and our children commuted with and attended Pre-K- 12th grade in Jackson. Otherwise, they would have attended school in the opposite direction from where my husband and I work.</p> <p>Now, 26 years later, we're the closest we've ever been to having a school. We even have the support of our governor. Our growing community NEEDS APA- Alpine for these reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Education for a Growing Population Population Growth: Alpine has experienced steady growth due to its appeal as a gateway to outdoor activities and its proximity to Jackson Hole. As the community grows, the need for local education infrastructure becomes more urgent. APA- Alpine would provide convenient access to quality education for families, eliminating the need for long commutes to nearby towns. Support for Local Families: With a local charter school, families would benefit from reduced travel time, making daily routines easier and promoting a better work-life balance. This would be especially helpful for working parents. 2. Strengthen Community Ties Building a Sense of Community: Schools often serve as central hubs in small towns, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among residents. APA- Alpine would bring families together through events, extracurricular activities, and shared goals, strengthening Alpine's community identity. Local Comradery and Engagement: Establishing a charter school would encourage greater civic engagement and participation, as residents become more involved in supporting education through volunteering, school boards, and local initiatives. 3. Enhance Economic Development Attracting New Families: APA- Alpine would make our town more appealing to young families considering relocating to the area. Having an educational institution nearby is often a deciding factor for families choosing where to live. Job Creation: Building and running a charter school would create employment opportunities for teachers, staff, and support services, contributing to the local economy. Stimulating Local Business Growth: More families living and working in Alpine due to the presence of APA- Alpine would lead to increased demand for local services, stimulating growth in businesses such as retail, childcare, and other community services. 4. Improve Educational Opportunities Tailored Learning Environment: APA- Alpine would allow for the creation of education programs that reflect the unique needs and values of the community. I would hope they would also include outdoor experiences, place-based education, conservation programs, and local history. Extracurricular and Enrichment Activities: At APA- Alpine, students could participate in after-school activities like sports, arts, and environmental clubs, promoting their overall development and engagement. 5. Reduce Commutes and Safety Concerns Shortening Commutes for Students: Currently, many Alpine students may have to travel significant distances to attend schools in neighboring towns. APA- Alpine would reduce long and potentially hazardous commutes, particularly in winter months when road conditions can be dangerous. Increased Safety and Well-being: Local access to education reduces travel-related risks and ensures students have a nearby charter school that can be quickly reached in case of emergency. 6. Promote Long-Term Sustainability Environmental Impact: Reducing the need for long commutes to school helps decrease the town's carbon footprint, aligning with broader sustainability goals that are important in a rural, nature-centric community like Alpine. Creating Future Leaders: A school that integrates local culture, conservation, and community values can help educate and inspire future generations to become leaders and stewards of the area, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Alpine and its surrounding natural resources. <p>By providing local education, Alpine can better serve its current and future residents while fostering a more vibrant, connected, and sustainable community. Please take our application very seriously, as children are the future stewards of the world.</p>	N/A
9/22/2024 18:04:28	vross.2013@gmail.com	Victoria Ross	Alpine, Lincoln Co	Community Member	No	No	<p>It is understood the APA does not act as good stewards in the communities they operate. They do not have good values for managing finances. They violate ACLU regulations and take no responsibility for their actions. I am concerned for their lack of value of our community and lack of respect for our public lands. We a small community, and already have trespassing violations for access to the playgrounds, and as a result of a larger business moving in there isn't enough land to ensure proper entences without violating other immediate homeowners privacy. We must also take pride in our teacher's unions for the protection to the educators, community and children involved.</p>	I am against allowing the VCA moving into my verily small community. I am concerned for the lack of space as it concerns private property intringements. I am opposed to this learning style for lack of diversity to the students. Children should grow and learn to appreciate a wider diversity of the community they reside in.
9/23/2024 20:51:12	havingoodtime@gmail.com	Scott Mele	Alpine, Lincoln Co	Community Member	No	Maybe	<p>Kids are not for-profit. This is more of a real estate deal than education. This APA family comes into town on Airpark jets and stays overnight at the guy bringing this to the community? What the heck is wrong with people thinking this is ok? What frustrates me listening to these meetings and hearing more and more terrible ways this Carolyn lady treats kids is that no one is looking into it telling the town talking about it. People are acting like they've already made their minds up without noticing that all this "debunked" talk is a load of garbage. Meetings happen and parents have not made it home from work yet? Plenty of people are fed up with the reckless building that does not quit. Look around. Where is a town? Plan first give it rest. Kids are in school. Waiting until the next go round. Our town commissioners need to have a little class and the star valley media SVI needs to tell some stories that aren't ads for a school looking to make money pear head. NO APA charter. Charter sure but not these greedy people bringing a bad school here. It is jke that we have to put up with this and it's the kids that suffer. Stop with the lying and trying to paint this as a win. Laws need to be made to make sure this does not happen again.</p>	Cody should get this. If it's a good school not for profit this charter is theirs.
9/25/2024 7:39:09	marta.waseczko@gmail.com	Marta Waseczko	Alpine, WY	Community Member	No	No	<p>Much like a domesticated honey bee colony queen emits a pheromone indicating to the hive that "all is well," a school in Alpine would provide my community a sense of cohesion, sustainability, and a tangible connection with our future. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
9/23/2024 22:07:51	jgbullewell@hotmail.com	Jessica Astle	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	No	Yes	<p>My husband and I have a six month old baby girl named Emma. We are so excited about the opportunity to have a school in Alpine. We love our community and hope that our baby girl can get her education close to home. Alpine needs this. This is the future.</p>	
9/24/2024 21:09:11	alysstaeuber@gmail.com	Alyssa Gross	Alpine, WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	<p>My husband and I recently moved to Alpine and have learned about the schools available- they are long drives eating into family time in the mornings and evenings. Alpine has so much potential and we would love to have a community created with the introduction of the APA of Alpine. It would be amazing to see the community grow and have the kids in the area attend school together. We want to see kids spending time in this community vs rushing to Jackson or Etna. I also want to get to know the parents of the community. Having a school in Alpine would allow for more hours closer to home to have meaningful time together making memories with our kids, vs being in the car for long timeframes. It would also make me feel safer for the families in our area not having to drive long distances with kids given the unpredictable Wyoming weather. As far as the curriculum goes we can figure that out once we know we are getting a school. Bringing a school to Alpine to create an environment for our community to send our kids to learn, develop and grow would be wonderful.</p>	n/a
9/23/2024 22:14:04	andreab@silverstar.com	Andrea Burchard	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	No	Yes	<p>My son graduated from high school in May, and while he had a great experience in the Star Valley schools and received a top notch education - he paid a price. The time lost to travel is something we can't get back, getting on the bus at 7 am for 1.5 hours was a true hardship. It's a hard enough day for kids in the lower grades, but once these kids are in middle and high school, if they choose to be involved in extra curricular activities they can be away from home for a minimum of 12 hours each day. Having a school in Alpine is something the community has dreamed of for over 30 years and I would love to see our families reclaim their quality of life. It's not only hard on the kids, but also the parents - many work so far from the schools, getting there for activities or for an emergency is very difficult. As was mentioned in the meetings, a school is the heart of a community and we're missing ours. Our town is built on the spirit of giving back and I have no doubt that many would step up and volunteer their time to make this school work. I know there are reservations about location, the building and curriculum, but these things can all be worked out once we are awarded the Charter. I sincerely ask that you give us a chance to show what we can accomplish with this opportunity.</p>	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name (First and Last)	Town, City, or School District	Which stakeholder group do you represent?	Do you have school age children?	Would you plan to send your children to a Charter School if it is approved?	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine.	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the Vitals Charter Academy.
9/23/2024 13:23:48	shayscaffide@gmail.com	Shay Scaffide	Alpine	Wyoming Education Relat	Yes	No	<p>September 23, 2024</p> <p>Dear Members of the Wyoming State Charter Board,</p> <p>I am writing to express deep concern regarding the potential approval of the proposed Alpine APA charter school. There are several pressing issues that need to be addressed before moving forward with this decision. Concerns with American Preparatory Academy (APA): There is a concerning background regarding APA's operations in Utah, where it has been sanctioned and currently cannot open new Charter Schools within the State: APA was penalized by the State of Utah for financial mismanagement of funds, including a \$2.7 million payback issued by Utah State Auditors (of the \$7.8 million investigated following an audit). There are still outstanding debts that could reach \$3 million APA has to remunerate back to the State. APA has also been criticized by the ACLU for violations related to special education and ESL programs, making it one of the worst in Utah for these services. Nevada passed laws restricting for-profit charter schools like APA due to these violations.</p> <p>Inadequate Planning: The current plan estimates an enrollment of 290 students but no concrete data/basis dynamic is supporting these figures. However, critical details remain unclear, such as teacher salaries and the number of students the school will ultimately serve. How can a charter school proceed without these essential elements defined?</p> <p>For-Profit Operations: How can the board consider allowing a for-profit charter school without a comprehensive business plan and background data on APA? The lack of transparency surrounding teacher pay is alarming, with APA offering significantly lower salaries than local schools. For instance, APA teachers are paid \$12.50 per hour, well below both the national average and the cost of living in Wyoming. Please review teacher salaries across the state. http://www.shameonapa.org/ read about Draper, UT. https://kutv.com/news/crisis-in-the-classroom/charter-school-denied-4m-almntment</p> <p>Utah State Board of Education/USBE Audit and mediated financial settlement. I The USBE audit cites, what it is reasonable to view as: mismanagement, lack of transparency, (ongoing) litigation, conflicts of interest related to family members, and other items as lay people we might lack ability to comprehend that would further tell us about the financial status of APA and all subsidiaries. https://www.utah.gov/pnw/files/672031.pdf -and- https://kutv.com/news/beyond-the-books/american-preparatory-academy-ordered-to-pay-28-million-this-time-for-real</p> <p>Teacher Qualifications: There is no clarity on whether the school will employ certified teachers, and APA's academic performance in Utah is already below state averages. Additionally, starting salaries at APA are significantly lower compared to public schools in Utah and Wyoming. \$26,000-30,000 to \$53,000 LCSD2</p> <p>Local Economy and Cost of Living: Lincoln County has the second-highest cost of living in Wyoming, just behind Teton County. How will APA support its teachers and staff in such an expensive region at \$12.50/hour when LCSD2 starts at \$53,000. This will not bring viable teacher positions/jobs to Alpine. Furthermore, why does the board not include any educators in the decision-making process? Why would you approve a charter without a complete and thorough business plan not mixed in legal baggage? In light of these concerns, I urge the board to reconsider moving forward with this charter school until these critical issues are thoroughly examined and resolved. Can you put us FIRST in line when the moratorium is lifted January 2026?</p> <p>APA charter is misleading, concealing vital information. It is not prudent to fast-track a mismanaged charter school with a history of controversy and questionable financial practices. Ask yourself, besides the charter deadline, why the rush and pressure?</p> <p>Sincerely, Shay Scaffide Alpine Public Education Committee 20 year resident of Alpine Candidate for Alpine Town Council</p>	
9/22/2024 12:06:14	annessamelnick@gmail.com	Annessa Melnick	Alpine	District/School Staff	No	No	<p>The American Preparatory Academy should not be allowed in Wyoming. They have ACLU violations, \$2.8 million dollars in disallowed SPED funds and are no longer allowed to open campuses in Utah. They are also applying to be in Alpine with no finished business plan, no studies on how many students will attend and no plans for transportation for the students. There also has been no discussion about how to hire teachers, how much to pay and whether or not the teachers will be certified. Based on the Utah report card, their ELD programs are at critical need and with so many multi lingual families moving into this area, this is not a good option for this town. Please, do not approve the proposal for this for profit school to be in Alpine.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time.</p>	
9/25/2024 7:35:49	maxmogren@gmail.com	Max Mogren	Alpine, WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe	<p>There are a lot of young families in Alpine, and the town is growing quickly. We need a school in Alpine, but a controversial franchise operation based out of the suburbs of SLC would not be a good fit. The American Preparatory Academy would probably fail within a few years due to lack of enrollment: the local community is skeptical of it and the existing public schools throughout Star Valley and Teton County are highly regarded.</p> <p>I have an 11 year old stepdaughter who attends Etna Elementary, about 15 miles south of Alpine. In a few years Thyne about 15 miles further south, and a few years later SVHS another 15 miles south of that. The 45 mile commute to high school (and school events) is not very appealing but we'll choose that over a local school embroiled in controversy.</p> <p>Several Alpine teachers who work for TCSD brought the issues surrounding APA to my attention. The more I learn about it the less optimistic I am about that organization.</p>	I don't know anything about Vitals or the community where it is proposed.
9/18/2024 12:58:10	rstew09@gmail.com	Rachael Stewart	Alpine, WY	Community Member	No	No	<p>There is no doubt that Alpine needs a school - however, that need should not trump the community's right to be home to a school that is highly regarded both in what is taught and how it functions at an administrative level. APA has a well-documented history of misappropriating funds and has been sanctioned by the Utah Department of Education for neglecting to turn in their required financial statements - thus causing them to lose state funding. In last week's meeting on September 11th, they also refused to confirm that the curriculum taught in their schools is grounded in fact-based science and an accurate representation of our country's history.</p> <p>This entire process feels rushed and lacks transparency. Most other community members I've spoken with do not have any clarity regarding the process - who is responsible for making the final decision on this? These back-to-back meetings, pushing up against a sudden deadline, do not give anyone adequate time to process the information presented or to consider some of the larger implications of this decision.</p>	n/a
9/22/2024 13:17:49	ilobo@hotmail.com	Tani Randolf	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	<p>This charter school is sketchy as sketchy gets, but then I believe that all charter schools are sketchy in general. This charter school, which is from Utah, has been the subject of several lawsuits to include: not paying their financials, and mandating an "English-speaking only" regulation in its schools, which prompted the ACLU to sue APA. So, why are they suddenly coming out to Wyoming? Could it be because they don't have the money they owe to the Utah Education Board? And now they'll probably do the same thing to Wyoming if they get approved. While I understand the need to for a school to exist in Alpine, there has to be a better choice. Plus, the proposed location of this school is putting it right next to where I live (Palisades Townhomes), which I strongly oppose. One of the reasons I bought this place was its location, in an area that was somewhat out of the way--we are kind of by ourselves, with great views of the Targhee NF and the Palisades Reservoir. This lakeside, open area, which stretches all the way to Melvin's Brewery, has not only a skateboard park and dirt bike track for kids, there's also a baseball diamond, and trails I run on, which these places would get swallowed up by this academy. While I enjoy having the skate park and dirt bike track nearby for the kids (both, I think you could improve on or ramp up a bit), putting a huge school complex that goes all the way Melvin's is just massive overkill. This is Alpine, not Casper or Cheyenne. This area also is where lots of wildlife congregate and graze. I have seen mule deer, elk herds in this area, and also had a young moose outside my bedroom window one day. I would hate to see the wildlife squeezed out of yet another area. Please, if there must be a school, put it on the north side of the town, preferably next to Refuge--hear there's plenty of room out there, especially if you're going to be bussing kids from Hoback to attend this school. From Hoback. REALLY????</p>	And here is the option for an on-line school, well this would solve the problem of said Option 1 above, but would it really be practical to make working parents turn into home-schooling teachers also? Or would this be geared towards certain families only? Again, who is this school really serving? It doesn't seem to me that this option (or the first one) will serve the entire community, only a lucky, privileged few that can afford to stay home and homeschool their kids. I think I just answered my own question. Alpine deserves a good public elementary school that serves ALL the kids in this town.
9/21/2024 12:44:48	THARTNETT@SILVERSTAR.COM	Timothy Hartnett	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	<p>This is a thinly veiled plan to use public land for a religion based school. Use public lands for ALL of the children. No is my answer</p> <p>This is a VERY SCARY organization! Extensive research into practices, history, equity of organization, honesty, commitment to education. A simple Google search will show reviews that are not very good, and many people involved in the school have had complaints. The most alarming is how they have taken MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDS AND MOVED THEM TO A FEW PRIVATE COMPANIES. THIS PRIVATELY OWNED SCHOOL IS PROFITING OFF PUBLIC FUNDS!!! I am a public school teacher and am committed to ALL students, not just the ones who speak English as a first language, not just the ones whose parents can afford to drop them off at school and pick them up (NO BUS SERVICES!!!!).</p> <p>The school is set to be on PUBLIC LAND!! With a 100 year lease?? This is NOT a public school! Additionally, they are in countless lawsuits both with neighbors of their schools, and, it seems, for misappropriation of public funds. Are we really going to be that naive and continue to allow big money to run out part of Wyoming?? It's frankly, horrifying.</p>	
9/24/2024 18:16:00	mirandamosis@gmail.com	Miranda Mosis	Alpine	Wyoming Education Relat	No	No	<p>This school is problematic on so many levels. The ACLU violations, the missing Special Education funds, the lawsuit in Nevada the resulted in an anti-charter law. Not to mention the land-grab. I do NOT approve of my 23 acres of prime public land on the river being dedicated to a for-profit school. Also, to of the board members are currently vying the town for a 32-acre development in town. This feels like a quid-pro-quo. I would much rather see Lincoln County step up to the plate and build a traditional school that is accessible to all Alpine children and that is held accountable to the tax payers.</p>	I have no input regarding Vitals Charter Academy, as they do not affect my neighborhood children.
9/23/2024 20:10:10	heather.goodrich@icloud.com	Heather	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No	<p>This school should NOT be allowed in our community. I beg you to not allow this school here. Please read up on the violations this school has. We need a school for ALL of the students in this town. NOT one that is only for the few they want. Please please please don't let this school come to Alpine.</p>	
9/19/2024 19:02:49	steve@tradewindwy.com	Steven Kutzli	Alpine Wyoming	Community Member	No	No	<p>This school should NOT be allowed in our community. I beg you to not allow this school here. Please read up on the violations this school has. We need a school for ALL of the students in this town. NOT one that is only for the few they want. Please please please don't let this school come to Alpine.</p>	Sorry, but don't know anything about this school.

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9/24/2024 9:42:53	kathye@silverstar.com	Kathy Owsiany	Alpine	Community Member	No	No	<p>To the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board:</p> <p>Please do not approve the charter for the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine for the following reasons:</p> <p>They are using this school as a land grab of the town owned land. If you look at the disparities between what they say in their application package about possible sites and the way they are rushing the town to commit the land, it should give you pause. The better site to build this school is on the Palsport parcel identified in their application. This is a 32-acre land parcel that two of the Charter Board members, Steve Funk and David Jenkins own and are working to develop and annex into the town.</p> <p>When Mr. Funk was asked about this parcel in a town workshop, he quickly dismissed it as a possibility due to a conflict of interest. Certainly, whatever conflict of interest he is speaking of is less than Councilman Larsen's conflict. He is a part of the application team and a future charter school board member. He is voting to give the charter school most of the town land in a nominal lease. How that is not a conflict of interest requiring that he recuse himself defies comprehension.</p> <p>The fact that they waited to notify the town that they wanted the town land until it was a last minute, hurry, hurry, just trust us situation is not above board. The fact they did it this way and only informed people who were supportive of their project, while others with a different viewpoint were left in the dark is also suspect. The fact that they are insisting it be pledged immediately instead of allowing decisions about the town land to go through the Master Plan process is not in the town's best interest. They probably have known since before they started in January that they were going to want the town land, so why did they wait until August 15 to make this known? Could it be that making it a last minute emergency works to their advantage with less scrutiny?</p> <p>Many of the people who support this project are unaware of some of the realities of their charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parents will need to transport their children to and from school. *They will need to provide their children's lunch every day. *The extra-curricular and sports activities will be extremely limited. *They intend to replace the ball field, pavilion and horseshoe pits which were built by the Alpine American Legion with a parking lot. <p>They are not providing any real financial data about their building costs. Lots of fuzzy talk about investors, donors and municipal bonds, using the land value to get loans. It started out as a philanthropic project, but it seems less and less so lately. They tried to present the case that they needed the town land to make the project happen. Anyone who didn't want to hand over Alpine's most valuable asset was endangering Alpine getting a school.</p> <p>Alpine was as close as it has ever been to the possibility of a school with the school district. Superintendent Erickson formally requested consideration of a K-3 facility in Alpine in the MCER study currently being completed. Alpine would certainly be better served by a school that would serve all students versus the currently proposed Charter school.</p> <p>Finally, I do not want the Town of Alpine involved with a charter school. They have enough to do managing the town's infrastructure and growth needs. They have problems with odor from the sewer plant that are still unresolved. If they lease the town land, the town will need to be very involved. It is already costing the town money and human resources. Future town councils will be burdened by the responsibilities set into motion by this town council in this public, private partnership.</p> <p>They are creating a transportation nightmare, but no need for a traffic study. No need to discuss the plan they brought before the council. No need to worry about impaired drivers coming from Melvin Brewing. No need to worry about the river being so close. No need to talk about any other land parcel. They set their sights on the town land and that is what it must be if Alpine wants a school. They also presented it as a now or never situation. It does not seem to be a reputable way to do business.</p> <p>I write this letter with great sadness. I was the secretary of the first planning and zoning commission, after Alpine incorporated. I served on the Town Council from 1992-1996. We were the council who bought and reserved this land for public use. The original amount set aside for a school was just under 5 acres on the upper bench, not the 20 or more acres they are trying to get the town to commit to. I have always supported and sometimes helped lead the charge to get a school in Alpine, which is what makes it so painful to recommend against you granting the charter.</p> <p>Better no school than the wrong school. I would prefer to see how the MCER study comes out. Alpine would be better served by a school run by the school district.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kathy Owsiany</p>	
9/20/2024 14:12:52	carliejana@gmail.com	Jana Carlie	Alpine, WY	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	<p>We sincerely want our child to attend the proposed American Preparatory Academy charter school in Alpine, Wyoming. We strongly urge the WCSAB to approve the application for APA in Alpine for the future of our child and family, the local community, and Wyoming. We believe this is a wonderful charter school with impressive academic techniques, curriculum, and results. Alpine is a growing community with a significant need for this school. Further, we don't want our child spending 18-20 hours per week on a school bus. We are hard working parents who want the best for our child and we want Alpine, Wyoming to be our permanent community. Bringing in APA charter school is the best way to ensure that. Thank you so much for your consideration.</p>	
9/19/2024 21:03:10	brentcarlie@gmail.com	Brent Carlie	Alpine	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	<p>We sincerely want our child to attend the proposed American Preparatory Academy charter school in Alpine, Wyoming. We strongly urge the WCSAB to approve the application for APA in Alpine for the future of our child and family, the local community, and Wyoming. We believe this is a wonderful charter school with impressive academic techniques, curriculum, and results. Alpine is a growing community with a significant need for this school. Further, we don't want our child spending 18-20 hours per week on a school bus. We are hard working parents who want the best for our child and we want Alpine, Wyoming to be our permanent community. Bringing in APA charter school is the best way to ensure that. Thank you so much for your consideration.</p>	We do not support the Vitalis Charter Academy. We support the American Preparatory Academy.
9/19/2024 20:51:31	isaiahgross@hotmail.com	Isaiah gross	Alpinr	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes	We support bringing the APA to our community and growing together.	Have not reviewed
9/17/2024 10:14:26	vernonomdorff@park6.org	Vernon Omdorff	Park County Scho	District/School Staff	No	No		<p>Page 49 of the application states, "They were all reluctant to work with us because the compensation was too low and perceived competition too high." One thing has been clear, even if it was not said: the local school districts want nothing to do with authorizing a Charter School. These two statements are inaccurate. I received an email from Ms. Lisa Oiler on April 19, 2024, "Good Afternoon. We just wanted to reach out and let you know that we will not be pursuing a partnership with the district as an authorized at this time." As the superintendent of Park 6, I previously met with Ms. Oiler and a few other parents. I explained that Park 6 supports Homeschool families by providing academic opportunities for students to take classes during the school day, participate in activities or athletics, and receive other supports. I followed up with a letter requesting Vitalis's application or assurances, and I would share those documents with Park 6 Trustees. After that letter was sent, I received the email message mentioned above from Ms. Oiler.</p>
9/17/2024 16:29:16	hclark72316@gmail.com	Hannah Clark	Powell	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes		<p>I'm in favor of Vitalis Charter Academy. I love that this will give our children more support for their individual needs. Some kids will thrive in the public school system, but many will not. I believe this charter school will bridge the gap for children who need more individual attention and parents who need the support of a professional educator.</p> <p>I like that if a child needs to go to public school- whether that be because they find it's a better fit or because their home situation changes- this can and should make the transition easier. The child will be at least caught up to their peers and the teacher can better help them get into the right classes if they are ahead.</p> <p>Children need parents who are involved and care about their development and education. This charter school will make that involvement easier and I truly believe it children as individuals, as well as their families, will be stronger with this option. Vitalis Charter Academy will be great for the children in our communities.</p>

Timestamp	Email Address	Name (First and Last)	Town, City, or School District	Which stakeholder group do you represent?	Do you have school age children?	Would you plan to send your children to a Charter School if it is approved?	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the American Preparatory Academy of Alpine.	Please provide your comments regarding the application for the Vitalis Charter Academy.
9/23/2024 10:21:58	elisha.lsummers@gmail.com	Elisha Summers	Powell, Wyoming	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No		<p>As a parent, I feel that the social needs of my children are best met through experiences acquired at a brick-and-mortar public school. This is where students are able to meet and experience people of varying socioeconomic status, races, cultures, ethnic groups, physical and mental ability levels, political groups, and religious beliefs. Without face-to-face experiences with people of different ways of life, our children are less likely to learn tolerance and acceptance of people who are different from them. Without face-to-face interactions, children are less likely to learn how to manage disagreements with others in a fashion that doesn't devolve into personal name calling, etc. In today's political atmosphere, it's imperative that we teach our children to not only think for themselves, but to also be open minded enough to try to understand another person's point of view and appreciate the wide variety of differences encompassed in the human experience. Being this type of person myself, I also researched various options in the area for people who do not feel that brick-and-mortar education is the best for their own families.</p> <p>A quick internet search provided a list of at least 5 different options for online private school attendance. There are another 3 virtual public schools available in this area, two of which are centered in the Powell/Cody area. Therefore, it seems that the need for this type of school is more than filled at this time. With the way public schools are funded, there comes a point in an oversaturated market where funds are spread so thinly that everyone has to make do with fewer resources while parents and families will still expect the same level of education and activity options to which they are accustomed. In this situation everyone, but especially our children, walk away as losers.</p> <p>There is no need for an additional public virtual school. This charter school is not offering anything that isn't already currently available.</p>
9/23/2024 21:19:03	lastle87@gmail.com	Lucas Astle	Alpine	Community Member	No	Yes		
9/24/2024 3:08:04	meg.omara@gmail.com	Meghan Omara	Cody	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Maybe		<p>If we are funding charter schools with our tax money, then I hope it will also be a priority to fund our public schools adequately first. Cody middle school has continued to eliminate teaching positions as staff leave/retire in the district and it is negatively impacting both teachers and students. Class sizes are the largest they have ever been, and teachers are burnt out. I don't know a single teacher in this community that isn't working a second job to supplement, or looking to change to a different career. Cody has also cut art for elementary students due to funding and staffing as well. I think our priority needs to be making our public education strong in the state of Wyoming again prior to funneling money to a different source. If this is funded by public funds for the school, how will you guarantee all students have equal access to these resources? The last thing Cody needs is another attraction for the ultra wealthy, which ultimately pushes out normal families who desire to still live in Wyoming.</p>

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9/24/2024 16:37:18	lisaoliar@gmail.com	Lisa Ollar	Cody	Parent or Guardian	Yes	Yes		<p>Dear Members of the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board,</p> <p>I am writing to you today to comment on the authorizing of this charter school as a parent and long time educator. I left a charter school of this exact model almost 20 years ago to move to Wyoming. When I left I had just finished my administrative credential and was helping them to write their 5 year charter renewal. Much has changed since then but what I can tell you is that many of the people I worked with there are still there. From my Lead Teacher now retiring this year as the school Director, to the book mobile driver, Tony, still delivering curriculum in rural areas. I would still be working there if we had not moved out of the area. We did not have tenure or a teachers union and we all loved our jobs and helping students. This was our awesome school culture! It wasn't perfect and we often had problems to solve but we believed in what we were doing and saw how it made a difference in the students and families lives.</p> <p>In the interview I mentioned I had worked with a severely disabled student living in a remote rural area. Her name was Emily, she was 12, nonmobile, intellectually disabled, and functioning at the level of a 3 month old. Her parents' decision to homeschool was based on wanting to give Emily the best quality of life they could for what little time they had left with her. Emily's learning goals were written for a 3 month old in her IEP and we worked on them. She had all the services she would have had in the traditional school. As her regular education teacher or teacher of record. It was my privilege to work with Emily twice a week. She would light up when she heard my voice and her parents were delighted to have her at home. She changed me more than I could ever impact her.</p> <p>Another experience our family had, that has greatly influenced the motivation to help our community offer more school choice options, was the death of my son's best friend. Nate was an honor student in the 1st week of his Junior year when he took his life. My son Jed was the last friend he reached out to that night and his mother called me when they couldn't find him. I can't help but think that the pressure Nate was feeling that overwhelmed him enough to take his life could have been managed differently had he felt he had options.</p> <p>It was with this concern, a few years later, that we approached the concerns we had for our daughter's mental health, dragging through her middle school years, after Covid. Deciding to pull her out of CHS her Freshman year was the best decision we made for her future. She was depressed, struggling with motivation or interest in anything and often emotionally overwhelmed. It took some time and with specific interventions she began engaging in family life, church activities, and even interest in learning. I started looking into English courses she could take online through one of the state's virtual programs and quickly found that she would need to be enrolled in all her classes online. No program in the state would take her for just one course. I felt as a sophomore with her circumstances we were setting her up for failure by making her sit at a computer all day to learn. She did much better with a variety of learning opportunities. All of the virtual programs assured me that the community colleges and university would accept her homeschool English course as preparation enough and that she would even qualify for Hathaway. I was surprised that they would not support a Wyoming student in taking one course in preparation for college courses. It felt like they were throwing the baby out with the bath water, but I also understood that from their perspective she was deficient in graduation credits.</p> <p>I absolutely know that we made the right choice for our daughter. She is today a happy, well adjusted, thriving teenager with goals and a great outlook on life even if we did have to sacrifice high school graduation. It was with these experiences and my knowledge of what is possible for students that I felt obligated to participate in the formation of Vitalis Charter Academy.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to have my comments heard and for listening to the many comments and stories of other families in our community.</p> <p>Lisa Ollar</p>

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9/24/2024 20:52:57	olviaolar@gmail.com	Olivia Oilar	Cody	Community Member	No	Yes		<p>Dear Members of the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board,</p> <p>I am writing to you today to ask you to please allow our community to have this Charter School. School was not a healthy environment for me. 7th and 8th grade was too much for me emotionally and I wasn't really learning anything. If anything I was learning how to avoid and withdraw from life. I tried High School my Freshman year thinking that would be better and it wasn't any better. Homeschool opened up a bunch of opportunities that I wouldn't have had if I would have stayed at the high school. I have formed relationships with people who have the same goals and values that I have. I have learned about and explored the interests that I have. The change in environment helped me to thrive and helped me to not be depressed, sad and lonely.</p> <p>Having more choices in what I am doing and how I can do it has changed my perspective to hopeful for my future. I needed to be at home where I could find peace without all the chaos of all the students. Now I have a desire to go to college where before I hated school and never wanted to go to college. I have had the opportunity to explore work and have a better idea what I will enjoy for a career. I have been able to work part time jobs that have helped me gain confidence and communication skills. I could not have been successful in an all virtual program or an alternative setting like HIA. I love being able to tell people there are other options for learning than the traditional school setting.</p> <p>Thank you! Olivia Oilar</p>
9/25/2024 15:54:47	schipfmann@gmail.com	Karen Schipfmann	Park County Scho	Parent or Guardian	Yes	No		<p>Thank you for visiting our town of Cody and for your time and expertise in this charter school application process.</p> <p>I am on the Park County School District #6 team as a Trustee but the opinions expressed here are my own and come as an observant parent of public school children. I attended the listening session on September 17th from 1:00-3:00 pm as the Vitalis Charter Academy group presented their application and answered your questions.</p> <p>The following are my observations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a homeschool. It's identified as such in their files and in their presentation. This goes against your Assurance #7. "The proposed charter school guarantees that the applicant is not proposing to convert a private school or a nonpublic home-based educational program into a charter school (W.S. 21-3-303)." It also does not align with Assurances 8, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 30 and 42. 2. The question during the session, "is this COVID learning on steroids?" No, it's much worse. COVID (online) learning required students to log in and virtually attend class Monday through Friday with certified teachers. In this proposed setting, students will only be checking in with "mentors" occasionally or at least every 20 days. The daily education would be handled by available parents/guardians. Further, online learning does not work for many students as it requires self-directed dedication. 3. This is ONLY open to those families who have the economic luxury of having a parent/guardian at home. This is not an inclusive list of families in our District so it's not open to all students. 4. At-risk youth were mentioned several times. Most families in this category would not have a parent/guardian at home to administer and oversee this educational platform. It would also require self-directed dedication of all involved. <p>Homeschooling exists in our District and those students are welcomed into activities, school events and even some classrooms. However, this charter school is a funding ask that does not align with many of the assurances you've specified in the application. Furthermore, statements delivered during the listening session included, "I've had not bright parents doing this," "Teach and Preach," and simply "Disenrolling students who weren't performing." These statements are not inclusive, nonsecular, illegal and unkind. This does not seem like public education to me.</p>