

Chicken Proposal Paragraph Law 15-2-24 - Sabarre 2017

Overview:

We the students and teachers of Skyline Middle School would like to propose an amendment to the Ordinance 15-2-24 to have up to 6 hens for educational purposes. The current ordinance does not allow for schools in Harrisonburg, VA to have chickens for educational purposes. As students of Skyline Middle School, we are proposing for the council to allow at the most 6 hens to be allowed at our school for educational purposes. The following information will show we have thought out the benefit, safety, care and integration into our curriculum. Please consider either a waiver to the ordinance for SKMS or a change to this law so we can have chickens for these purposes.

Educational Value:

We believe that we should be able to have the chickens because it would be a fun learning experience. Some things we learned this year are symbiotic relationships, ecosystems, and also the levels of organization. Another advantage of having the hens are that they can teach us how to be responsible. These hens can help children and us learn with hands on and visual work. So far, students have learned about the cycle of life, symbiotic relationships, ecosystems, mitosis, perseverance, DNA structures, responsibility, climate, safety, strategy, and more. These hens will continue to serve as an learning source. This experience can help open students eyes to new opportunities. Being from the city, students don't get much of a chance to interact with animals, much less chickens. It also teaches us how to continuously do something over a period of time. Also the hens will help SKMS because their scat will help our garden and compost. We don't turn back, we don't leave anyone behind, so if you say yes we won't be leaving these hens behind.

Care and Safety:

Our plan for feeding our chickens is to feed the chickens a mixture of cafeteria scraps and chicken feed. Our cafeteria has a lot of extra food from the kids and we don't want to waste it. Our chickens could eat the extra fruits and vegetables for a good health. The hens will not be free range at the school. We will build the chicken coop and run for them as a STEM engineering project. This specific breed of hens can tolerate harsh weather. In the winter we will leave the hens at the school. Before we leave we will leave enough food and water for them during any possible winter weather and get students who live close by to help over winter breaks. During the summer a student with

3 acres of land will obtain their chicken licence and they will be able to take the hens home temporarily. We will be sure the student is responsible. When they lay their eggs we could sell them to teachers at the school to pay for their feed. Our STEM class recently received a grant of \$2,000 to purchase supplies from Lowe's to build the coop and care for the hens. Our STEM teacher has chickens, and is a very skilled at taking care of them and she has taught us well.

Location:

If the city council should allow the academy which is us, to have chickens outside our garden located in 470 Linda Ln. We will love to have chickens in our garden and use them for educational purposes. We are located 2.8 miles from the poultry plant.

Please see the image below regarding where we plan to keep the chickens on the property. This image shows the back of the property where our garden is located. We plan to have a covered fenced in area and a chicken hutch for them to get out of the elements and nest.



