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## Mulberry Tree Preschool hands over the keys to Growing Light Montessori School

By Vera Kochan



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According to a staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, on July 7, the town received notice from Allison requesting to assign her lease to Growing Light. GLMS would assume the existing Mulberry Tree lease agreement, which would expire on June 30, 2026, with an option to extend for an additional five years through June 30, 2031.

GLMS owner, Rachel LaField, attended the Aug. 25 meeting to answer any of the council members' questions. LaField currently owns three campuses - one in Lafayette, one in Kensington and one in Oakland. Included with a letter dated July 20 to the town council, LaField provided family letters of recommendation, landlord letters of recommendation, a business plan with capital improvements, a child care provider license, financial statements, a total assets balance sheet, and more.

"We look forward to working with you to create necessary and inspired childcare offerings for the town of Moraga," stated the GLMS letter. "We are confident that a harmonious and seamless transition is possible for everyone."

Already in the works, GLMS has plans for improvements to the fire alarm system and monitoring; painting and repairs; and landscaping which are expected to cost \$27,000.

The town council also directed Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Assistant Town Attorney Denise Bazzano to clarify language from the Fourth Amendment regarding the disposition of improvements on the premises upon lease termination.

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[back](#)

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