

Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School

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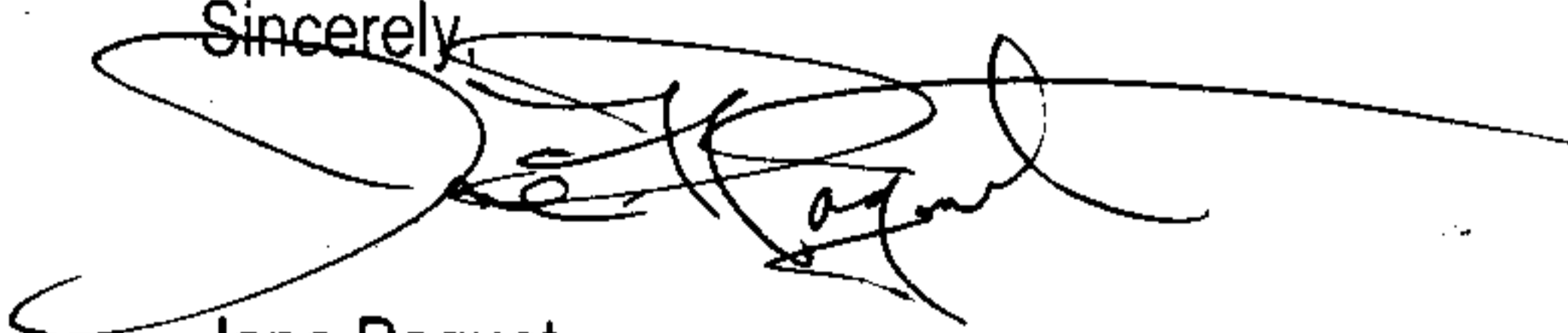
To Whom It May Concern:

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School is pleased to be a member of the advisory council for the 2010 Youth Summit for Sustainable Development under the umbrella of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute. We look forward to our involvement in this capacity as well as to the opportunities it will afford our students as they look at local and global issues of concern.

The Public Charter School has a long-standing commitment to community and community service. This commitment runs deeply enough to be a graduation requirement for our high school students. In order to support, encourage, and enable our students to be successful in this area, the faculty often helps to craft and/or guide community service projects both on the island and off. We all, students and teachers, understand the incredible benefits, to self and to others, that this brings and we look forward to contributing to your efforts.

In graduate school my colleagues and I wondered why it was that some people, when confronted with a situation felt empowered to get involved and become agents of change while others felt helpless and seemingly apathetic. Turns out that people who get involved are people who, as younger individuals, had the opportunity to "do something". This could be as simple as writing a letter to their legislators or participating in a rally to something more involved and complex like leading a letter writing campaign. I believe that your work is valuable, important, and empowering. I am honored to be given the opportunity to become part of it and will work enthusiastically towards its goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Paquet', written over a large, loopy flourish.

Jane Paquet