

## Resolution 2022-12

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

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December 1, 2022

### *A Resolution Opposing the Closing of Nunaka Valley Elementary School as a Neighborhood School*

**WHEREAS**, Nunaka Valley Elementary School is located in the Northeast Community Council area, and;

**WHEREAS**, Neighborhood schools are the heart of our community, providing critical services including education, socialization, playgrounds for physical exercise, and motivation for young families to invest their energies and real estate dollars, and;

**WHEREAS**, school buildings are not easily repurposed due to zoning and traffic restrictions, and having large empty buildings in a neighborhood will depress property values and could become magnets for crime and graffiti, and;

**WHEREAS**, 5 out of the 6 elementary schools located in the Northeast Community Council area are designated Title 1 schools, and Title 1 schools make up \*42% of the ASD population of elementary schools, yet account for 83% of the proposed cuts, thus cutting services to the families who need it the most and creating an unacceptable level of inequity and hardship, and;

**WHEREAS**, the administration's proposal for Nunaka Elementary will force students, who can't take the bus, to walk along dangerous roadways, increasing the risk of traffic incidents, and;

**WHEREAS**, according to the administration, the proposed disruptions to Nunaka Valley Elementary will, according to administration officials, save a negligible \$245,783 from a \$68 million deficit, and;

**WHEREAS**, prior to any decision that substantially affects the purpose/ utilization of a community school - parents, students, and community stakeholders should be regularly consulted as "partners" early in every stage of any decision making process.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**; the NECC strongly opposes the closing of Nunaka Valley Elementary School as a neighborhood school and encourages the Anchorage School Board to consider such school closures as an absolute last option. Should closure eventually be necessary, it must be spread equitably to not disproportionately impact Title 1 services. Additionally, the Anchorage School District must have a suitable, practical plan for repurposing the Nunaka Valley Elementary School building that can be quickly and safely implemented, thus limiting the long-term risk to neighborhood property values and student wellness, and;

Considering the administration has articulated the need to figure out the right size and number of schools according to population shifts, school attendance, and cultural changes, the NECC strongly encourages ASD to create a **community schools advisory taskforce** to advise the development of a comprehensive strategy that meets the needs of both the school district and the community.

Yea Votes: 18

Nay Votes: 1

Date: 12/1/2022

NECC Board President Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Martinez", written in a cursive style.

George Martinez, NECC President

\*<https://www.asdk12.org/title1/> link to ASD list of Title 1 schools (there are 25 on this list),  
<https://www.asdk12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1439> link to ASD list of all Elementary Schools (there are 59 on this list).