

Whereas the Birchwood Community Council was created to be the voice of the Birchwood neighborhood and this Council has now discussed the potential impact of the closure of our neighborhood school at multiple meetings.

The Birchwood Community Council believes that:

- Anchorage will continue to grow. It is short sighted to close a school in an area that Municipal planners have consistently said contains most of the available vacant land in the municipality and thus is anticipated to develop and grow faster than the rest of the Municipality.
- We have already been discussing the impact of Eklutna Corporation's planned Powder Ridge housing development for 1,560 new single-family homes. It is currently underway and is located immediately adjacent to the Birchwood ABC attendance area.
- The ABC philosophy as pioneered by Northern Lights ABC and followed by Birchwood is for a single all school model. This whole school ABC philosophy has proven consistently to yield high achievement levels. Birchwood ABC exhibits the best test scores in the Chugiak-Eagle River area. A strong principal who supports that philosophy sets the tone and spirit of a school, dividing and overseeing multiple programs will dilute this influence.
- Birchwood ABC and Chugiak High sit on land that still belongs to the Eklutna people. It was made available to ASD with the clear understanding the sites would be used for neighborhood schools.
- The current financial uncertainty for home school students may lead more of them to attend local public schools in the future.
- We believe and support the importance of our neighborhoods. The Birchwood neighborhood often speaks with one voice and the school is our heart. Our Council met for many years in the school's library. It is **our** neighborhood school.

We therefore resolve that Birchwood Elementary School should remain open and continue its strong ABC program.