

Resolution 2024-06

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

December 5, 2024

NUNAKA VALLEY ELEMENTARY ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIZING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District publicly announced on November 1, 2024 their intention to close seven elementary schools over the next three years as part a district wide “rightsizing” initiative, and

WHEREAS prior to the publication of this initiative the Anchorage School District has not demonstrate to those of the Nunaka Valley Elementary School affected neighborhood families and students, and community that they have exhausted all other options, such as combining programs from rented non-ASD properties into existing neighborhood schools, charter schools, optional or special programs, and

WHEREAS the initiative includes three northeast sector Title I elementary schools that are in very close physical proximity to each other, Nunaka Valley Elementary is only 1.5 miles from both Baxter and Wonder Park Elementary Schools, and

WHEREAS repurposing Nunaka Valley Elementary School, one of the three northeast sector schools will overall affect *32% of all elementary students slated to be relocated, affecting a substantial and disproportionate number of families and students, in the Anchorage School District’s “rightsizing” initiative, and

WHEREAS Nunaka Valley is a Title 1 school that serves many families and children already experiencing both financial and educational disparity and require a learning environment where children flourish and receive the type of support a small school setting provides, and

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District has not provided any information about the repurposed “Special Program” for Nunaka Valley Elementary, and

WHEREAS Nunaka Valley Elementary is in proximity and has a keystone connection with Russian Jack Park, Nunaka Valley Park South, and Mann Leiser Memorial Greenhouse, and ideally situated for a desirable school program emphasizing outdoor, environmental, and nature education as it is within easy walking distance to two outdoor classrooms, groomed ski trails, two sledding hills, ice skating, and a fully accessible greenhouse, and

WHEREAS the distribution of the Anchorage School District’s “resizing” initiative falls predominantly upon Nunaka Valley Elementary and the combined northeast sector elementary schools and their respective supportive communities within the Northeast Community Council.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Northeast Community Council is not supportive of repurposing the Nunaka Valley Elementary School as a part of the Anchorage School District’s “rightsizing” initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeast Community Council urges the Anchorage School District to revisit, in conjunction with the Nunaka Valley Elementary families and neighbors, the initiative to retain the current programming and reassess with the possibility of a

including an outdoor, environmental, and nature education element to enhance the current program.

Resolution Vote: For ____ Against: ____ Abstain: ____

Ronald P. Meehan, President, NECC

Dave Weber, Secretary, NECC

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*Slide 12 from ASD presentation to the School Board during the Nov 4 work session:

Recommendation for Close/Combine & Repurpose

| Closing Schools | Remarks | Receiving Schools |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Bear Valley ES</u> (Year 1) (69%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure | 80 students to O'Malley ES 104 students to Rabbit Creek ES 121 students to Huffman ES |
| <u>Lake Hood ES</u> (Year 1) (39%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose building: Charter School • Programs affected: Pre-K, SBBS program | 113 students to Turnagain ES 62 students to Northwood ES |
| <u>Tudor ES</u> (Year 1) (69%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose building: Whaley K-12 & Outreach • Programs affected: Montessori program moves to Denali Montessori | 179 students to Lake Otis ES 124 students to Denali Montessori ES |
| <u>Fire Lake ES</u> (Year 2) (47%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose building: Charter School • Programs affected: SLC program | 108 students to Eagle River ES 40 students to Birchwood ABC ES 2 students to Chugiak ES |
| <u>Nunaka Valley ES</u> (Year 2) (63%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose building: Pre-K School • Programs affected: 7 Pre-K classes stay | 39 students to Chester Valley ES 57 students to Russian Jack ES |
| <u>Wonder Park ES</u> (Year 2) (66%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure • Programs affected: Pre-K, SLC program | 103 students to Williwaw ES 78 students to Ptarmigan ES |
| <u>Baxter ES</u> (Year 3) (56%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose building: Charter School • Programs affected: SLC program | 53 students to Scenic Park ES 99 students to College Gate ES 17 students to Chester Valley ES |