

**Resolution 2024-05**  
Northeast Community Council (NECC)

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*December 5, 2024*

**REGARDING ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIZING INITIATIVE**

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

WHEREAS on November 27, 2024, the Anchorage School District made a public announcement of their intention to revise the initial initiative to target closure of four elementary schools by the end of the 2025 school year, and

WHEREAS the District’s initiative includes three Title I elementary schools, two of which are in the northeast sector, Nunaka Valley Elementary and Baxter Elementary Schools, and

WHEREAS closing and repurposing northeast sector schools, Nunaka Valley Elementary and Baxter Elementary, will affect approximately \*45% of all elementary students slated to be relocated in the Anchorage School District’s “rightsizing” initiative, and

WHEREAS Nunaka Valley Elementary and Baxter Elementary Schools serve families and students that require Title I resources, and

WHEREAS Nunaka Valley Elementary and Baxter Elementary School students cope with disparities in academic growth and social proficiencies, and for whom a small school setting provides a learning environment where they will be able to receive the greatest possible assistance, and

WHEREAS special programs/charter schools/open optional/language immersion programs have trended to be in separate buildings instead of co-located with neighborhood schools, the side effect being that over time this is creating an imbalance in neighborhood schools whereby those who can afford the time and cost to drive to specialized programs are doing so, siphoning students and resources out of neighborhood schools, and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska continues to be in a state of crisis with availability of childcare and elementary school buildings could be shared to provide well suited space to support childcare and fill underutilized classroom space, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Northeast Community Council is not supportive of Anchorage School District’s “rightsizing” initiative as currently proposed and as it relates to the northeast sector elementary schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Northeast Community Council recommends the Anchorage School District work closely with the families of the northeast sector elementary schools to

revisit the initiative for other options that may also include further shared building use with other programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Northeast Community Council urges Anchorage School District to revisit the initiative and adopt efforts that will more proportionately affect the families and students throughout the district rather than targeting one sector of the city.

**Resolution Vote:** For: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

*Murray Crookes*

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Murray Crooks, Vice President, NECC

*Dave Weber*

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Dave Weber, Secretary, NECC

\*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"> <li>• Closure</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: Pre-K, SBBS program</li> </ul>	113 students to Turnagain ES 62 students to Northwood ES
<u>Tudor ES</u> (Year 1) (69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Whaley K-12 &amp; Outreach</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: Montessori program moves to Denali Montessori</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: SLC program</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Pre-K School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: 7 Pre-K classes stay</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Closure</li> <li>• Programs affected: Pre-K, SLC program</li> </ul>	103 students to Williwaw ES 78 students to Ptarmigan ES
<u>Baxter ES</u> (Year 3) (56%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: SLC program</li> </ul>	53 students to Scenic Park ES 99 students to College Gate ES 17 students to Chester Valley ES