

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 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 initiative includes the repurposing of two 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 Baxter Elementary School, 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 taken steps to identify steps for shared building use at Wonder Park Elementary, however repurposing Nunaka Valley Elementary School, one of the two northeast sector schools, will overall affect *45% of all elementary students slated to be relocated, affecting a substantial number of families, students, and supportive communities within the Northeast Community Council, 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 a walkable and well-run charter school in a neighborhood setting could create an attractive program that families will want to live nearby, and

WHEREAS a charter school with a preference for neighborhood student eligibility could help retain some of the qualities a neighborhood school offers, and

WHEREAS a pre-school program paired with a charter school program for middle school aged children could create a synergy between both programs. Where the older middle school kids could take preschoolers on nature walks, help with bus duty and craft projects, 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

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District has proposed repurposing Nunaka Valley Elementary into a charter school program, but has not revealed details or timeline of when the move would occur, and

WHEREAS the Anchorage School District should investigate timelines and work in haste to repurpose affected schools within one summer so school buildings do not sit unoccupied, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED 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 until the Anchorage School District provides a detailed plan, working in conjunction with the Nunaka Valley Elementary families and neighbors, to repurpose the Nunaka Valley Elementary School building within one summer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anchorage School District should consider including a charter school program in the Nunaka Valley Elementary School building that includes an outdoor, environmental, and nature education element.

Resolution Vote: For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Murray Crookes

Murray Crooks, Vice President, NECC

Dave Weber

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