

**MINUTES OF THE
SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC)
Newark Unified School District**

October 8, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Approved October 22, 2020

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| A. Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Martinez. |
| B. Roll Call | <p>Members of the Committee Attendees Chae Marshall, Rachel Bloom, Sue Eustice, Janet Crocker, Hamilton Baylon, Veronica Medina, Angela Ringlein, Maria Ibarra, Cathreene Ingham-Watters, Christine Dix, Michelle Padilla</p> <p>Mark Triplett, Ed.D., Superintendent Elisa Martinez, President NUSD School Board Phuong Nguyen, Member NUSD School Board</p> <p>Absent Vilma Cristina Mendoza, Selene Nevarez</p> |
| C. Superintendent's Welcome | Dr. Triplett welcomed the committee. |
| D. Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Most of the public comments received via email were read aloud. (All public comments are included below as part of the minutes.)</p> |
| E. Approval of September 24, 2020 Minutes | <p>Motion to approve minutes as presented</p> <p>Motion: Ingham-Watters Second: Padilla Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: 0 Abstain: 0</p> |
| F. Presentation of Educational and Support Services | <p>Mark Triplett, Ed.D., Superintendent, presented the Educational and Support Services information.</p> <p>Other District Employees Available for Questions: Dr. Jan Hamilton, Director of Special Education Isabel Cervantes-Faulk, Director of Special Projects Ariel Dolowich, Director of Teaching & Learning</p> |
| G. Presentation of Financial Information and Community Impacts | Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official, presented the Financial Report and Community Impacts information. |

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| Motion to Extend the meeting until 8:30 PM | <p>Chair Martinez made the recommendation that the meeting be extended until 8:30 PM.</p> <p>Motion: Padilla Second: Crocker Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Medina, Ibarra, Dix, Padilla No: Ringlein, Ingham-Watters, Baylon Abstain: 0</p> |
| H. Site Analysis | Brianna García, Director, School Services of California, led discussion on site analysis and criteria. |
| I. Next Meeting | <p>Next meeting October 22, 2020</p> |
| I. Adjournment | <p>Motion to adjourn Motion: Dix Second: Medina Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Meeting adjourned 8:26 PM</p> |
| Other Attendees | <p>District Personnel Attendees Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official Jessica Saavedra, Executive Director of Human Resources Lucia Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to Superintendent Paul Rose, Network Manager Jodi Croce, Business Services Administrative Assistant Dr. Jan Hamilton, Director of Special Education Isabel Cervantes-Faulk, Director of Special Projects Ariel Dolowich, Director of Teaching & Learning</p> <p>Other Attendees Facilitator: Brianna García, Director, School Services of California Demographer: Ken Reynolds, SchoolWorks Gilma Guevara, Spanish Translator</p> |

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| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>My question to the committee is: Will McGregor be included in this processes. Considering that there are less than 200 students at that site that can be easily relocated to possibly the portables at the Jr. High. Most of the McGregor site is underutilized so closing it seems like a feasible solution. Or even to open it up to more students when closures are decided. So many funds have gone into that site to let it go to waste.</p> <p>Thank You, Ramonía Polillo</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Dear School Consolidation Committee,</p> <p>While most people write to tell you what the school district is doing wrong or how you must keep a certain school open, I would like to share something I feel has gone brilliantly in our district and why it would be a shame to lose this.</p> <p>Five years ago, NUSD decided to try something new, with the merger of two schools, Milani and Bunker, into one school on two sites, Birch Grove Elementary. This decision was not without opposition at the time.</p> <p>However, after things settled down, anyone involved with BGP or BGI can tell you that this was an amazing decision for students, families and teachers.</p> <p>As a teacher at BGI, here are some of the advantages I have witnessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All our professional development and schoolwide initiatives can be focused on students from ages 8-12--this narrow band allows us to really meet the needs of the students we have. This includes specialists (special education, science, English language development, intervention, etc.) being able to hone their skills for more specific, targeted, needs-based instruction • Teachers are able to collaborate across the grade levels with more efficiency, as we only need to cover grades 3-6, leading to more precisely teaching to grade level standards and students' needs • Having large grade level bands allows us to spread students out more effectively in regards to social needs, academic and behavioral issues, etc. • Teachers are able to regroup within a grade level to meet students' needs and/or specialize in a subject area for the grade level • Our teams of teachers are able to truly collaborate as opposed to other schools with 1-2 classes per grade level--larger teams mean more ideas for meeting students' needs <p>The system of one school on two sites works for many reasons. Our test scores are up. Discipline issues are down. Families are happy. Our Parent Teacher Club is the most amazing I have seen in over 25 years of teaching. I implore you to keep this school MODEL open--not necessarily at BGI and BGP, as I understand there are</p> |

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| | <p>many reasons behind school closures, but within NUSD. This model has shown excellent success in five years. Please allow it to continue, regardless of the site.</p> <p>Lisa Myhre (my-er) Teacher, BGI</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Email received from: Tisrat Rahman Regarding the school shutdowns that might happen this year, I would like my children, [REDACTED] (6th grade) and [REDACTED] (kindergarten), to continue going to H.A. Snow Elementary.</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Good evening,</p> <p>I'm a parent of two daughters as well as a staff member at Snow Elementary. I started working at Snow last year and I've witnessed the dedication hard work and commitment our Principal, Jessica Tommasini, Teachers, Staff, PTA, Translator and volunteers have put in to serve our community as a team. A Team is a group of individuals who work collaboratively to meet a common goal. This is to ensure we serve our students and families with humility, compassion and respect. Not only are they our customers, but they are friends and families of people we've built solid and trusting relationships with. These families have given us purpose as well. With that being said, I'm requesting that Snow is not a consideration to be eliminated from Newark Unified School District. It has so much history, potential, and heart that is attached to the name that our district can't afford to lose.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Toya Lemus</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Dear Committee members,</p> <p>We understand how hard this process is for all of you. We know two schools will close, we just hope one of them will not be Snow. You might see a regular school from outside, nothing special, but let us tell you a little about the inside of Snow. Our school is special! Our kids are what is most important to us and taking care of them is part of that. At Snow, our teachers work very hard each day for our kids, and they are the best. They go above and beyond for our kids, always motivating them to be the best they can be. Our teachers are a part of each family. They truly care and give up their lives for our kids! Some loved our school so much as students, that they came back here to teach. Others have spent almost their entire careers here as teachers because of the great environment for all our staff.</p> |

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Jessica Tommasini is our principal and she is awesome! The English Learner community feels welcome and supported by her. She has gone above and beyond to help our students. When she was our intervention teacher, she was a huge part of why so many of our kids were being reclassified each year. Again, that matters because these are kids that have a harder time in school and have a chance to move beyond that to have a chance at a great future. She started at Snow and has cared enough to stay and keep working with us. The English learner community appreciates all she has done for our school and what she continues to do to support it.

Snow recently adopted the SEAL program and it is something that not only our teachers are happy about, but as parents we are too. It is a teaching model that helps students succeed with proven training and results. The focus of SEAL is to support English Learners, but the strategies that our teachers are learning will benefit all Snow students. By working closely with our SEAL coaches, Mrs. Tommasini took advantage of an opportunity for all of our teachers to receive some training on SEAL lessons and units early this school year. Snow's teachers continually seek out learning opportunities in order to support all of our students, especially our neediest students such as our English Learners. Based on the schools that are the closest, Snow kids would miss out on SEAL because Kennedy does not have it. That matters!

In the last meeting, each school had a list of what was something special about the site. Some had special fields, etc, but Snow had nothing. That is not true! We have an amazing garden! Actually, we have several which are used for learning and one in particular has many fruit trees. All of our teachers have been able to use the gardens in many lessons because it is nature at its best, not just a picture or a video. We have had former students come back to do special projects in our main garden because of how special it is. They could have gone anywhere, but they chose Snow! Several clubs have also given us their time to help with the garden.

As parents, we recognize the importance of our daily life at home. We had a series of workshops that focused not only on us as individuals, but also on life at home for our kids. We learned to support each other, but more importantly, our kids! We continue to support each other even now with distance learning. We don't feel so alone because of that support and the support from our principal and teachers.

About six years ago, a group of parents started working very hard to make Snow a better place. Our parent group leaders, such as ELAC and PTA, started talking to more and more parents telling them about what Snow had to offer. Slowly, our groups have been growing and so has the support from our community. Many of us know each other a little better. We say hi when we see each other. We believe in a sense of community, which is stronger than ever. This matters because feeling that your kids are at a great place, where all are welcome is very important for everyone's peace of mind.

Thank you for your time. It feels like we are finally beginning to fly, we just hope you don't cut our wings! Please reread this in your meeting notes and don't let such an amazing family, the Snow community, get closed forever!

Sincerely,

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| | The Snow Elementary ELAC Parents |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>I am a mother of 2 students who attend Snow elementary. I would like to voice my concern for Snow or any school to be closed. As all schools may not be at full capacity, housing is going up, families moving in, and the rise for seats are raising. We close schools now, we are setting ourselves up for overflow and transferring people out just like other districts. If we close a school, it will not only impact the seats in schools, but children's mental health, parents, teachers, staff, traffic, and community as a whole. This does not take into account these changes affect children's learning to not only the children who relocate, but the kids in classes due to influx of students.</p> <p>Our schools need a little TLC which is undeniable and other steps and routes have not been explored. Yes I have heard talk about school closures in the past yet I haven't heard any talk about how to fix or prevent this. The process and mind has seem to be set but hope it can be changed. Parents and staff love the schools and their is always a way to make it through. Its only if we as a whole put the effort to do so. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Jenine C., parent of students at Snow elementary</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Hi,</p> <p>I want to get more information on the school consolidation topic that's being discussed for Newark schools. I want to know if our home school will be the one impacted></p> <p>Thanks, Priyanka Kothari</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Hi, I am Michelle Charles, the Office clerk for H.A. Snow School Elementary and I am writing this letter in hopes to keep our school open. This school has amazing teachers, students, staff and parents who have created a great foundation for learning and supporting each other. I see first hand the dedication our Principal and teachers have with our students. While Snow is a learning institution we see it as a place where we take personal interest with the students and help them work through problems. We create an environment where students feel comfortable and understand that we are here to help them learn and feel a sense of comfort which allows them to succeed. lease reconsider the disruption the move would have on the students and their families.</p> |

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| | <p>Thank you, Michelle Charles</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Hello Newark Unified School District,</p> <p>I was a student at Snow School Elementary and now a student at Newark Memorial High School. I heard about the potential decision to shut down Snow School Elementary and am utterly devastated by the news. I had some special memories in Snow, especially with my special circumstances when coming in. I had transferred into Snow as an immigrant in third grade, not knowing any English, Snow was a safe environment in which I never felt threatened or inferior in my slow process of learning in this brand new world. I believe the inclusive nature of staff taught my fellow students to not discriminate against me, which made a whole world of difference when my expectations of being bullied were, thankfully, shattered.</p> <p>I understand that my personal views may not change a major decision such as this, but I just wanted to put my own experiences out there to show how important Snow School was in making me feel safe in the learning processes.</p> <p>Thank you. Aaron [REDACTED]</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Hi, I would like to express my concern over the possibility of my child's school closing. She is enrolled in Snow Elementary and loves it. It is a great school and has always been very important to the families who live in the neighborhood. We live directly across the street and have enjoyed Snow School and all of the Teachers and Staff. It will be a huge adjustment for my child to have to start at a new school. She already struggles with school and I worry this will effect her negatively. I also feel that this is the worst time to close schools and merge more kids into the remaining schools we have. We don't know when the COVID-19 pandemic will get better, so putting more kids in each schools could be a detriment to their health. Thank you so much for giving me the chance to comment on this matter.</p> <p>-Katie King</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Email received from Tina Berry</p> <p>Good evening,</p> <p>My name is Tina Berry. I am not only a life-long resident of Newark but I am a product of Newark Unified School District as well. There was no question, in regards to my</p> |

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own children, that they would be NUSD students as well.

The purpose for my comments tonight are in regards to our districts need to consolidate schools. My love for this city, our schools, the community, and more important the students of our schools & I have watched EVERY one of the school consolidation meetings.....actually, there are NO words to that even come close to describe, in no where near a positive direction, what I have seen take place at these meetings.

Here are the take-away's from each of the meetings. I have listed them in order from the very first meeting until today:

-The committee wanted to be independent and didn't want the two board members to be the chair and vice chair. The board members insisted on being the chair and vice-chair because the purpose/charge document listed them in that role.

-The facilitator caught on video after the first meeting saying: ..get the committee under control

-The board members changed themselves to non-voting members even though the purpose/charge document only lists the Superintendent as a non-voting member.

-The committee was provided the criteria sheet and given the scoring methodology. They did not develop the criteria themselves as the purpose/charge document states.

-The original classroom and portable information was incorrect.

-Several committee members asked how old the portables were and the facilitator said that information would be available at the facility meeting. The age of the portables was not provided.

-After a sarcastic remark from a committee member who asked why they were even meeting since the facilitator was doing all the scoring without input from the committee, the criteria sheets now are filled in before the meeting by the facilitator.

-Several committee members wanted to calculate the capacity at each site without the portables. The facilitator gave excuse after excuse why that shouldn't be an option. Finally, Board Member Nguyen asked for the facilitator to create another column removing the portables and re-accessing the criteria score.

-The facility meeting used inaccurate deferred maintenance projects to score the school sites

-The budget information for this weeks meeting shows a \$3.5M projected deficit which

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| | <p>is projected a year further than any current NUSD budget.</p> <p>-The costs saving slide only lists certificated salary and benefits plus books and supplies as a transferable expense from the old site to the new. However, CSEA members are an essential part of the day to day operations. Some of them would still be need to provide service to the students.</p> <p>-Thumbs up and thumbs down voting process on items not on the agenda for action</p> <p>My last message is simple. While it may not seem to our School Board or the NUSD Administrators that the "public" is watching these meetings or whats happening in our district. But I assure you. People are watching.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> |
| <p>Visitor/Public Comment</p> | <p>Email received from Jessica Tommasini</p> <p>Dear SCAC Committee,</p> <p>Our kids have grown up together, and in a sense, we are family. All Snow parents are very concerned with the possibility of losing our beloved school. It has been a stressful time and we can only imagine what the committee members feel as well. Snow is a great school, with amazing staff and a sense of belonging that they all give each day. We love that they all go the extra mile to help our families when we need them. We hope that you do not decide to close Snow because it is an amazing place that we are proud to call our home school. It cannot be replaced!</p> <p>We are writing this letter for another reason as well. As fifth grade parents, our kids would be directly impacted by another decision that the committee has been given. As Snow fifth grade parents, we would like to ask that you do not transfer our kids to the Junior High next year. Our kids will have left their known surroundings that they have been at for 6 years as fourth graders to possibly never be back! It also seems that our sixth graders are quite young to be exposed to some of the things that happen at the Jr. high level.</p> <p>We know that many school districts in California already exist that way, but maybe they don't have what we do. We live in a small town compared to others and we have the possibility to continue housing our sixth graders at each site. The Junior High would be very overcrowded, and the elementary sites would be more empty than they are now. It seems unnecessary to make a move like that, financially, academically, and even morally! Our schools aren't at capacity as it is. Plus, as parents, the last thing we want is overcrowding, especially with not knowing how long COVID will be an issue as it is now.</p> <p>Something else to think about is the after Distance Learning scenario. Our kids are already stressed because so much of their life changed in a snap. Some know about the school closures and many are worried about that too. Not to mention the</p> |

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| | <p>daily struggles of getting all their work done. Do we really want to add another factor to their stress? Will we have enough mental support for the students that need it? Mental support is something that all sites ask more of. Our children's maturity level isn't ready for the Junior High. Their stress level isn't ready for it either.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of not closing Snow and keeping our kids at Snow as sixth graders. We hope you make the best decision for our amazing School, City, but more importantly our kids!!!</p> <p>Sincerely, Concerned parents of amazing fifth grade Snow students</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Hi all,</p> <p>My daughter began Kindergarten at Bunker elementary school, and shortly thereafter her school was merged with Milani, when Birch Grove Primary and Birch Grove Intermediate were created. She is now a 6th grader at BGI and has had a super positive experience attending both BGP and BGI.</p> <p>Through merging Bunker and Milani elementary schools, the district has created a unique learning environment for younger kids at BGP and older kids at BGI. I'll briefly outline the top 3 benefits that I have observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater networking opportunities - With several classes at each grade level, my daughter had been able to network and build friendships with a large number of kids in her same age group. This is beneficial as she'll be able to leverage those relationships when she goes to Junior High and High School. - Innovative teaching - Last year (pre-covid 19), my daughter benefitted by having rotational teaching. Several times a week her class would rotate for 1 class period to another teacher, that was a subject area expert. This allowed my daughter to learn from different teachers, like Ms Affelck for science, whose energy and enthusiasm helped instill a deeper love of science in my daughter. And Ms Prado for social studies, and Mr. Fee for coding. This type of rotation is great preparation for junior high and high school as well as to get exposure to more of the excellent teaching staff at BGI. - Increased diversity, equity and inclusion in her learning environment - My daughter benefits from being in a diverse school environment with kids from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Prior to merging the schools, there was a distinct difference between Bunker and Milani, with regard to test scores and other demographic data points. Merging the schools has "upleveled" the quality of education for all of the kids that fall into the school boundary area for Birch Grove, through pooling resources and staffing to give a greater number of Newark kids the best education available. |

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| | <p>In my opinion, it might be worthwhile for this committee to look at merging more schools in the way that Birch Grove has done, where two or more elementary schools are located physically near each other. Or look at other ways of merging based on topics like music, science, tech, math, etc, to continue to innovate and create diverse opportunities for Newark kids to learn.</p> <p>These days, offering a variety of programming can be seen as a value add when compared with traditional school set ups. Although we can't compete with large districts like Sacramento or Oakland, that offer several learning options like IB, public Waldorf, tech, etc, Birch Grove is a step in the right direction, and hopefully we don't undo all the progress we have made by reverting to a traditional format.</p> <p>Thanks!</p> <p>Nicole Izant</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Dear SCAC,</p> <p>Thank you for your time and allowing me the opportunity to voice my concerns over the possible closing of H.A. Snow School.</p> <p>My name is Tony Rodriguez, and I'm quite proud to call H.A. Snow School my alma mater -- my home away from home. Because of my influential education at Snow, I decided to enroll my daughter and son to be students at Snow. I've even seen first-hand all the stellar work being performed by the current faculty and staff. These educators are true all-stars. They're influential leaders in education who properly teach our children HOW to think, not WHAT to think. Snow School continuously does a tremendous job at getting students to realize their own sense of purpose and direction and self-value. The faculty and staff shape critical thinkers and budding artists and well beyond. This not a school that only educates the mind, but it also enriches the heart. I see it. We all see it. This is why we choose to send our children to such an amazing school.</p> <p>We're all Blizzard Bears at Snow School, and I have remained a Blizzard Bear right up to this very day. I'm also the moderator for a Facebook Group called "H.A. Snow School Alumni," where many other Blizzard Bear graduates come to share their stories and nostalgic pics from their years in elementary school . . . But now, to recently hear the possibility of Snow School shutting down certainly comes as a great shock. This appears to not be a "rumor," but a tragic reality. In truth, I've only discovered this plan quite recently . . . And though I believe I'm decent with tech-based communication, I'm barely seeing the reality now. These are indeed trying times for all of us. In some way, each of us is struggling over the effects of this global pandemic. But there's truly something remarkable within the human spirit to rise up and let our voices be heard. It's our duty. I'm concerned that many families whom may be less</p> |

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| <p>Visitor/Public Comment</p> | <p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>I have been informed that the NUSD is on the lookout for closing 2 schools. As an ex-Snow School student, the thought of knowing that my elementary school could potentially close would not only cause me a terrible feeling but would also impact my life strongly.</p> <p>H.A.Snow School is one of the best schools that I have heard from according to my peers and my own experiences. I was, and will always, a part of this loving and admirable community for as long as I can be. As the oldest of 3, I always talk about the school with a proud and honorable voice to my brothers. It would be a privilege if all 3 of them had the opportunity to graduate from Snow.</p> <p>Many memories were made while attending this school, one being our beautiful garden that I helped put together. I still remember the beautiful colorful flowers that I helped plant along with my classmates and science teacher. Every year on back to school night, the science teacher always gives me a tour of how our flowers are doing. Each and every year they are looking taller and prettier than the last. It brings me much joy knowing that other people can enjoy the beautiful garden as much as I do. If our school closed it would leave an awful feeling in my heart.</p> <p>I owe a lot of my achievements to the staff members at Snow, especially my teachers. The Snow staff is the best. They are always very attentive and motivate their students to do better and give it their all. This is one of the reasons why I am a successful student I am today. Their dedication, patience, and hard work make it easier for students to give their best effort in everything. They always find a way to provide the students with the support they need. Without our staff our school wouldn't be where it is.</p> <p>Our school may be a small one but I can assure it is the best one there is. We are full of love, support and positivity. We always get through things together as the great community that we are. For this, our school doesn't deserve to be shut down. If it</p> |

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| | <p>does, many opportunities would be lost as well as hope. I ask in all respect that Snow School should remain a part of this amazing community. Thank You!</p> <p>Deysi Montiel Rodriguez</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Email received from: Ariana Garcia</p> <p>Enviado desde mi Good afternoon.</p> <p>I am part of the community of families who live in Newark and who have their son at Snow school, for which in this writing it seems important to point out the importance of remaining open to the community, first of all I would like to mention that it is a great school teachers are fully trained to teach their classes, but above all I love how my son has progressed in his teaching thanks to his teachers, for him as for us it is also very important that he</p> <p>He remains in an environment where he feels safe so that his learning is not interrupted or diminished and I believe that the Snow school that he attends gives him everything we seek as parents so that our child can continue with his learning, so I ask that give the school the opportunity to continue working for the benefit of the children and their community, without more than mentioning, I appreciate your attention and that you take into account our request that Snow Elementary School continue to be open.</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Please DO NOT CLOSE KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR LET GO OF ANY OF ITS TEACHERS. Kennedy Elementary is a wonderful school full of amazing students, staff, and teachers.</p> <p>With 2 kids at Kennedy Elementary school, we quickly learned the true value of this local community and its support. It was clear parents and teachers put the kids first - not by numbers or statistics, but by individual attention a student needs to succeed. Students thrive in smaller class sizes; there's more quality instruction, each student has an opportunity to participate and get noticed, and learning is enhanced, which ultimately yields better results for the school and the District.</p> <p>Each classroom within the school feels like a family under the guidance of the teacher, and collectively makes Kennedy one large family under our principal. The bonds and relationships developed during these early years of a child's development is so critical to their growth, and forcing a change onto these children such as losing their friends due to re-distribution of the zones, losing their teachers, and/or leaving their current environment, after and possibly during the time of COVID-19, is psychologically detrimental.</p> <p>To our understanding, Kennedy is rated as an outstanding school in terms of performance, and is utilizing their potential physical capacity. The performance of the</p> |

**MINUTES OF THE
SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC)
Newark Unified School District**

October 8, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Approved October 22, 2020

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| | <p>school is heavily a reflection of our caring teachers that go above and beyond for our kids. So if Kennedy were not to close, we strongly believe that the current teachers and staff should be kept as well. Please keep Kennedy Elementary!</p> <p>Thank you, Kennedy Parents - Gio & Isleen De Torres</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Hello,</p> <p>I would like to address the superintendent's comment regarding building a larger school at the previous meeting. The superintendent stated that a rumor was circulating about building a mega school. I just wanted to clarify where this information came from and how it has been spread. Last school year, school board member Bowen Zhang attended a Kennedy Elementary PTA meeting to share his vision. Bowen Zhang stated that his vision was to tear down schools and build a large multi-story school. He had clearly put much effort into this, as he had detailed information on costs and savings. He was speaking for the board and not just himself. He informed us that he would be visiting a pta meeting at each school to share this plan. The so called rumor is actually coming directly from Bowen Zhang.</p> <p>A concerned Kennedy parent.</p> |
| Visitor/Public Comment | <p>Dear committee,</p> <p>My name is Natividad Rodriguez. I have been informed that the district is planning on closing 2 schools in Newark. I am one of the moms at Snow School Elementary. I have 4 kids 2 of which are in first grade, one in fourth grade, and the other in ninth grade. As my children have learned that Snow is at risk of being closed, it has caused them great sadness as they love their school, their beautiful garden, their loving teachers, and their excellent principal Mrs. Tommasini. Just the thought alone that they would have to go to another school with new teachers and new friends would bring frustration to them. Outsiders may not see the great qualities that Snow has, but for our children their school is a source of pride. We hope you take our comments in consideration and give yourself the opportunity to know a little more about Snow School.</p> <p>Thank you! Natividad Rodriguez</p> |