

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

October 22, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

<b>A. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Martinez.
<b>B. Roll Call</b>	<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>
<b>C. Superintendent's Welcome</b>	Dr. Triplett welcomed the committee.
<b>D. Visitor/Public Comment</b>	<p>Some of the public comments received via email were read aloud. (All public comments are included below as part of the minutes. Email comments directly received from students have had their names removed and replaced with Student #.)</p>
<b>E. Approval of October 8, 2020 Minutes</b>	<p>Motion to approve 10/8/2020 minutes</p> <p>Motion: Ingham -Watters Second: Crocker Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
<b>F. Site Analysis Recap and Overview</b>	<p>Brianna García, Director, School Services of California</p> <p>Ms. Garcia presented additional criteria submitted by committee members.</p> <p>1) Motion to change Criteria 10 from "District-Wide programs would need to be relocated" TO "District-Wide and/or Special programs would need to be relocated" and Criteria 11 from "District-Wide programs can be relocated" TO "District-Wide and/or Special programs can be relocated".</p> <p>Motion: Ibarra Second: Dix Vote</p>

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	<p>Yes: Ringlein, Dix, Ibarra No: Marshall, Baylon, Crocker, Padilla, Bloom, Eustice, Medina Abstain: Ingham-Watters</p> <p>2) Recommended motion to include per-student facility operating cost to the criteria. As a weighted score only - highest score goes to school with highest per-student operating cost. No motion was made.</p>
<b>G. Additional Considerations</b>	<p>Brianna Garcia, Director, School Services of California</p> <p>1) Recommended motion that the committee recommend to the Board to change BGP / BGI back to TK-6 campus. No motion was made</p> <p>2) Motion to recommend to the Board to consider moving the 6th graders from elementary schools to Newark Junior High to make it a middle school.</p> <p>Motion: Bloom Second: Baylon Vote Yes: Ingham-Watters, Marshall, Baylon, Crocker, Padilla, Bloom, Eustice No: Ibarra, Medina Abstain: Ringlein, Dix</p> <p>3) Recommended motion that the committee make a recommendation to the Board to either close or reconfigure the MacGregor campus. No motion was made.</p>
<b>Motion to Extend the meeting until 8:30 PM</b>	<p>Chair Martinez made the recommendation that the meeting be extended until 8:30 PM.</p> <p>Motion to extend the meeting to 8:30 PM</p> <p>Motion: Marshall Second: Medinacia Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Medina, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: Ringlein, Baylon Abstain: 0</p>
<b>H. Committee Recommendations</b>	<p>This item moved to the October 29, 2020 meeting.</p>
<b>I. Next Meeting</b>	<p>Next meeting October 29, 2020</p>

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<b>J. Adjournment</b>	<p>Motion to adjourn  Motion: Crocker  Second: Dix  Vote  Yes: Marshall, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra,  Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla  No: 0  Abstain: Bloom</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM</p>
<b>Other Attendees</b>	<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</p> <p>Other Attendees  Facilitator: Brianna García, Director, School Services of California  Demographer: Ken Reynolds, SchoolWorks  Gilma Guevara, Spanish Translator</p>
<b>Visitor/Public Comments</b>	
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to beg for Snow School to remain opened. Snow School has been a big part of our life's for over 35 yrs. All my children and now my grand children went and are now attending Snow School. My Daughter grew up to marry her best friend who also attended Snow School. My Daughter in law now teaches there and loves her job! Snow School is like one big family and the bond of the families have been lifelong the families all know each other and take care of one another.</p> <p>The education that my children have received has encouraged them to be in honorable trades such as teachers, coaches, electricians, and human resource. Each one has a love for learning and are passing this love down to their children. Snow School is very close to my heart and I'm sure the hearts of many others so PLEASE consider not closing snow school down.</p> <p>Thank you  Marylou Sandolo</p>	
<p>Dear School Consolidation Advisory Committee,</p> <p>Snow School P.T.A is writing to you regarding the School Consolidation directive to evaluate all elementary schools within Newark to ultimately choose two schools to close.</p> <p>Snow School has been a part of Newark for over 50 years and is an integral piece of the neighborhood it serves. Many of the teachers at Snow have been teaching there for decades and are heavily invested in their</p>	

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students and the school. Teachers, staff, and parents feel like family, especially after spending six years together. Closing our school would fracture that closeness by splitting up students into three neighboring schools. In addition, closure of our neighborhood school would cause some students to have to walk longer distances and cross busy streets to attend their replacement school.

There are many benefits to keeping a small school like Snow open. Students at these schools develop strong relationships with their peers and their teachers. Teachers report higher levels of job satisfaction. These type of schools are able to tailor instruction to meet the needs of individual students. Students are more likely to be highly engaged in their school community, leading to a sense of personal responsibility.

Snow School needs to remain open to continue providing that safe place for children in the neighborhood to learn, grow, and build relationships with their friends and teachers. Please consider keeping Snow School open for all the students, parents, and faculty.

Sincerely,  
Signed by Magdalena Rodriguez  
Snow School P.T.A.

Hello  
My name is Guillermo Lemus Jr  
My wife works in the school staff and both my 5 and 7 year old girls attend Snow. My wife started as the new Office manager this passed year. It has been such a life changing experience to have my wife and kids both attend the same school. There is a family, outside of ours developing at Snow elementary. My wish is to continue that growth. I wish for Snow elementary not to be closed.

Thank you  
Guillermo Lemus

Email received from Alejandra Angel

My name is Alejandra Angel and my son is a TK student, he is learning so much and I support his school and the fact that his teachers are very good teaching. I love his school the music family is awesome and I want him to continue with the excellent learning process at music school.....thank you! please don't close music school.

Hello committee,

My daughter is a first grader at Musick. My son will hopefully begin kindergarten in the fall. This email is to ask that you please consider not closing Musick.

I have tuned in to the consolidation meetings to-date and I don't think it makes sense to close Musick. Musick is one of the largest schools and has the room to house other students comfortably without putting them in portables. Even with one of the highest diversity ratings and amount of English learners we don't have the lowest test scores. Our teachers and staff are incredible.

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I feel like this is a great opportunity to merge BGP & BGI to eliminate the K-2/3-6 setup. I also feel like Lincoln, Graham and Snow have an extremely close proximity to each other where redrawing the boundaries wouldn't be difficult. Musick has enough space to cover any school that closes.

I ask that you please consider keeping Musick open. We are a family and we have plenty of room to grow.

With much appreciation,

Stacey Dewey

Email received from Hazel Valeroso

Good day! I'm Hazel Valeroso. I have a 5th grader at Musick School. When I heard the news that 2 to 3 schools will close I felt so sad especially my daughter will have two remaining years at Musick. Closing school should not be the solution. I feel so sorry for all the students who are currently enrolled at Musick. I hope the board will think about the impact on our students. This is not a solution right now especially in times of pandemic. In this time of uncertainty, students struggle with their online learning and now you want to close their school permanently. Please bear in mind the impact on their mental status. These students have already sets of friends whom they are longing to talk, play and have fun with... They are already familiar with their teachers whom they approach or rely on when they need help. My biggest concern right now is I don't know what will happen. Our home is close to Musick. We are a working parents and my mom is the one who accompany my child in going to school by walking. My mom is old and cannot drive. The school vicinity plays important role. I know a lot of families have to walk in going to school. Closing schools at this time is not a solution. Please share your kindness and have a big heart to embrace this students. God bless us all.

Email received from Raul Lopez

Hi we are new on this area and I really like music school our kids love it let's save

Email received from Teresa Garcia

Musick is the second house of my son please let's save it

This letter is being sent in response to the possible closure of E.L. Musick School. I am requesting that E.L. Musick be removed from the list of possible closures. I have been a resident in the Musick School District since 1978. All of my 4 children were students at Musick School and 3 of my grandchildren have attended Musick School. I was a Home and School member and always gave time to each of my children's classrooms. I also volunteered in the office or where ever I was needed. Musick is and has been like a part of my family. The staff and other parents have been a big part of my life. My children and I have always kept in touch with the Musick school staff and families. Closing this school would be a catastrophe. Please dismiss any consideration of closing E.L. Musick School..

Sincerely,  
Paula Ramponi

Hello - my son currently attended BGP and has a learning disability. He has flourished so much over the

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years he has attended the school and improved so much! He is supported by the teachers and staff and the fact that he knows everyone and they know him makes him feel comfortable and able to succeed. If BG closes, he will lose his "family" and have to start all over. For a child with ADHD and a mild intellectual disability, this is the worst scenario for him. Please keep BG open!!

Thanks  
Candy Ramirez

This email is to address our support in keeping Musick School Elementary open. Musick Elementary has been not only been my two sons school for the past 6 and 4 years, but also my elementary school when I was younger. The great teachers and staff make the perfect learning environment for our children. Musick is the heart of teaching our Newark children with the best education as well as nurturing them with kind teachers. I stand with keeping Musick open and hope to see my youngest daughter attend when she starts school in 5 years. Musick Pride!

Warmest regards,  
Angel Corniel

Email received from Angelica Valencia  
Original Message

Hola soy mamá de la escuela Musick Y no me gustaría que cerraran la escuela Por muchos motivos a mi niño le gusta esa escuela sus compañeros La directora y sus maestros siempre nos están apoyando a las familias Vivo muy cerca de la escuela y eso me permite llevarlo caminando ya que no tenemos carro Si la escuela la cierran No se que haría. Queremos mucho a Musick

Translation

Hi, I am a mother from Musick school and I would not like to see the school closed for various reasons. My son likes this school, his friends, the principal, and his teachers. They are always supporting us, and the other families. I live very close to the school, which allows me to walk my son to school since we do not have a car. If the school closed I have no idea what I would do. We love Musick.

Hi, I'm Student 1. I'm a sixth grader at Musick E.L. Although I will not be attending Musick next year that doesn't mean I will not let my voice and other students' voices not be heard. I've been at Musick my whole life so Musick has had an incredible impact on me and others. The staff is incredible. So incredible that even if we all do get split up they can make it work. But, we shouldn't be. We work the way we do because we are together. Do not think that just because I do not want you to close down Musick means you can just close down any other elementary school. If you haven't already, every one of you should consult with the mayor or someone of high authority who is playing a big role in building all these new condos and tell them to start paying more attention to the situation at hand and the young, brilliant minds of Newark. Please take everyone's feelings and disadvantages into consideration. I am not asking to act on your feelings just simply think about everyone.

-Student 1  
Room11



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To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you after reading about how SCAC will be closing 2 elementary campuses next year. Hearing that there is a possibility of closing HA Snow School urged me to reach out and ask that you please reconsider.

I attended HA Snow School from 1995 - 2002 and continued my education through 2008 when I graduated from NMHS. Looking at the current administrative and teacher staff and seeing familiar names both as teachers and past students, has made me remember some of the best times at this school.

Mrs. Yool helping me adjust to life as a kindergartner and making me feel comfortable as I cried every day for my mom, Ms. Doppee and teaching us all about the Dewey Decimal System as she sat in her rocking chair and teaching us the Blizzard Bear song, and as we started to hit our pre-teens, Mr. Lightholder being the most patient with us and reading Holes to the class in the most animated way (I can still see the spit from his mouth when he yelled Stanley Yelnats.)

These are just some of the few memories I have, not including the office staff that was always there for me when I wanted to call home or all the yard duty teachers who became like our family or my friends parents who always would come to volunteer (Ginger Jennings, Doreen Kotate, Mrs. Sunseri, Karen Blodgett, Mrs. Longaker, etc.) I am so proud to be a part of this community and I hope that you can see choosing to close HA Snow School will be a huge loss and the future children will be missing out on an opportunity to build lifelong memories similar to mine.

Thank you for your time,  
Brianna Padilla

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in 2nd grade. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mrs. Swift because she was so nice and caring. She was a loving person and was always calm. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Fuller, and I really liked him because he always made jokes and was a nice guy. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because all my friends are there and I feel safe, comfortable, and everyone is nice. I loved the Halloween parade and everyone is so supporting there. I love it there cause my mom and her siblings were taught there. I would also hate to be separated from my friends and my teachers. And it would be hard for me to make new friends at other schools. Musick is a safe place to me and it's amazing. When I look around at Musick I see kids of all kinds, some with disabilities and some with a different skin tone than me, but I don't complain about that everyone in Musick are treated equally.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

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Student 2  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in 1st grade. Over the years I have been taught amazing lessons and had the best teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he made stuff really easy and let us catch up by breaking down his lessons. Another amazing teacher that I have at Musick was Mrs. Swift, and I really loved her because she was the sweetest person in the world, and she made lessons fun and easy, so class was never EVER boring or hard at all. She was always available to help us (students). I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special palace to me because I made a lot of friends here, and in XXX Elementary, I only got to make 3 friends. I love my friends and teachers. They make me feel like I care to them. If you closed Musick School down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a place I never want to leave and it cannot be created somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see my family. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how wonderful it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK #LET'SSTAYTOGETHER #WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

Student 3  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teacher is Mrs. White because she is kind and she is teaching me a lot of useful and good things. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Fuller, and I really loved him because he is nice and patient. I am writing you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because all my friends and favorite teachers are there. I love that they do a lot of fun events and the teachers are there to help me when I need it. If you closed Musick school down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a special place and It cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is home to many kinds of students and learners. I love that what I look at the students I see people that look different but they still have fun. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how we do things around it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK #LET'SSTAYTOGETHER #WEAREFAMILY  
Sincerely,



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Student 4  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in 4th grade. During my time at Musick, I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he taught us about stuff that happened in real life and he taught us math from farther grades. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mrs. Landis, and I really loved her because she had really fun videos to learn about science and assignments, she was really calm and nice. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick is a special place to me because I loved my teachers and its really fun over there. I loved that im learning so much and loved the Halloween parade. If you closed down Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a wonderful place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kind of students and learners. I love that when I look at the students I see a lot of students having fun on the playgrounds and talking to each oter. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome students to OUR school to share how amazing it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home. #SAVEMUSICK  
#LETUSSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

Student 5  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr.Fuller because he would sometimes goofs off and other times he wants us to learn. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Ramirez, and I really loved him because he would be nice to us and he would help students when they are stuck on a question. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because I feel safe when I step into the school. I love that I learn more during school hours. If you closed Musick School down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a great home and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see a lot of different people in each grade. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how large it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
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Sincerely,

Student 6  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC

i am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since kindergarten .During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers .One of my favorite teachers is MIS.my 1st grade teacher MIS.BLOOM because 1st grade was very fun and she was nice to everyone .Another amazing teacher was MR.FOOLER and i really love him because he would let us have free time on fridays if we did all are work and he teched math really good i am writing to you today to let you know why i believe you should keep musick open.Musick is special place to me because all my siblings went to Music .if you closed down Musick i would be taken away from my teachers and friends ,and i know that you will not be recreated somewhere else.Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners . I love that when I look around at the students I see joyful kids and happy teachers .Music is my home and i do not want to lose it .We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how wonderful it is ,but i do not want you to close us.

Student 7  
5thgrader

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have had some of the Best teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mrs.White because she is so nice and pushes us to be our best. She makes learning so fun. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Fuller I have had him as a teacher for 2 years and he was so patient with me and nice.He loved teaching and loved his students. He was so funny. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because I feel like family there and I also feel safe there. I love that everyone is like family. If you close Musick I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick such a great place and it can not be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see all kinds of different types of people with different abilities. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how Welcoming it is, but do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.

#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

Student 8  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

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I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School, I have attended Musick since I was in TK. I have had some of the amazing teachers during my time at Musick. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he taught me how to gain the confidence to talk with my family about my feelings. Another amazing teacher I have had at Musick was Mrs. Swift, I really loved her because she was patient and calm with me. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open, Musick is a special place to me because I met a lot of great and new friends. I also love that the Student Council organizes the spirit days. If you closed Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick an excellent place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners, I love that when I look around at the students I see a place that's like home. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students into OUR school to share how wonderful it is, but I don't want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.

#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,  
Student 9  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. During my time at Musick, I've had amazing friends and teachers through-out the years. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller, because he was funny, patient., and very caring for the past 2 years we had him. Another amazing teacher that I have had/ currently have at Musick is Mrs. White. She can be hard on us but she just wants us to do good in school. She's the best teacher I have had so far. She's super loving and caring as well. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because, All of my best teachers and best friends are there. I love that all of the teachers are so kind and caring, and I love how I feel special when I am there. It basically feels like that's my home. If you closed Musick School down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick an amazing place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see happiness when they are at school, They look amazingly happy when they make new friends at school. Musick is my home and I don't want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome students to OUR school to share how loving it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.

#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,  
Student 10  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC

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I am a 5th-grade student at musick elementary school. have attended musick since I was in 2nd grade during my time at musick I've had some of the best teachers like Mr.fuller with me.another amazing teacher that I've had at musick was Mr.montoya, and I really love him because he is also very patent , I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep musick because a lot of people love this place and there are 100 kids at least that don't want this place.to go away and I love this place for the amazing teacher and the much time we get with our work.every day if I feel bad for not during my homework a lot of my friends comfort me we have built a such a big community.musick is a place to help students get threw there hard times.if it closed down we would have to do different places where we don't know anyone. e would be welcome students to come to our school to share how it is,but do not want you to close us

please think of us students who have made musick our home  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

Student 11  
5th-grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. I have had some of the best teachers. A one of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he tells interesting stories of his life. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Miss Thym and I really loved her because she used to give us some Friday freetime. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe youshould keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because I have a lot of friends here. I love that my teacher helps me with my homework. If you closed Musick school down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick an amazing community place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see students that play together. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how amazing it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely

Student 12  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he made learning so much fun and I enjoyed learning with him. Another amazing teacher that I have

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had at Musick was Ms. Landis, and I really loved her because she also made learning really fun. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe that you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because It makes me feel like i am in a community here at school. I love that I can see all of my friends at school. If you closed Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a great and nice place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see them having fun. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how great it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely, Student 13

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. I had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he helped us a lot with our work and he is patient. Another amazing teacher that I have at Musick is Mrs. White, and I really love her because she has a lot of patience and she is super kind and teaches us everything. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open is a special place to me because My Best friends are here and also My favorite teachers and all the best teachers and the principal is Super sweet and kind. I love that we have field days. If you closed Musick school down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a Family and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see different kids that like to play different games and no one judges us. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how kind people are and Special and amazing it is but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home. #SAVEMUSICK  
#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely, Student 14

Dear SCAC

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr.fuller because he was kind and helped me with math and Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr.shelving and I really loved him because he helped me with reading. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick is a special place to me because I feel safe. I love that everyone is a family at heart. If you closed Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a special place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see how many people are different .Musick is my



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home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how the school is, but I Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.

#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY  
Sincerely, Student 15  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. I have had some of the best teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Ms. White because she always is excited to help the kids if they don't get it. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Fuller, and I really love him because he is always patient with his students and he is very caring with them. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because I feel safe. I love that they put the effort and there time to set up the activities. If you close Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick special place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is a home to me many kinds of student and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see everyone having fun and being helpful. Musick is my home and I do not want to. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school share how great it is, but I do want to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREAFAMILY

Sincerely,  
Student 16  
5th grade student.

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in 4th grade. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. Fuller because he always made me feel good and made me happy. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mrs. White, and really loved her because she is funny, and makes me laugh, and she makes everything easy for me. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because I feel like Musick is another home for me. I love that we have a Halloween parade. If you closed Musick down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what make Musick a great place and cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at students I see happiness. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how awesome it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made Musick our home.  
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY



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Sincerely,  
Student 17  
5th grade student

Dear SCAC,

I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Music since I was in 1st grade. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mis. Landis because she was a good science teacher. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was Mr. Fuller and I really loved him because he was so nice to us. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because of all of the friends I have. I love our field days. If you closed Musick school down I would be taken away from my teachers and friends, and I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a great place and it cannot be recreated somewhere else. Musick is the home to many different kinds of students and learners. I love that when I look around at the students I see so many different looking kids. Musick is my home and I do not want to lose it. We would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how great it is, but I do not want you to close us.

Please think of us students who have made our home. #SAVEMUSICK

Sincerely

Student 18  
5th grade students

i am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was in Kindergarten. During my time at Musick I have had some of the BEST teachers. One of my favorite teachers is Mr. fuller because he used to tell us jokes but when it was work time we were serious. Another amazing teacher that I have had at Musick was. ms.bloom, and i really loved her because she was so funny and she always told us stories. I am writing to you today to let you know why I believe you should keep Musick open. Musick is a special place to me because everybody knows me well like we are family and everybody just knows everyone else. I love that the principal is nice to us and that there are events and sports. if you closed Musick school down i would be taken away from my teachers and friends- I know that you will not be able to keep us all together. Everyone together is what makes Musick a home to me place it cannot be recreated somewhere else. I love that when i look around at the students i see students that play and i don't know if i would find that at another school. Musick is my home and i do not want to lose it.. we would be happy to welcome new students to OUR school to share how great it is, but i do not want you to close us.

please think of us students who have mad Musick our home.

#SAVEMUSICK#LET'sSATYTOGHTR#WEAREFAMILY

sincerely,

Student 19

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5th grade student

Email received from Leandra Casique

I just don't know why they want to close musick Or other schools for what?? Just to build More house ??? I Have more things to said but please keep musick school and other school Open for kids and musick teachers/staff.

Email received from Margaret Gould

Save Musick Elementary! As an employee of NUSD/Musick Elementary, I know the need for our school to remain open and be given the improvement attention they deserve. Our students and families have built an amazing community with the staff at Musick Elementary and that community deserves the opportunity to thrive and grow without the threat of being shut down. Consider alternative methods, Please!

Email received from Emely Roxas

To whom It may concern,

My name is Emely and I am a concern parent and have children going to E.L. Musick elementary school. When I first heard about the school closing, it's a shock and heart breaking, both of my children (4th and Kindergarten) love this school very much and the teachers and principal as well. It is convenient for the school to stay open due to It's closer to us and my children made so much friends in this school and with the things going on in the whole world, it is very important to have the bond with their familiar friends and if the school closes down, it will be a whole new start and that will suck. It is very important for me and my family for the Musick School to stay open because this is where they grew up and met their best friends. I hear a lot of nice stories from my girls about this school and wonderful teachers and staff.

Please reconsider of closing the school

GO LEOPARDS GO....

Thank you

To whom it may concern. I am writing this letter in response to the devastating news that has made its way to our family. My name is Lorena Galvez and both my children Julian and Leena attended E.L Musick Elementary from Kindergarten through 6th grade. My son left to Junior high in 2014 and my daughter in 2018. Still till this day, both my children stop by and visit their past teachers. Both my kids enjoy stopping by because the teachers and staff were not only that, they felt like family! Closing Musick Elementary will not only crowd other schools but also make it harder for kids to walk to school if they have working parents. It will also destroy so many relationships between families and the Musick school community. Please consider other options and keep schools open.

Thank you!  
Lorena Galvez

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Email received from Harri Kaur

Please don't shut down Musick school my kids and my nieces and nephew went to that school it is very important to us and we don't know what we'd do without it.

Hello, my name is Liliana and I am mother of Evahn Moreno and he is currently attending Ms. White, 5th grade class. I am extremely sad to learn that there's a possibility that Musik school will be one of the schools that has the potential of closing. As it is, I already don't have control of the fact that my son had to move with his father after us divorcing. My son Evahn is one of two of my children that moved with his dad and I have custody of his two younger siblings. It was a big change for him to have to move a first time from his first elementary school to Musik. Now to hear that there's a possibility that he might have to be moved again if Musik school closes breaks my heart. I feel like as soon as my son is getting adjusted and settling in he will be forced to move again. All these changes I feel can negatively affect him and to think that there might be other children with similar stories is completely heartbreaking. Please consider this letter in how negatively changes can impact children's well-being and insecurities in the long run. Please keep our schools open. Thank you

Kindly,  
Liliana Moreno

This letter saddens me to have to write, but NUSD you must understand the impact closing Musick elementary will have on our community! Children that attend musick will be forced to commute further and will pose attendance issues and safety concerns since they will have to walk further to get there. It to mention the hard work all the teachers from the SPED that have worked tirelessly to create an environment that supports their students with physical disabilities. Musick deserves to stay! Please don't close it! I personally worked there for 3 years and love the family i gained in working there! The students that attend musick also have family members in the staff of musick. If you close it, your breaking up a family!

Sincerely,  
Amada Randisi

Email received from K.S. Sushma

Hi,

At Musick, we have got a team of great experienced, knowledgeable, highly skilled and very friendly team of teachers and a great level of support is being given for my child in acquiring skills in all areas. We do not wish to be away from Musick family as our child got so much used to this place at this site for success.

Regards,  
Sushma

To Whom It May Concern,

I understand the need for school closures on account of budget shortfall, although I wish we hadn't so poorly managed our funds to put us in these straits.

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My twins attend Lincoln Elementary in 3rd grade. We are zoned for Graham, but we transferred to Lincoln at the start of kindergarten because we admired their balance of diversity, and when I toured the school, I was impressed with the quality of their teachers and principal. Additionally, my kids had a preschool classmate attending Lincoln the same year.

One of my twins is autistic. When he was starting school, his primary deficit was social. Now he has a strong social network, and several close friends. If Lincoln was to close, and my twins change schools, it could have a serious deleterious affect on his social skills.

Furthermore, I want to point out that Lincoln has high enrollment. It seems to me that if you choose to close Lincoln, you will disrupt far more kids and families than you would if you closed the lowest enrollment schools.

Lastly, Lincoln has a very strong parent fundraising committee, called PALS (Parents and Lincoln Staff). We raise thousands each year for the benefit of the students and staff, because we have a lot of pride and care in our school, teachers, and staff.

Please do not close Lincoln Elementary.  
—Jennifer Mitchell

Email received from John Montoya

Sent on behalf of the 2021 Graduating 6th grade class at E. L. Musick Elementary School.  
Our school is a family.  
Our school is a place that brings people together.  
Our school is where we make a lot of important memories.  
Our school is a place where we can have fun.  
Our school is a good place to make great and caring friends.  
Our school is not just a building.  
Our school educates many people.  
Our school is a safe place.  
Our school is a place where you are not bored.  
Our school is part of a good community. Our school has pride.  
Our school is not just a place where students go to learn.  
Our school is our second home.

Dear Consolidating Committee,

Good evening. My name is Monica Lun and I am a former student of Lincoln Elementary. My son had the opportunity to attend Lincoln Elementary and my parents still own their home in the area.

As an educator, I have been through a school closure process and I know your job isn't easy, but you may want to meet with the teachers or secretaries. They are the ones that are on the front-lines and know the school better, families and area better than ANYONE in the district. I have seen lots of dollar amounts, but not human amounts. How much will it cost you in human amounts if you close a school- Will these other programs move with the children? Just because it can doesn't mean it will. We had a Broadway

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style-theatre, but when they closed our school and moved the teachers- it died. The teachers that ran and supported the program went to different schools and the administrative support wasn't there.

Lincoln has a great FAME program, choir, and theatre program that is run by individual parents. These programs will probably NOT move. Research shows that schools with non-academic programs improve a student's overall growth.

Please take into consideration the things that don't fit in your spreadsheet- they are as valuable and important as those on the spread sheet.

Thank you for your time and consideration-

Monica Lun  
Lincoln Elementary Alumni and parent of a Lincoln student

Hello!

Thank you for making this important decision. It has come to my attention that Lincoln Elementary School has not been discussed and I just wanted to say that I know for the whole community (all the families and staff that are a part of that school) we would really like to remain as is. The families that I know of are really happy and proud to be part of that school and feel secure sending their students there. The principal greets the parents and students with a smile. The teachers are quick to respond to parent inquiries and understand the needs of the students.

Additionally, I am an educator myself and during a brief period I was allowed to sub at the school in a couple different capacities and it is clearly evident that the students have huge respect for the teachers and each other. This is a school that nourishes students and families to empower them to build a better tomorrow for Newark.

I know your hands are tied and a decision must be made but please consider not making any moves that will affect the success of Lincoln Elementary so it can continue growing and building a vibrant community.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Tang

Hello Committee Members,

Thank you for doing this hard work. I am impressed by how you have handled this difficult task. I have many concerns regarding what has been told to you, though, and want to bring up a few points. First, you've asked for the capacity of portables to be excluded for the numbers at each site, which was done, but then portables are included in the deferred maintenance plan. It seems to me if you want portables off one aspect, portables should be off all aspects to make it equitable. Second, a few sites say they are requiring deferred maintenance for fire abatement, but other sites do not have this. Shouldn't all sites need to be fire safe and maintained? Finally, an ongoing concern here is that the members of this committee seem to have been overlooked or disregarded when they comment concerning school closures, which makes it seem that the



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School Board does not want to actually "hear" from their community.

Although this group is considering very pertinent factors, one giant one is being overlooked. What are the properties going to be used after they are closed? A couple of the schools are in great locations (close to main roads) which gives the site more potential to be utilized versus the ones that are in the middle of a neighborhood. I feel like for too long NUSD has just looked for quick fixes instead of forward planning. By being proactive and looking at how these sites could be used instead of just looking at how sites can be closed could open up many more reasons to choose one site over another.

On this note, all three of my children go to Lincoln Elementary and this site is one of community and growth. There is a spirit and joy at Lincoln that I have not seen at any other site I have visited or taught at before. Lincoln is a school that people from all over the district have asked to transfer to and the test scores (when there are test scores) compete with the best schools around the bay. In fact, currently, Lincoln has the highest score of all of the Newark elementary schools according to "Greatschools.org." Lincoln is sought after and therefore should be off the proverbial chopping block. I love Lincoln but more importantly my kids love Lincoln and we do not want it closed.

Kind Regards,

Angela Silvera

Hi,

My name is Student 20 and I am a first grader at Lincoln. Please don't close Lincoln. I love it especially my teachers: Mrs. Alcott, Mrs. LaPorte, and Miss Liston. They make learning fun! So please don't close my school.

From,

Student 20

(age 6, almost age 7)

Email received from Amber Williamson

Hello, I am a parent of a 4th grader at Musick Elementary School. My daughter has been attending this school since 2015/2016, at which time she was enrolled as a Transitional Kindergartener. Our original "home school" was Graham, however within the first 3 months of attending Musick we knew this was the elementary school for us. I requested for Musick to become our home school because of the small school settings, the attentiveness of the office staff from day 1, the fact that the pledge of allegiance was done each day in the classroom, which considering my husband is a Veteran, was extremely important to us, even the crossing guard made each child she crossed feel like they were so special. So far every teacher my daughter has had at Musick has been awesome. They each took the time to get to know my child, to know the quirky, silly, fun loving child she is. There is a different atmosphere when you are a part of a smaller school. The staff and teachers tend to know each and every student better and make each and every student feel special and important, instead of being overlooked. I've watched the entire staff come together to help with my friend's daughter last year, who had a few issues. Not a few members of staff, but all of them took the time each day to help her overcome her issues. They say it takes a village to raise kids sometimes and Musick Elementary has been that village for me and countless others. My daughter is excited to go to school for the most part because she really enjoys the environment Musick has provided for thier students. These outstanding



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teachers have gone above and beyond for thier students and families. I've gone above and beyond to assist at Musick, because I truly believe it's the best school for my child and my child deserves it. Thank You for your time.

To Whom It May Concern,

My family has become aware that NUSD has voted to close 2 schools, and that Lincoln Elementary could possibly be one of those. We are disappointed that any schools will be closed, as neighborhood schools are convenient for families and being able to walk to and from provide health benefits for the children. As pertains to Lincoln specifically, it's a very successful school for the district and dispersing successful teachers will have negative effects on the future success of the students and overall performance of the district. On a more personal level, we \*love\* Lincoln! Our oldest has been there for 5 years and we have been continually struck by the school spirit and sacrifice by the parents, teachers, and other staff for the school. Everyone truly pulls together for the students. We would be heartbroken to not only lose our neighborhood school, but also, the Lincoln community.

Please do not close our school!

Sincerely,  
Michelle and Roy Pollock  
Lincoln Parents

Hi,

I am writing to voice my support for Lincoln Elementary School. My children transferred to Lincoln after a very difficult time at other schools. We have truly found a home at Lincoln. Lincoln has offered my children the support they needed to grow. The staff has become family. Lincoln has a very tightly knit community group which is very supportive of the school. We all want our children to grow in a neighborhood school. Lincoln is that neighborhood school. The PALS Club works hard alongside the Lincoln Community to help supplement and support our children's growth. We love Lincoln. Please do not close our school.

Sincerely,

Mary Tellefsen  
Mother of Amelia and Abigail - second grade at Lincoln Elementary School

Hello,

My name is Jenna Waibel and I am the parent of a first grader at Lincoln School. I also attended Newark schools as a child, so I have a long history of involvement and appreciation for this community.

I'm very concerned to hear that Lincoln Elementary is being considered for closure. You well know that Lincoln is one of the top performing Newark schools academically, and also has a very active PALS Club supportive the community and social needs of our kids. That is not the kind of school you close.

A year and a half ago, we moved to Newark specifically to have my child go to Lincoln. We are proud to be in this community, and have been welcomed warmly by the families and educators that were already there.

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Breaking up this strong school community is not in the best interests of the current Lincoln families, or in the best interests of NUSD. As a high performing school, Lincoln should be considered a model for others, rather than breaking it up and sending those students and teachers to lower-performing schools. If a school must be closed, I would encourage the district to allow Lincoln to welcome other students and staff to our community instead- a model that is already strong can handle those additions and help all students rise to a higher level of success.

I hope the consolidation decisions are made with these considerations in mind.

Thank you,

Jenna Waibel

Email received from Jenn Mitchell with Attachments

I asked my 8 year old kids to write letters about why they love Lincoln School and do not want to close it. Attached please find Samuel Showalter's letter. Ms. Almada is his 3rd grade teacher, who he is referring to in the latter half of his letter.

Attachment reads:

I love lincoln so much. I want to see my teacher in person and play on the playground. (unreadable) are very calm about homeschool which makes it more fun to me because we get more recess.

Dear Committee Members,  
Could you please not close Lincoln Elementary? I love it here. The teachers make all the subjects easy to learn. Many fun teachers would lose jobs. This school also helps aspiring young authors by participating in the Young Authors event. Lincoln also has many after school events such as Young Rembrandts, a drawing club, choir, and a drama class. You shouldn't close Lincoln. Plus we are an honor roll school for crying out loud! Thank you for reading my email, have a great day, and please don't close Lincoln.

--

Student 21  
(a 6th grader at Lincoln)

I have twins in the 3rd grade at Lincoln Elementary. If the board finds it necessary to close schools, I believe Lincoln should be kept. Students and teachers may be moved around, but the physical facilities can't be.

Lincoln in a good location to serve its neighbors, and the school buildings are in good shape. The land is large enough to support an expanded school should the need arise.

Thank you.

Tim Showalter

As a parent with a Second Grader in Lincoln, and one due to attend next school year, I hope that you will not consider closing Lincoln in your evaluation. The parent participation is great and the staff are top notch. The

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location is very convenient for our family to attend and it would be a great burden on us if this campus was closed. Many middle and low income families depend on walkable access to a decent education for their children. We will continue to support our family at Lincoln Elementary and I hope you see the value in keeping this amazing campus open.

Regards,  
Michael Fulkerson

To Newark School Board,

First of all, I completely disagree on this proposal of closing schools, it is very unfortunate that it has come to this. But if this plan does go through, Lincoln Elementary School shouldn't be in one of the schools to close. Lincoln Elementary is a good school. The teachers are great even with this Covid-19 Pandemic. I am amazed at how they tackle distance learning. I could see that the teachers at Lincoln are working tirelessly everyday to make sure that the students get all the information they need to progress. We bought our house because it is conveniently close to Lincoln Elementary school and it has been rated as one of the best elementary schools in the area. Since my son started school at Lincoln Elementary, he would always say "I love my school, I don't want to move anywhere" and for that reason alone, I urge you not to close Lincoln Elementary School.

Hoping for your consideration,  
Sheryl B - Parent at Lincoln Elementary School

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello my name is Fabiola Cruz, I am the parent of a kindergartener at Lincoln Elementary School. I am writing to you to express my gratitude for the wonderful education my daughter has received at Lincoln. The teachers are truly so great, full of dedication and kindness. Even with the pandemic, they have jumped over all of the obstacles virtual learning has thrown at them. My daughter is thriving and it is all thanks to this school and its teachers. We had our daughter at a private preschool and we decided we would put her at Lincoln instead of continuing at private school. We believe it is important to support our local community and schools. We know that she is receiving quality education at our doorstep. The staff at Lincoln is truly so helpful. From the person you talk to in the office, to the wonderful open door policy with the principal and all of the constant and great communication received through the school staff. The teachers go above and beyond to make sure all kids are taken care of and that parents have the necessary tools to help children succeed. We get amazing guidance and instructions with all the virtual learning tasks. No need to travel that far from our home, Lincoln provides an amazing education right in our neighborhood. I am proud to know that Lincoln not only provides excellent education to my child and support for me as a parent but to so many other parents and children in my neighborhood. This school helps create a wonderful sense of community and add value to our properties as well. When I hear of people wanting to move to Newark I am able to tell them of the wonderful education they can receive at Lincoln Elementary. I urge to please not close Lincoln Elementary. It is a remarkable school and closing it would be so terrible for so many children and this community.

Please keep Lincoln Elementary Open!  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Fabiola Cruz

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To whom this may concern,

Hello I'm sending this email in regards to the school board wanting to shut down Lincoln Elementary. I want to share my opinions on the subject and how I believe that is a wrong move for both the staff of Lincoln and the community in which it is involved with. A key point to being located where I am in this neighborhood is due to Lincoln Elementary, had the school not been there I would have looked to other neighborhoods. Hearing the talks of shutting the school down is very disappointing and makes me wonder as to why Lincoln was specifically chooses for that cut. Lincoln is a fine school with amazing staff and located in a safe environment/ neighborhood to have it taken away seems to be such a waste and I would not want to see that happen.

Regards ,  
Breanna Castillo

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brandon Castillo, I am 24 years old and have lived in the great city of Newark my entire life. I live just around the corner from Lincoln Elementary and that is where my younger sister and I went to school. We love our elementary school and are proud to have been Lincoln Leopards. When we heard the new that the school may be closed due to "budget cuts" I was alarmed as Lincoln is surrounded by such a beautiful neighborhood where all of its students live. I had planned to one day send my kids to Lincoln Elementary. I understand times are difficult but if the city can justify building a new city hall than it justify investing in the education of the future generations of our community.

Thank you for your time,  
Brandon

Dear SCAC,

As a parent with a Second Grader in Lincoln, and one due to attend next school year, I hope that you will not consider closing Lincoln in your evaluation. The parent participation is great and the staff are top notch. The location is very convenient for our family to attend and it would be a great burden on us if this campus was closed. Many middle and low income families depend on walkable access to a decent education for their children. We will continue to support our family at Lincoln Elementary and I hope you see the value in keeping this amazing campus open.

Regards,  
Michael Fulkerson

Hello,

My son goes to Lincoln elementary this is the best school.we urge not to close down this school.

Jayden Singh  
Grade 3

Regards

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

October 22, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Inder singh

Good Morning,

The World has been dealing with Covid-19 Virus, our children and parents have been dealing with online education, we are all aware that things may need to change but Closing Lincoln Elementary Should NOT be one of them.

My family has lived in Newark for over 150 years, we have seen many changes that have made Newark as Great as it is today. If you decide that Lincoln Elementary School should be closed, that will be the worst mistake that the City of Newark has seen.

Lincoln Elementary School not only has the most parent participation, the best set of Teachers and Staff, is in one of the largest populated family areas in Newark with children to attend a Great School in Walking Distance, but it is one of the City's Legacies.

Most of the students that attend Lincoln Elementary School have been there since Pre-K or Kindergarten. For a School District to take away a solid foundation of so many children, is purely an Unforgivable Crime. Especially for the students who need stability in an everyday routine, that had to adapt to online education. Just think of what will happen to them if you take away the faces that they have seen for so many years. It could very well be that last step they cannot handle and would never be able to become part of our World Society.

As a long time member of the Newark Community, whose family members have been the PostMaster, worked with the Post Office, owned the Foundry, and been Office Staff, Couches, Teachers for the Newark School District, I know that Lincoln Elementary School needs to stay OPEN.

Sincerely,

JJ Del Grande, Notary Public

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well, and reaches the right audience.

Lincoln Elementary School was one of the key reasons for me to move to Newark earlier this year, I spoke to several parents around in the neighborhood and got positive feedback.

My daughter is ready to join the school next year, and we are distraught to hear that it could potentially be closed !.

Please do all that you can, I'm looking forward to walking my daughter to Lincoln Elementary school starting next year.

Regards,

Dj

Email received from Keerthi Raju



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October 22, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well, and reaches the right audience.

Lincoln Elementary School was one of the key reasons for me to move to Newark earlier this year, I spoke to several parents around in the neighborhood and got positive feedback.

My daughter is ready to join the school next year, and we are very disappointed to hear that it could potentially be closed !.

Please do all that you can, I'm looking forward to walking my daughter to Lincoln Elementary school starting next year.

Thanks,  
Keerthi

Email received from Arpit Patel

As a Newark resident and a parent, I am extremely disgusted by the Newark Unified School District's Board of Education's decision to consider consolidating schools in our community. It's already difficult for students to adjust to the "new normal" and distance learning that now they have to put up with losing their home school, Lincoln Elementary.

My child will not be able to go to the school closest to home because NUSD is having a budget crisis. Now my child will be forced to go to a school miles away, to a school where NUSD "supposedly" thinks has room. It's already challenging for teachers, faculty, students, and parents to adapt to the "new normal" of distance/hybrid learning, and now I am supposed to explain to my child about the budget crisis and not going to the school near our home.

What's next? You will be assigning students to wherever there is classroom space rather than to their nearest home school? I have a hard time understanding how you can move students at any time because suddenly you have a budget crisis and are looking to consolidate schools and overcrowd an already burdened system.

It's bad enough that the schools are already becoming overcrowded. With new construction at the Sanctuary Village, Bridgeway Villas, Lighthouse, and Compass Bay, we will have new community members that will be ready to move in soon. What do you think will happen to the children of our new community members? We already see this issue in our neighboring communities, such as Fremont, where it's a huge problem. Not to mention putting a lot more stress on our teachers and faculty members.

The City has approved development plans without considering the impact on the school system in our community and without demanding enough from these developers. Newark is a small community as it is, and consolidating is not the solution to the problem. There MUST be another alternative without having to overcrowd our schools. This concerns me even more as NUSD is doing very little to address the overcrowded schools and very little about the future of decongesting the teacher to student ratio, yet prefers to overcrowd the schools instead of coming up with a real solution to the problem.



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Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

Email received from Vanessa Gonzalez

Dear school board members,

I have two children that go to Lincoln elementary, we LOVE our school teachers and staff! They Go above and beyond for our kids each and every day. I can't even fathom what will happen if I if school closes down. Our class sizes are already too big , I can't image they'll get smaller if we combine schools. My son has special needs and the staff at Lincoln has gone above and beyond to make sure my child is not left behind.I am greatly disappointed that any schools in Newark be shut down,Especially with all the new homes being built.I am Personally holding every board member accountable for this, how are our tax dollars being distributed? Is it fair that we are building a state of the art City Hall and police department? While our kids school suffer.Not OK. Both of my children are very upset at the thought of their school closing down, I'm not sure what the answer is , but I can tell you this, I will not be voting for the reelection of any school board members. The kids come first, as they always should.

A Lincoln elementary parent

Dear NUSD,

My name is Erin Templin (née Dick) and I'm an alumni from H. A. Snow School. I recently heard some sad news stating Snow was under review to be closed. While I personally no longer live in the area, I still have many friends who have children who attend or personally work for the school. Snow school is an important part of the local community. I attended Snow School from Kindergarten to 6th grade, played softball on those fields many years, have fond memories of both the school and Mirabeau Park, and visit any time I'm in the area. I have stories and memories dating back to my start in 1988, and, while many changes have come since, it would be a huge disservice to the community to close this beloved school. Where would those students go for their education? The friends made would be separated to different schools. Parents that are able to allow their children to walk would have to find alternative means for their children to get to a farther school. Class sizes would again grow and individuals with special needs may go unnoticed. Please think about the choices you are planning to make. Think about the students and staff you will be hurting. Save Snow School, the community needs them!

Sincerely,  
Erin Templin  
Snow Alumni 1988/89-1994/95

To the Newark Unified School District Decision board.

I'm shocked by hearing the news of Lincoln elementary school being on the list of closure, it being one of the best rated schools in Newark. I do Not see a point in residing in this city and sending my Child to a badly rated school, which private school is a far away choice for me. One basic thing I would like to give my child is quality education and I will not allow this great school to close down.

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I am sending my son to Lincoln Elementary and he is at Kindergarten level and he will be disheartened to know that the school will be no more.

I strictly discourage this decision and wish the board to not proceed in this direction. By closing other badly rated schools everyone will be benefitted by the good quality education in Lincoln Elementary.

Closing Lincoln Elementary will force the house prices to fall and the whole Community WILL be at loss, while other homes being included in this school zone will only improve their home ratings.

I request the board to consider the residents choice and let Lincoln do it's Magic to the kids on this neighborhood.

Warm Regards,  
Chandana Gnyan

Hello,

I'm in full support of keeping Snow Elementary school open and am pleading with the district to keep it open. The main reason we love Snow is that because of its size, teachers are able to have smaller classrooms and focus on teaching our children. I'm afraid that putting my child at a larger school will derail his education significantly especially if he ends up stuck in a larger classroom where teachers cannot fully control all of the students or concentrate on each individual child. Snow is filled with amazing teachers and students and we would be truly disappointed if the district shut the school down.

Sincerely,

Teri Garcia

Email received from Megha Agarwal

Hello,

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I came to know that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My kids will start there Kindergarten in this school soon and the rating was a primary reason for us considering purchasing our home in this neighborhood. So in some ways I feel this whole dialogue seems unfair and onesided.

Most of the new residents who are purchasing home in this neighborhood have young children and are looking to enroll their kids in this school. I was thinking how the school system will be able to absorb this influx in demand, but I am distressfully surprised to hear that the school district seems to be considering closure of two elementary schools. I would really like to understand where the projections are coming from as they do not seem to resonate with ground reality.

Loosing even one elementary school is no light matter. The schools are a bedrock of any community. I am

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hoping that the school district will find a method to keep all of them and have a more innovative and transparent methodology for financial accountability.

Thanks  
Megha

Email received from Nanci Lopez

Hola mi nombre es nanci lopez  
El motivo de este email  
Es para decirle por que no deben cerrar Lincoln elementary school  
¿Por que no deben cerrar Lincoln?  
Por que es una escuela con exelentes maestro, exelentes personas desde la oficina hasta con los que hacen la Limpieza ,  
Mi hijo mayor ahi se graduo de  
Cuando muy nos movimos aki a newark me recomendaron Lincoln por que es una de las mejores ,mi hijo venia de otra escula pero no sabia leer,y cuando empezo a ir ala Lincoln mi hijo luego luego aprendio a leer ,y ahorita la que esta en Lincoln es mi hija ella esta en primer grado,y ella esta muy feliz con la escuela con los maestros,ahi le an ayudado tanto como ami hijo y ami hija..  
POR FAVOR NO PIENSEN EN CERRAR LA LINCOLN SERIA MUY TRISTE LOS NIÑOS ESTARIAN TRISTE,NOSTROS LOS PADRES ESTARIAMOS TRISTES ,LOS MAESTROS Y TODO EL STAFF.  
PLEASE LES SUPPLICAMOS QUE NO LO HAGAN ...

Translation

Hello my name is Nancy Lopez

The reason for this email is to communicate to you that you should not close Lincoln Elementary School. Why should you not close Lincoln? Because it is a school with excellent teachers, excellent personnel from the office to the custodians.

My eldest child graduated from this school and when we moved to Newark I was recommended Lincoln because it is one of the best. My child transferred from another school and he did not know how to read but when he started attending Lincoln he learned how to read right away. Right now I have a daughter in first grade and she is very happy with the school and with the teachers and she is getting the same support that my son received.

PLEASE DO NOT THINK OF CLOSING LINCOLN AS IT WILL BE VERY SAD FOR THE CHILDREN, THE PARENTS, THE TEACHERS, AND ALL THE STAFF.  
PLEASE WE BEG YOU NOT TO DO IT...

School Board and SCAC Members,

I am a lifelong Newark resident. I was born and raised in this city and had the privilege of attending all Newark Schools (Lincoln, NJHS & Newark Memorial). I am now a homeowner and parent, raising my children to also go to these schools. We purchased our home in Newark so our children could go to Lincoln just as I did. I'm writing to implore you not to close Lincoln School. This school is cherished in our

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neighborhood. The teachers and staff go above and beyond for this community and it would be devastating to close this school! There has to be a better way to close the deficit! Please, when making your final decision, take a look at reasonable ways to reduce the budget that doesn't include closing neighborhood schools. The shortfall is not a result of the schools or students, it's a mismanagement at the school board level.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Moore

I am a lifelong Newark resident. I was born and raised in this city and had the privilege of attending all Newark Schools (Lincoln, NJHS & Newark Memorial). I am now a homeowner and parent, raising my children to also go to these schools. We purchased our home in Newark so our children could go to Lincoln just as I did. I'm writing to implore you not to close Lincoln School. This school is cherished in our neighborhood. The teachers and staff go above and beyond for this community and it would be devastating to close this school! There has to be a better way to close the deficit! Please, when making your final decision, take a look at reasonable ways to reduce the budget that doesn't include closing neighborhood schools. The shortfall is not a result of the schools or students, it's a mismanagement at the school board level.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Moore

Email received from Madav Kamath

Hello,

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I came to know that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My kids will start there Kindergarden in this school soon and the rating was a primary reason for us considering purchasing our home in this neighborhood. So in someways I feel this whole dialogue seems unfair and onesided.

Most of the new residents who are purchasing home in this neighborhood have young children and are looking to enroll their kids in this school. I was thinking how the school system will be able to absorb this influx in demand, but I am distressfully surprised to hear that the school district seems to be considering closure of two elementary schools. I would really like to understand where the projections are coming from as they do not seem to resonate with ground reality.

Loosing even one elementary school is no light matter. The schools are a bedrock of any community. I am hoping that the school district will find a method to keep all of them and have a more innovative and transparent methodology for financial accountability.

Thanks

Madav

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Hello Advisory and Board Members

I have been watching all the advisory meetings and wow what a joke. You guys are being forced to make a decision so fast and not all the facts are correct. Yes if you close 2 schools you will save some money but not 1 million like you say. You will need teachers more custodians and office clerks to help. Why don't you cut back the salaries of the school district employees. That will save money. But you won't and you rather see children go to new schools miss their teachers and friends. I have a 2nd grader and a Kindergarten at Lincoln and I transferred to that school because it was one of the best ones in Newark and my home school of Schilling is over crowded. Don't over crowd our schools why not put another ballot bond for us to vote and save our schools. With these times our children don't need any more change than what we have already. Thank you

Renatto Silva

Dear NUSD School Board,

I am the parent of a Kindergartener and 2nd grader at Lincoln Elementary school. I do not want to see my neighborhood school close. I intentionally asked to transfer my first child from another Newark school before Kindergarten started. I did this because of the reputation Lincoln had and I have been impressed with his education from Day 1. While it is disappointing that NUSD needs to now close 2 schools, I would like to advocate that Lincoln Elementary not be one.

Thank you,  
Liz Silva

Email received from Kadhambari Seshadri

Hello,

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I came to know that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My kid will start her Kindergarten in this school soon and the rating was a primary reason for us considering purchasing our home in this neighborhood. So in some ways I feel this whole dialogue seems unfair and one-sided.

Most of the new residents who are purchasing home in this neighborhood have young children and are looking to enroll their kids in this school. I was thinking how the school system will be able to absorb this influx in demand, but I am distressfully surprised to hear that the school district seems to be considering closure of two elementary schools. I would really like to understand where the projections are coming from as they do not seem to resonate with ground reality.

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Thanks  
Kadhambari



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Email received from Abhishek Sharma

Hello,

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I came to know that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My kids will start there Kindergarden in this school soon and the rating was a primary reason for us considering purchasing our home in this neighborhood. So in someways I feel this whole dialogue seems unfair and onesided.

Most of the new residents who are purchasing home in this neighborhood have young children and are looking to enroll their kids in this school. I was thinking how the school system will be able to absorb this influx in demand, but I am distressfully surprised to hear that the school district seems to be considering closure of two elementary schools. I would really like to understand where the projections are coming from as they do not seem to resonate with ground reality.

Loosing even one elementary school is no light matter. The schools are a bedrock of any community. I am hoping that the school district will find a method to keep all of them and have a more innovative and transparent methodology for financial accountability.

Thanks  
Abhishek

We are 35 year Newark residents and respectfully request that Lincoln School remains open. We need quality education at our doorstep, dedicated teaching staff and value that a local school brings to our properties. Thank you for your attention to this matter, Marie and Ted Saito

I am the grandparent of a 1st grader that attends Musick Elementary. He is on the autism spectrum and is in special day class. Since preschool I have noticed how much he has grown in his development and he is blossoming. He has been blossoming due to his teachers, staff, classmates and due to the consistency and structure he has at Musick. He is thriving even during the shelter in place because his teachers go the extra mile to ensure their students are engaged.

Currently, our kiddo is slowly being mainstreamed with neurotypical kids, with the hope he can spend more time in a mainstream classroom. He is familiar with most of the staff at Musick from the janitor who he says hello to every day and who knows his name, to the after school staff, teachers, older students, younger students, and administration. He provides the principal with a weather report, discusses traffic concerns with the crossing guard. This school is intimate and provides him with structure and routine and the staff and other families have made Musick a safe second home for our kiddo to thrive and grow in. Musick's school climate creates an atmosphere where our kiddo thrives and so do the other students. Please don't remove this safe learning environment from our community, we don't want the strives our kiddo has made to go away.

Sincerely,  
Cherie Jo Patenaude

I am the grandparent of a 1st grader who attends Musick Elementary as a special needs student.

As a retired psychotherapist who has worked with special needs children, I know the importance of



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consistency, structure, and familiarity for these students. Oftentimes, when they are removed from this comfort zone, they fall back multiple steps.

At Musick, my grandchild is provided with the structure, routine, and a positive, caring atmosphere where students thrive and grow. Please keep this safe learning environment so our precious special needs children can keep moving successfully forward.

Sincerely,  
-Margie Rademan

**Email Message**

Buenas Tardes!

Levanto mi Voz para apoyar y dejar saber lo Importante que es nuestra Escuela LINCOLN para nuestro vecindario y para Newark Ca.

Lincoln es una EXELENTE Escuela, eh tenido el privilegio y la Bendición de tener a mi hijo en una maravillosa Escuela que es Lincoln ya por 5 años. El Personal Escolar siempre ah sido docente dedicado, siempre con una maravillosa actitud de ayudar a los estudiantes y a nosotros como padres de familia.

Los Maestros son Extraordinarios,

Excelentes Maestros ahi en Lincoln School !

Los Maestros son Excepcionales,Dedicados a Enseñar y con una Maravillosa Actitud Siempre.

La Escuela Lincoln esta muy accesible para nuestro vecindario, me queda muy cerca de mi casa, no tengo que manejar 20 minutos para llevar a mi hijo.

Apoyo y Levanto mi VOZ para Apoyar 100% a LINCOLN SCHOOL para mantenerla aun en nuestro vecindario y en nuestra ciudad,Newark Ca. y seguir teniendo esa Maravillosa y Extraordinaria enseñanza que le dan a los estudiantes.

Yo como Padre De Familia me Orgullece decir que LINCOLN SCHOOL es una Escuela de Alta Calidad en Educación,Enseñanza para nuestros hijos.

Gracias,

Brianda Garcia

**Translation**

Good Afternoon!

I raise my voice in support and to let you know how important LINCOLN is for our neighborhood and for Newark CA.

Lincoln is an EXCELLENT school. I have the privilege and blessing of having my son attend a wonderful school such as Lincoln for 5 years. The teaching staff has been dedicated and always with a wonderful attitude helping students and us parents.

The teachers are extraordinary, excellent teachers in Lincoln School!

The teachers are exceptionally dedicated to teaching and always with a wonderful attitude. LINCOLN School is very accessible in our neighborhood, it is very close to my house and I do not have to drive 20 minutes to take my child to school.

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I support and raise my VOICE 100% to keep LINCOLN SCHOOL in our neighborhood and our city Newark Ca. and to keep with Wonderful and Extraordinary instructions given to our students.

As a Parent I feel Proud to say that LINCOLN SCHOOL is a High Quality in terms of Education for our children.

Thank you,  
Brianda Garcia

Email sent to [jcroce@newarkunified.org](mailto:jcroce@newarkunified.org)

I have lived in Newark for 42 years. My children were educated in Newark Schools. We bought our home in the Lincoln Community specifically because of performance and the reputation for excellence. Forty years later, our daughter and son-in-law bought their home in Newark in this same community, for the exact same reason and in the best interest of their child. The formula that has kept its overall rating so high is no coincidence. The outstanding leadership, committed staff and dedicated parent involvement continue the legacy of a place where enrichment, creativity and security are paramount. This is not the first time Lincoln has faced closure. Consider carefully property value, safe traffic conditions and long term usage considerations as part of such a serious and possibly irrevocable decision. Respectfully, Noel Doot

Email from Jose Partida

Please open and save Lincoln Elementary. It is such a good elementary school to our community. Very accessible in distance and in such a good neighborhood. My kids went to school there years ago and now my grandchildren will soon attend. Please keep Lincoln open and running!

Hello,

My name is Monica and I am a mother of one of the students that attends Lincoln Elementary.

My daughter has struggled with anxiety from a very young age, and last year we knew starting Kindergarten was going to be a challenge. However, it went much smoother than expected. I have a feeling a big part of this had to do with the teachers, staff, and campus of Lincoln.

I also feel that this has to do with its location. My daughter feels secure knowing that her school is down the street from her home. She finds confidence in the fact that she has family so close by.

I urge you to consider the fact that Lincoln has been one of the few consistent factors in our children's lives since the pandemic began. I fear that if this school no longer exists for my daughter and the other students, it becomes yet another set back to a life turned upside down.

This year has been strange for all of us, but the excitement I saw in my daughter to just pick up her supplies at her school meant so much to her. Being able to see her school while we pass by on our bicycles, or while on a walk reinforces her confidence that she is still a part of something; that she is still a Leaping Leopard.

This school is more than just a building. It is a familiar, safe place where our children can come to learn and make lasting friendships and memories. Let us do all we can to make sure these kids will always have Lincoln

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to return to.

Best regards,

Monica Sanchez

Email received from Yu Zhang

Please see below for my comments:

I am a parent living near the Lincoln Elementary School. The school is one of the biggest reasons why we chose to buy the house here two years ago, so our daughter can go to Lincoln conveniently when she comes to age in a few years. We've heard great things about the school from parents of past and current students and have always enjoyed the view of the school when we take a walk over there. My daughter is always excited when I pointed the building and the large playground to her and tell her that is the school she will go to someday. Please don't take it away from us.

Thank you very much!

Best regards,  
Yu

To Whom It May Concern,

I was recently notified that perhaps two elementary schools may be closed for good. I write this email hoping that H.A Snow Elementary School is not one of them. I am a former student as I attended Snow Elementary all the way from kindergarten to the sixth grade and I enjoyed all seven years! I am currently a sophomore in college. I loved and still love this elementary school so much. The staff are very sweet and caring and some even remember me to this day! They do their best to provide their students with the best education and create many social events for them to have fun at such as field trips, walk- a-tons, and movie nights. These social events create a great environment for students to make new friends and interact more with each other. They care to create a connection with the students to make them feel comfortable and most importantly, safe. For example, when school was in person, during drop off and pick up times in the drive thru, before and after school, the staff would make sure that each student would get into their parent/guardians car safe and sound while also greeting them or giving them a farewell. They wait with them until they get picked up. It shows how much they care for the students. They provide all the help they possibly can, giving better learning opportunities for students. The current principal, Mrs. Tomasinni, is a great person. She was my second grade teacher when I was attending Snow Elementary at the time and she always strived to help us students in class. She is someone who will absolutely do what is best for the school and supports the teachers so I am glad she is the principal. Everyone works together as a team to help themselves and their students to be the best. It takes a great staff to make a great school and one of those great schools is Snow Elementary! When you walk into Snow's campus, it's always smiles and hellos from all the faculty. Never a dull face as everyone is so positive. H.A. Snow Elementary is a great elementary school for students to obtain their education. Please do not close it down as so many more memories are yet to be made and so much more great education is yet to be given. Thank you so much!

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Sincerely,  
Yvette Caro

Email received from Gnyan Ramakrishna

Dear Administrators,

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I found out that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My son has just started his Kindergarten in this school and the quality of education and rating were the primary reasons for us considering purchasing our home in this neighborhood. So in some ways I feel this whole dialogue seems unfair and one sided.

Most of the new residents who are purchasing homes in this neighborhood have young children and are looking to enroll their kids in Lincoln elementary school. I was thinking how the school system will be able to absorb this influx in demand, but I am distressed to hear that the school district seems to be considering closure of two elementary schools. I would really like to understand where the projections are coming from as they do not seem to resonate with ground reality.

Losing even one elementary school is no light matter. Schools are a bedrock of any community. I am hoping that the school district will find a method to keep all of them and have a more innovative and transparent methodology for financial accountability. As community members, if I can be of any assistance, please do reach out to me.

Regards,  
- Gnyan

Email received from Kennedy PTA

Hello,

I have attached the Kennedy PTA meeting minutes from last September. In open discussion you will see that Bowen Zhang had discussed building new schools over a year ago. He spoke at the meeting for over an hour. The superintendent stated this is a rumor. It was stated by a current board member.

Attachment to email: Kennedy PTA minutes from 9.11.19

Hi,

I'm Neeta Vekariya, living in Newark City, California.

Our neighbourhood school is 'Lincoln Elementary School'  
I have heard really good reviews of this Lincoln Elementary School, i.e. Quality education, good teaching staff. And it's just 10 minutes walking distance from my house.

Therefore, I have decided to send my 4 years old daughter to this school only next year.  
Would you please consider not closing this school, as I know many other parents would also want the same.

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--  
Thanks and Regards,  
Neeta Vekariya

Dear Consolidation Committee,

My name is Mary Alberts and I have been a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant for NUSD for 15 years. Most of my years have been spent working with the Preschool Team.

As you consider which schools to close, please remember that the preschoolers have specific requirements that must be met by the district. Whiteford was a perfect home for our preschoolers and since moving to Musick, their needs have not been optimally met.

If you were to close Musick and move the preschool program, the district would have to spend a lot of time and money (again) to get that site ready for our students.

Minimum Preschool requirements are:

At least 8 classrooms, 4 for students and 4 for specialists (Speech, OT, APE, Psych)

Bathrooms for each classroom with preschool sized toilets and sinks at their height.

Outdoor play equipment that is for 3-5 year olds and ADA compliant.

Please consider these requirements as you make your decision.

On another note,

I have worked at most elementary sites within NUSD. All have a hardworking staff and wonderful students but Musick Elementary has proved to be the most inclusive elementary school. Musick enthusiastically embraced the preschooler students and our team into their family. The staff goes out of their way to greet and get to know our preschoolers. Accommodations are made for our students when attending activities in the multi-purpose room allowing them to join in with the whole school.

For these and many other reasons, Musick is a school worth saving.

Thank you,

Mary Alberts SLPA

Email received from Ray A

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a parent living in the Lincoln Elementary School neighborhood. This school is one of the dominant reasons why we chose to purchase the house in Newark a couple of years ago, so my daughter can go to



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Lincoln conveniently when she comes to age in a few years. We've heard great things about the school from parents of current students, and even from our neighbors their kids went to Lincoln a while ago.

We enjoy the view of Lincoln Elementary School when we take a walk over there. My daughter was always excited when we pointed the building and the large playground to her and told her that is the school she will go to someday. Please do not take it away from us. Please do not drive us away from Newark.

Thank you very much!

Best regards,  
Ray

Hello,

I am writing to URGE that you keep Lincoln school open. Lincoln has the highest ratings of Newark schools on GreatSchools.org. It also has the most students transfer in from out of the immediate area because of this high rating. This has a direct impact on where parents decide to move into Newark (as it did for me), and to close the highest rated school would be a mistake when trying to increase enrollment. PLEASE KEEP LINCOLN OPEN! It is a shame that schools are looked at being closed so close to the election and possible replacement of 3 of the 4 board members, and with prop 15 looming as potential possible revenue that may help to increase revenues without having to close schools. I hope that the board decides to delay the vote on the school closure due to these unknown factors.

Thank you,

Sarah Guerra  
Lincoln & NJHS parent

Email received from Michele Parr

I'm deeply saddened by the news that Lincoln Elementary School is under consideration for closure. Please don't close this school!

My granddaughter and her schoolmates love their school. I wish that sentence alone could save their school. The children have already been through enough this year due to COVID--not to mention our country's issues that are constantly talked about. How terrible it would be to uproot the children and add more stress to their lives.

Lincoln Elementary is a great school. I love that the school is nearby and convenient to very busy families--which ultimately saves time--enabling us to have more family time during the week. The teachers and staff at Lincoln are excellent, caring people. The education and support the children receive is high quality--and highly appreciated!

It's horrible that any school would need to close because of budget cuts. I'm sure this is a huge problem--this year alone must have put a huge strain the budget--but we need solutions. Please show us how we can help so we can save our schools.

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Please don't close Lincoln Elementary. It is an asset to the neighbors, the people of the neighborhood and more importantly to the children. Please save Lincoln Elementary!!

Sincerely,  
Michele P.  
Grandmother

Dear School Consolidation Advisory Committee,

We are writing in strong support of keeping our neighborhood school, H.A. Snow Elementary School, open. We requested transfer of our daughter into Snow School for her kindergarten year due to the child care center and the location to our home. What we found was that this choice to join Snow School did not just meet our logistical needs, but rather we found ourselves a part of an incredibly supportive community for our daughter and her educational success! Our daughter has been thriving with the curriculum and educational support at Snow School. She is now in second grade and still thriving with her virtual education. We also have a 4-year-old daughter who we are excited to enroll in Snow School for kindergarten in fall 2021! Our daughters, like all our children/students throughout our community, have had so much change thrust upon them this year as a result of the global pandemic. Taking away their education community that provides them with a safe learning space, their trusted friends, and their supportive educators would add yet another stressful change they would have to overcome. Please keep our H.A. Snow Elementary School community open and available to the children in our neighborhoods!

Sincerely,  
Joella and Kevin Mesa

Email received from Yolanda Sánchez

Nusd,

Good Evening. My name is Yolanda Sánchez, a proud Blizzard Bear Parent/Alumni. I've been a Newark resident for almost 50 years. I'm a mother to 3 amazing kids that have all attended our wonderful Newark schools.

Our family was devastated to hear the news that Snow & Lincoln are possibly closing next year.

As a former Newark School student, my siblings and I first attended Schilling elementary before transferring to Snow. Our parents were able to buy their first home which is located at 6609 Mirabeau Dr directly across the street from Snow school. My mom is extremely upset about the news. She along with her neighbors do not want the school to close. Especially if it's sold for more housing development.

One of the many reasons we decided to stay and raise our kids here in Newark has been that hometown feeling. This transcends into the schools.

I can speak about the teachers at Snow they're truly an exceptional bunch. All of our 3 kids attended Snow. Our oldest, Natalia, had Ms. Francisco (Mrs. Tomasini) in 2nd grade. She is now the current principal at Snow. Let me tell you she left a long lasting impression on her. Mrs T really enjoys working and teaching kids- she took extra time and patience to help Natalia especially since she had an issue with her speech. This left a mark on Natalia. She is now @ SJSU in her second year and she is majoring in early childhood development. You're amazing Mrs. Tomasini.

Our 2nd son also had great and amazing teachers- Mrs. Nickerson, Mrs. Baylon, Mrs. Palomino. These

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teachers taught him the core and the value of having a strong work ethic. He also was able to start his athletic school career at snow with Mr. Gallup. He really enjoyed playing & competing with all the other elementary schools.

Our youngest is currently in 6th grade at Snow in Mrs. Rose's class. He also has had amazing teachers . He really enjoyed his 5th grade teacher Mr. Ramirez . He talked to him about playing sports in college and getting scholarships with good grades. He really connected with him. The whole snow staff is amazing .

So it saddens me to hear the possible closure of this wonderful school and all of the wonderful staff. I ask that you come up with a different solution. If numbers are down then combine schools like BGI& BGP. PLEASE SAVE SNOW!

Dear Consolidation Committee:

As you prepare to make the decision of what school(s) to close, I thought it imperative that I make you aware of the impact the possible closing of Musick would have on our district's youngest learners.

I have been a Special Day class teacher for NUSD since 2005 and have held the Lead Preschool Teacher role for the preschool for the last three years. I worked with an amazing team and for a program that other districts sent their employees to observe when we were located at Whiteford Preschool. Then NUSD decided to close Whiteford Preschool and move it to Musick. Although I believe the district thought they were making a financially and educationally appropriate decision, they were in no way prepared for the preschool's closure and were not prepared to house our program appropriately and effectively at another site.

Musick has done a lot to make room for us and to provide an environment for our beginning learners, but was in no way ready to support our program like the Whiteford site did. Teachers had to move classrooms and money was put into providing more appropriate space for us. Each year it is getting a little better. I cannot imagine that closing Musick and moving our preschool program again would be any different or cost effective. In fact, I think it would be worse since other sites and classrooms would be involved as well and our youngest learners would again be starting over in an environment that was not ready to support them.

Things you should know about our program before deciding whether or not to relocate us:

-Space Needed: The preschool requires a minimum of 8 rooms (4 classrooms, Occupational Therapy room, Adapted Phy Ed Room, Speech Therapy Room, Psychologist Office).

It is important to note that the second half of the year our numbers increase drastically, meaning more testing needed for initial IEPs and testing needed for transition IEPs (those transitioning to TK/K). This then means we need even more space for contracted therapists to assist with our assessments.

Since moving to Musick, we have had numerous issues with having enough space to complete testing/services needed for our students in appropriate testing conditions. Contracted employees, who the district spends a lot of money on, don't have space to test, and waste some of their time (our money) finding a place to assess students.

I can't imagine closing Musick and squishing the entire school onto another campus and still having the minimum of 8 rooms that we need to run an effective and efficient program.

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-Staying together: When moving us from Whiteford, the district discussed the possibility of moving the preschool classrooms to multiple sites. This was not done for the following reasons:

If each preschool classroom was placed at a different elementary site, the site would have to still provide rooms for OT, APE, Speech and Psych. That means there would be 4 sites that would need to set aside a minimum of 5 rooms for the preschool.

It is important to be aware of our young students' needs as well. These are beginning learners; 3-5 year olds who have never been in a school environment before and who are distracted by every little thing. Having them share a space with someone else, whether it's a service provider's office space or someone else who is providing a service to another child, frequently interrupts the child's learning and makes our program less effective than it should be.

This would also add travel time to our service providers day. Many of them often work over their caseloads in back to back sessions. There is no way they would be able to add travel time to their day. The district would be required to hire more service providers to ensure all students received the appropriate number of service minutes.

Student needs: 2 preschool classrooms have students with Autism specific eligibility, where they attend a 5 hour day, with a smaller class size. 2 preschool classrooms have students with various eligibilities who attend fewer hours and have more students in the classroom. As our students in the Autism program gain more skills, they end up splitting their time between the Autism classroom and the non-categorical classroom so they can focus on specific skills in the smaller class size but work on more social/classroom specific goals in the larger environment; preparing them for a general education environment. If you were to place the preschool classrooms at various sites we would no longer be able to provide students with the Least Restrictive Environment for all of our students, which is illegal.

Staff support: With all of the classrooms together, we are able to use our staff to support each classroom. Whether an instructional assistant or teacher is out sick and a guest was not assigned to us (oftentimes guests turn our program down because it is such a challenging role), or a child's behavior is extreme and a classroom has to be evacuated. With the program together, we are able to make sure each room is sufficiently and legally covered ratio-wise and support each other as needed.

Family centered program: If you look into what Early Childhood Special Education is, you will see "family-centered" written all over. Housing the entire program at one site makes all of the service providers, teachers and instructional assistants visible and available to parents and their children. Our entire team shows up for preschool events. Our entire team learns everything we can about each individual student. Our entire team is committed to providing a family-centered approach where we all work together to support each child and their family in the development of their skills so they can be as prepared as possible for their future in our district. Splitting up our team would dismantle our family-centered approach as availability to all team members would be drastically reduced.

Please remember, we are providing a federally mandated program, where our learners are required by law to receive a free and appropriate public education. Whatever decision you make, I implore you to ensure that

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you are providing these students with an optimal education with the appropriate space to make that happen. I cannot foresee that happening by closing Musick Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Alissa Bauer, Lead Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

On behalf of the Newark Unified School District Special Education Preschool Team;

Shana Keiser, Paraeducator  
Penny DeCelle, Preschool Speech Therapist  
Cynthia Kirk, Paraeducator  
Megan McMillen, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher  
Marie Gallant, Paraeducator  
Mechele Bandy, Paraeducator  
Janet Fejeran, Paraeducator  
Thomas Bauer, Adapted Phy Ed Teacher; Preschool and Elementary  
Michelle Megia, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher  
Tiffany Liu, Preschool Psychologist  
Janette Luo, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher  
Chau Tran, Occupational Therapist  
Emily Noltemeyer, Occupational Therapist  
Mary Alberts, SLPA

Email received from Ben Millerbis

I am very disturbed by the thought of closing Lincoln Elementary. Students that are uprooted from the school that they love and are comforted by a great school in their neighborhood are often assigned to a poor performing school. Closures may effect the student's achievement level. The new school may be in a gang community or a community with historical divides.  
I'm this current era of confusion, division, mistrust, anxiety and hate, this is no time to further create more harm to our children.

To NUSD,

Hi my name is Darlene Reyes (Caro). I am a former student from HA Snow Elementary. I attended snow school for two years (5th-6th). I am a former and currently a parent of a student at snow school. There is still staff there that remember me when I attended snow school myself. This was many years ago. There are class mates I had then and now have their own children attending snow school as well. I have great memories and continue to see how snow staff still have a big heart for their students, just as they did when I attended regardless of there being new staff throughout the years. The staff is very caring, helpful, and understanding. They are who make snow great. They do all they can to bring a smile to the students and make them feel comfortable in school. I respect and love snow for what they've done throughout the years. As well as for their well managed pick up and drop off to keep students safe away from harms way. Snow elementary overall is a fantastic school. It would sadden many other families and I if snow were to be one of the schools to be closed. Please do not close snow school. Thank You



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Sincerely,  
Darlene Reyes

Email received from Candan Shee

Dear School Boards Members,

We are writing this email to express my keen interest to keep Lincoln Elementary School OPEN. Lincoln Elementary school provides high-quality education to our community and we have been eagerly waiting to register our daughter next school year. We moved here to this community because of Lincoln Elementary School. Also, we know several families waiting to register in the coming school year. Please consider keeping this school open and help our community thrive.

Best regards,

Chandan and Nabanita

Email received from Ed Huterias

SCAC Public Comment October 22.2020 good evening I am a parent of a first grader at Snow school me and my brother went to Snow school .I live within a block of snow school there are many children in this area of Newark that need a school by them instea...

Email received from MARY JANE OLIVAREZ

Do not close Lincoln because it's convenient for grandparents who drop off and pick up kids, walking distance, safe surroundings, great staff, clean and well maintained. We don't need more housing in Newark. Don't sell us short or out!!!Education matters!!!!

Dear SCAC,

I am writing to advocate for keeping Snow Elementary OPEN. One of the main reasons why I bought my house was because of its close proximity to Snow. My son, a first grader, loves to be able to "race" his grandma to school each morning. He is also very fond of his teachers and staff, as they are all really open and friendly with the students.

Being a very shy kid, it was difficult and took a while for him to open up to even just a few of his classmates last year. I know a new school will cause a lot of anxiety for young kids like him.

Thank you for considering,

Anne Chung

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in regards to the discussions involving the closing of elementary schools with in Newark.

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My family have been residents of Newark for more than 40 years with three generations currently living in Newark. I have spent my whole life in this great city. My husband and I were married in the bay area, we bought a home in the neighborhood that I grew up in and are now raising a family in Newark. I was educated within the Newark Unified School District first attending Kennedy Elementary, then Newark Junior High, and graduating from Newark Memorial High. We now have four children, attending Lincoln Elementary. One in 5th, 4th, 2nd grade, and our youngest in kindergarten. Our family actively support Lincoln Elementary with my mother and I volunteering in the classrooms as well as chaperoning field trips.

I was very upset when I heard that Lincoln was at the top of the list of schools being considered for closure. I firmly believe that closing any of our district's schools is not within the best interests of the community. I am writing this letter to ask for your support, and to implore you to keep Lincoln open. Lincoln has the highest rating compared to the other schools. The staff is amazing and I love all of the teachers that my children have been fortunate enough to be under the tutelage of. I also want to point out that Lincoln has a very high parent/volunteer involvement, which includes many grandparents. The staff and volunteers have a very close, strong relationship that is focused on helping the students. If you consider Lincoln's performance records and active involvement from the community you should realize that Lincoln is the flagship for elementary schools within NUSD.

I think it would be huge disservice to the students, the parents, and the teachers who have devoted their time, and life to developing what Lincoln Elementary is today. Principal Perez has done a exemplarily job making Lincoln a deserving school to keep open. I believe students from nearby schools like Schilling would benefit if they were to attend Lincoln.

Sincerely,

A former student, A parent, a member of the community

Tristine Lee

Email received from Claudia T

Dear Committee Members,

Please consider keeping Musick school open. It is a great school with a wonderful staff! My daughter transferred to Musick school from a private school via IEP mid TKschool year. I have had the best experience at Musick! They made the IEP process easy, quick, and stress free for my daughter. The Special Ed teacher at Musick was so wonderful, always helpful with answering my questions, and helped guide me through the process/transition during a stressful time. The IEP team has been great to work with! My daughter has now transitioned to a 1st grade Gen Ed class and that could not have happened without the incredible support of the teachers, principal, and IEP team at Musick.

Sincerely,  
Claudia

To Whom it may concern,

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I ask that you please keep Lincoln Elementary open. Lincoln Elementary is a beautiful school with wonderful teachers, students, and parents. It is an invaluable educational institution to the community. If Lincoln is closed it will cause distress to the students who are excited to get to school, to learn the lessons of the day provided by their favorite teachers and recess with their best friends.

It will cause hardships to the families that rely not only on the close proximity to their homes but the peace of mind that their school has a great education program with wonderful teachers and staff.

Our own Lincoln Leopard has always happily skipped to school excited to learn, to see teachers and friends. Our hearts filled with delight, as the children proudly sing their school song at the end of each day, (even when not in school just to share with friends and family.)

The inexplicable peace and joy we feel daily, as our young one brightly speaks about teachers, what they have learned that day and their friendships with fellow students, is irreplaceable.

Please keep our school open, we love Lincoln Elementary!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mrs. L. Sanchez

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Gabriel Anguiano Jr., I would like to start off by saying to not consider E.L. Musick Elementary as one of the schools to close its doors on our children, families and or community. I would stand before you as I have done and advocated in the past to keep our schools open in several NUSD board meetings and now we share our thoughts and opinions as a family in this humbling letter. I have four children within the Newark Unified School System, 2 young teens whom already graduated from E.L. Musick School within the last 2-3 years. We have 2 children that are currently enrolled as we speak through Distance Learning, and multiple nephews and nieces, sister and brother-in-law that have attended and graduated from Musick School. One of the reasons that we moved to this neighborhood was due to the location of my home and the distance that it was from quick access to the interstate highway, grocery stores, gas stations, parks and the local restaurants that support Musick School in so many ways, cannot count how many organizations support E.L. Musick elementary school.

However, I like many other parents chose to live in the neighborhood surroundings of E.L. Musick School. Twenty-years ago when we were in the neighborhood shopping for a home, E.L. Musick Elementary School was one of our main priorities that caught our attention. That one day when we would start our own family, in which our children would be able to attend this wonderful school that still stands within the Newark community. Many of our dedicated teachers, staff and administration also live within the community and or near E.L. Musick School because it has created a sense of Family within a Family. Please, re-consider this letter as a good faith of gesture that is owed to our families that surround this wonderful school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to consider it as a voice in many households in our surrounding neighborhood.

Humbled,

#Leopard for Life

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Gabriel, Lili, Destiny, GioCarlo, Jazlyn and Kaelyn Cruz Anguiano

Hello, my name is De'Angelo Reyes. I am currently a sophomore at Newark Memorial High School. I attended HA Snow Elementary from Kindergarten-3rd grade and finish my second half of 6th grade at Snow. I've been to three different elementary schools, and Snow is by far my favorite. I always felt comfortable around the staff. The staff members are very nice and caring people. Whenever I needed help, the teachers would never hesitate to help and explain things again if needed. In general, Snow has a great environment. The environment is very cozy and family-friendly. I was shocked to hear Snow could be one of the schools closed. It would sadden me if my childhood school was closed. Please do not close down Snow.

Sincerely,  
De'Angelo Reyes

Dear SCAC Committee:

I am a parent of two children that have been going through the NUSD education system since 2011. Both of my children should've attended Graham but were intra-district transfers to Snow since their Kinder years. Snow is actually closer to our home than Graham even though we are in the Graham territory. Unfortunately, it seems like both of those schools are on the chopping block. When my oldest was about to enter 7th grade I had really considered transferring him to Fremont schools. I was uneasy about the idea of one junior high and one high school but I decided to trust NUSD and kept him here, and I am glad I did.

First, I'd like to state that Snow is unique in many ways. I have noticed that it has always run lean and as efficient as possible for at least the past decade. Five or so years ago Snow voluntarily began consolidating classes and having split classes before the district and board started recommending that it was needed to the elementary school sites. The only school that I am aware of that was able to avoid it, was Kennedy because their parents raised money. Unfortunately, other school communities such as Snow are not as wealthy or able to do so. Snow has always been first to pilot new math programs and reading/writing programs, often resulting in the other elementary school teachers shadowing Snow teachers so they could roll out those programs in their schools as well. My oldest son excelled at the Junior High level because he was already familiar with the Lucy Calkins reader and writer workshops unlike many other of his classmates. Snow hosts the intermural sports such as flag football. The site not only has gardens for the children to learn hands on but there is money generated at our site from the rental on the softball fields that have hosted numerous tournaments. The cafeteria has also been rented out to a local competitive cheer team and you can find their 1st place flags flying high as many of the cheerleaders have attended there. The staff at Snow are truly exceptional and make everyone feel like they are family. They take the time to get to know the families and go above and beyond to help the students. I have noticed it more than ever during this pandemic and they truly care about making sure the students are getting the best education possible and necessary supplies to make it happen.

To have an absolute stranger using Google maps to try and convince me that a nearest school wouldn't be an inconvenience is not taken lightly and found rather insulting. In order for my fifth grader to walk to school he would have to walk on major streets, cross railroad tracks, or major intersections. Safety is a number one concern being that I have witnessed crossing guards and children being almost hit numerous times by impatient drivers or drivers that do not want to adhere to the rules of the roads. I have witnessed them driving through stop signs with no regard to pedestrians. There is a huge traffic issue with Graham and the

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Lafayette/Cherry intersection in the morning and afternoons with traffic from both Graham and the Junior High. To get to Kennedy the students would have to walk down Cedar and cross Newark Blvd. To get to Lincoln the students would have to cross railroad tracks to get to Bettencourt as well as deal with those drivers racing down Haley to get to the Dumbarton Bridge.

We have had a lot of families moving out of our neighborhood and many moving in. I am constantly advocating for Snow and our district but with more closures happening and the way the district has been run the past few years, I am finding it harder and harder to do so. In my opinion, making the junior into a middle school can be detrimental to the 5th graders in our district. They are already experiencing so much anxiety and stress with this pandemic and distance learning. They are looking forward to getting back to their home school and seeing their peers. They have already had to adjust so much and are not socially or emotionally ready to be thrown into a junior high setting at this time. Sixth grade teachers normally work on preparing the students for that transition but the 5th graders won't be getting that. Newark is a small community and I think many parents value having a junior high rather than a middle school. I think that is one thing that makes Newark stand out and desirable compared to neighboring cities. I hope you truly consider that when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Jamie Tavares



