

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

October 29, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

A. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Martinez.
B. Roll Call	<p>Members of the Committee Attendees</p> <p>Chae Marshall, Vilma Cristina Mendoza, Rachel Bloom, Sue Eustice, Janet Crocker, Hamilton Baylon, Veronica Medina, Selene Nevarez, 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 None</p>
C. Superintendent's Welcome	Dr. Triplett welcomed the committee.
D. Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Some of the public comments received via email were read aloud.</p> <p>(All public comments are included below as part of the minutes.)</p>
E. Approval of October 22, 2020 Minutes	<p>Motion to approve minutes</p> <p>Motion: Ingham-Watters Second: Baylon Vote Yes: Marshall, Mendoza, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Nevarez, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
F. Committee Recommendations	<p>Brianna García, Director, School Services of California</p> <p>Committee members were asked to vote for 4 school sites to recommend for closure. 12 members voted for 4 sites, 1 member voted for 1. The total votes:</p> <p>Snow: 11 Graham: 10 Lincoln: 9 Musick: 8 Kennedy: 7 Schilling: 3 BGI: 1 BGP: 0</p> <p>By consensus, the committee requested that the 1 committee member who only voted</p>

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	<p>for 1 school site either identify 3 more school sites, or abstain from participating in the voting activity. The committee member chose to abstain. New total votes:</p> <p>Snow: 10 Graham: 10 Lincoln: 9 Musick: 8 Kennedy: 7 Schilling: 3 BGI: 1 BGP: 0</p> <p>There was a correction of Committee Member Medina's vote. After the correction the total votes:</p> <p>Snow: 10 Graham: 11 Lincoln: 8 Musick: 7 Kennedy: 7 Schilling: 4 BGI: 1 BGP: 0</p> <p>Motion made: The SCAC recommends to the Board four schools, which are Graham, Lincoln & Snow, with a tie for Kennedy and Musick.</p> <p>Motion: Padilla Second: Marshall Vote Yes: Mendoza, Crocker, Ingham-Watters, Padilla, Marshall, Nevarez No: Ibarra, Dix, Medina Abstain: Ringlein, Baylon, Bloom, Eustice</p> <p>Chair Martinez declared the motion carries Vice Chair Nguyen requested the votes be verified prior to going to the Board</p>
Motion to Extend the meeting until 8:30 PM	<p>Motion to extend the meeting to 8:30 PM</p> <p>Motion: Padilla Second: Ibarra Vote Yes: Ibarra, Dix, Marshall, Crocker, Ingham-Watters, Medina, Padilla, Mendoza, Bloom, Nevarez, Eustice No: Baylon, Ringlein Abstain: 0</p>
G. Review Draft Report and Seek	<p>Brianna García, Director, School Services of California began review of the draft report.</p>

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Input	<p>Ms. Gutierrez interrupted Ms. Garcia during the report review. She had to review parliamentary rules and she stated we may need to take a new vote. She explained:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is a 13 member committee and there was a 6 yes vote. The committee would have to agree to a special rule/agreement to accept this vote. Otherwise the committee would have to pass by simple majority, which is 7 votes, or a revote would need to be taken.</p> <p>Previous motion failed due to not reaching the simple majority.</p> <p>Dix asked that since we are going to take a revote, could the committee please vote for their top 2 recommended schools.</p> <p>Chair Martinez clarified that the original votes would continue to be the recommendation for the 4 schools and there would be another vote for the top 2 schools.</p> <p>Vice Chair Nguyen stated the vote for the top 2 schools, would be additional data for the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Gutierrez explained that there would be a new vote for the 4 schools and the top 2 schools.</p> <p>Ms. Garcia reminded the committee that the top 4 schools previously voted on are: Graham, Lincoln, Snow, with a tie for Kennedy and Musick.</p> <p>Committee members were asked to vote for their top 2 school sites to recommend for closure. The total votes:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Snow: 4 Graham: 9 Lincoln: 4 Musick: 5 Kennedy: 2 Schilling: 2 BGI: 0 BGP: 0</p> <p>Superintendent Triplett asked that the spreadsheet be shared on the screen and requested committee members to confirm their votes.</p> <p>New Motion made: The SCAC recommends to the Board the top four schools, which are Graham, Lincoln, Snow, with a tie for Kennedy and Musick with the top two ranking schools as Graham and Musick.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: Crocker Second: Padilla</p>
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	<p>Vote Yes: Crocker, Marshall, Padilla, Baylon, Ibarra, Dix, Ingham-Watters, Mendoza, Eustice No: Ringlein, Nevarez, Medina Abstain: Bloom</p> <p>Brianna García, Director, School Services of California restarted the review of the draft report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member Medina requested that a note be added regarding the preschool numbers not being included in the numbers. • Committee Member Ibarra requested a note about the four schools that have the SEAL program • Committee Member Crocker requested clarification about moving the 6th graders to NJHS. The draft report reads the committee recommends the 6th graders be moved. Her recollection was that the committee recommends the Board address moving the 6th graders. Ms. Garcia will review the recording of the meeting to be sure the report is accurate.
H. Get Delegated Approval to Edit Draft Report and Finalize	<p>Motion to give Ms. Garcia delegated authority to edit Draft Report with edits noted and finish writing the final section and draft a final report to present to the Board on November 5.</p> <p>Motion: Crocker Second: Ingham-Watters Vote Yes: Padilla, Ibarra, Marshall, Baylon, Crocker, Ingham-Watters, Mendoza, Dix, Nevarez, Medina No: Bloom, Ringlein, Eusitce Abstain: 0</p>
I. Next Step	Board meeting November 5, 2020.
J. Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn Motion: Dix Second: Marshall Vote Yes: Medina, Bloom, Eustice, Ibarra, Baylon, Dix, Ingham-Watters, Marshall, Padilla, Ringlein, Crocker, Mendoza, Nevarez No: 0</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned 8:25 PM</p>
Other Attendees	<p>District Personnel Attendees Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official Jessica Saavedra, Executive Director of Human Resources</p>

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	<p>Lucia Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to Superintendent David Mellons, IT Technician Jodi Croce, Business Services Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Other Attendees Facilitator: Brianna García, Director, School Services of California Gilma Guevara, Spanish Translator</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I wanted to write in support of keeping Lincoln Elementary open in regards to any proposed school closings in the district. We chose to purchase our home in Lincoln's district in 2015 because the location was close to a school that seemed to be performing well and getting recognition. Our daughter will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2021 and our son in fall 2023 so we have a great interest in the school remaining open as we live 1 block away. We want to support public schools and they cannot improve if children continue going to private schools, which is what we will have to choose if remaining public options end up being too far away.</p> <p>If the closure is due to covid-related attendance/registration drops, I'm more than willing to help lobby the state government for aid to support the schools through this time as I'm sure attendance will pick up once there is a vaccine and more stability.</p> <p>Thank you, Laurie & Abhinab Ray Newark resident</p>	
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I heard that due to budget reasons a couple of schools in the Newark School district will be closed. I am writing to you to plead that the Lincoln Elementary School not be closed, as it is one of the best schools in the Newark area. Its one of those schools which is improving and among the better Newark schools.</p> <p>Lincoln Elementary has a dedicated and quality staff and very easily accessible. It is also playing a major role in improving property values in Newark due to its high rank.</p> <p>While it is a hard decision to make and to choose one over the other, keeping the higher ranked school will benefit all of us and Newark in general.</p> <p>Please look into this and help us save the Lincoln Elementary school.</p> <p>Thank you, Parikshit Karnik Newark Resident</p>	
<p>Hi,</p>	

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This email is regarding the close down of 2 schools next year. Lincoln Elementary School is a really significant part of our community here in Newark. It provides best in class education very close to where we live and it has been a key driver why we got a home close to the school. The staff members and teachers are friendly and dedicated to our community's growth. Closing down Lincoln Elementary School, would be a big loss to the kids, teachers and most importantly it will slow down the development of the community in a significant way. I hope you'd consider my thoughts when you do decide the future of our beloved neighborhood school.

Thanks and Regards,
Sohin V. Savla

Hello,

I heard that due to budget reasons a couple of schools in the Newark School district will be closed. I am writing to you to plead that the Lincoln Elementary School not be closed, as it is one of the best schools in the Newark area. It's one of those schools which is improving and among the better Newark schools.

Lincoln Elementary has a dedicated and quality staff and very easily accessible. It is also playing a major role in improving property values in Newark due to its high rank.

While it is a hard decision to make and to choose one over the other, keeping the higher ranked school will benefit all of us and Newark in general.

Please look into this and help us save the Lincoln Elementary school.

Thank you,
Tanvi Naik
Newark Resident

I'm a Mother of two students who currently attend snow elementary 6th grade and kindergarten, as well a wife to who's husband attended snow elementary. Snow is and has been a great school, i have had a great experience probably one of the best i have no complaints. From the teachers and the staff. They are all nice , caring and very helpful. Not to mention the extra help my oldest son had during his younger years at snow. All the teachers even though they didn't specialized in special needs i felt like they understood me as a parent and made it so easy for me and my son. They were very welcoming from the beginning and that made my son comfortable. They honestly helped him so much i can't thank them enough!!! Please do not close Snow elementary!!!!

sincerely,
Maria Caro

Hi ,
We need to have our Lincoln school open.
We need it to have our kids with good teachers and education. Lincoln is our school, please keep our school open.

Thank you,

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Verónica Marez

To the Newark Unified School District Decision board.

Lincoln elementary is an excellent school and we should not consider closing it down.

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.

I am sending my daughter to Lincoln Elementary and she is at Kindergarten level and she 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.

As a new resident of Newark and neighbor of Lincoln elementary school, I was appalled when I can to know that the elementary school is being considered for closure. My son has just started his Kindergarten in this school 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.

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

Warm Regards,
Ramya

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

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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.

-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.

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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 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

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Mary Alberts, SLPA
Angeline Fernandes, Occupational Therapist

Hello,

I am writing to URGE that you keep Lincoln school open. Lincoln has the highest ratings of Newark schools on GreatSchools.org. And as you have seen from the provided data, it also has the most students transferring in from out of the immediate area because of this high rating. This has a direct impact on whether and 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! On another note, I wish that the board would delay the vote about school closures since we are so close to the election, 4 board seats are up for election, 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 ultimately decides to delay the vote on the school closure due to these unknown factors.

Thank you,

Sarah Guerra
Lincoln & NJHS parent

Hello Committee Members,

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

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.

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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

Hi,

My name is Student 1 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 1

(age 6, almost age 7)

Hello, I am writing on behalf of Musick Elementary for the second time. I can not express my anger and hurt that Musick School would even be in for consideration for consolidation. I've said this previously that the children and families of Musick should not suffer because the school district can not control their budgets. This is outrageous and Musick can not be closed. Keep Musick open if not only for the families but these children who have gone through enough this year!

Sabrina Dalton

To Whom It May Concern,

Please read this letter out loud at your next meeting.

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.

My twins attend Lincoln Elementary in 3rd grade. We are zoned for Graham, but we transferred to Lincoln at

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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.

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 and a large student body compared to some other schools in the district. 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

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

Hello Sir/Madam,

This is regarding the closure of Lincoln Elementary school notice that we got in our mail box recently.

Let me introduce myself, I am Shreekanta Pradhan, one of the residents living near the Lincoln school. I bought this house becoz of this school's good ratings and have plans to send my son in upcoming years. We are paying tens of thousands in taxes (property tax and others) and school is one of the important parts of the community. Closing it down will ruin the future of our kids.

I am requesting you all to reconsider this decision for the sake of our kids and their future.

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Thanks
Shreekanta Pradhan
Sriyanka Panigrahi

Email received from Sheryl Buck

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 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 was 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,

I am writing this to voice my opinion and concern on the closing of two Newark schools. Lincoln School is a staple of this community and neighborhood and SHOULD NOT be closed down. It has always been one of the top rated schools in the city and has dedicated teachers and staff who show passion for teaching and guidance for our youth. With it being a top rated school it also keeps up the property value in our neighborhoods. So many of our families find it convenient that we have such a great school within our boundary that is very accessible. It also serves as a practice location for our local youth sports programs. Please do not close this school down, it means too much to this neighborhood.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Edward Torres

Newark Unified Board members,

I wish to let you know that I do not wish to have Lincoln elementary school closed. Lincoln elementary is a community and neighborhood focal point and important to the families and neighbors of the Lincoln attendance area. I encourage you to not close Lincoln school.

Sandra Hughes
Lincoln attendance area.

Email received from Cherie Jo Patenaude

I am the grandparent of a 1st grader that attends Musick Elementary. He is on the autism spectrum and is in

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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 strides our kiddo has made to go away.

Dear SCAC,

Hello, my name is Student 2, I am a 5th grade student at Musick Elementary School. I have attended Musick since I was 4 years old, Musick has been my second family for a LONG time. If you close down Musick Elementary School, you are tearing up an ohana. And ohana means family, and family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten, even split up. So, just because the number of students at Musick are small, it doesn't mean you have to split us up. If you split us up, imagine how many children's hearts have been broken. If you closed Musick, we all have to start over, and if you really did close Musick, imagine how many angry students and parents you will have, tearing up our family is something that will never be forgotten. Even Ephraim L. Musick wouldn't even want that! And to think that Musick is a small school and it should close, rethink about that. Our hearts are loud and clear, also our pride. The pride us students have is what has been bringing us together. We are using our voices and showing pride for our school. Musick's bond is special and inseparable- it CANNOT be recreated by anywhere else, we are UNIQUE.

So please reconsider and rethink about closing Musick down.
#SAVEMUSICK#LET'SSTAYTOGETHER#WEAREFAMILY

Sincerely,

Student 2
5th grade student

Hello! This is Student 3. I have a 5th grader at Musick School. Please do not close Musick. In this difficult time; hope the board will consider the effect on our students. Students that will be affected will undergo so much adjustment. Trying to transfer them to new school making them crowded and teachers will be loaded with more students. Learning should be priority. Closing schools will contribute a big impact on students mentally. As of this current situation, students are still adjusting and struggling with online learning. Please do not take them away from their school as their comfort zone and you their teachers.. Transferring them farther away from their home will be harder especially to those students who always walk in going to school. We love Musick School a quiet and safe environment for our students to learn. Teachers are good and ready to help all the times. Please hear our voices and do not close Musick. In behalf of all families and students at Musick We say thank you in advance for keeping our school open. God bless us all.

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Newark Unified School District

October 29, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Email received from k.s.sushma

Hi,

We expect to receive continued support from Musick school for our child. We really wish great things to happen for Musick school and Musick families. All the best Musick!

Regards,
Sushma

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 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

Dear Committee Members-

We, the parents of Musick Elementary PTA, write to address the closure or consolidation of schools within our district. You have heard from many members of the Musick Family these past weeks. Maybe when you are small you realize the need to defend yourself, maybe when you have heard former board members suggest you should not exist you learn to speak up loudly, but through all this speculation of whether or not our school will close, we have grown stronger.

We are writing today to let you know the great things going on at our school. We have watched you all carefully determine which criteria to use while trying to determine a rank for closure/consolidation and we know it wasn't an easy task. We would like to highlight some criteria that were not considered in your decision but are still important. We are a Title 1 school, we serve families from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Over half of our students are English Language Learners. In fact we have many languages spoken in the homes of our families. Nearly 1/3 of our students receive Special Education services and we are home to the wonderful preschool for students with special needs. When Whiteford closed and the preschool moved into Musick, it took a little time to adjust but our staff and families have come together to support each other and build a safe learning environment where all learners are valued. A few years ago we were struggling with attendance and low test scores. But we've worked very hard as a community: parents & families, students, teachers, staff and our principal to rise to the challenge. Our teachers have spent time learning how to support our students' needs while still challenging them and having high expectations. We made a good amount of growth as can be seen in our scores from 2019. We have come together to meet the challenge head on and we are not afraid to put in the work.

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That is who we are. We believe in working hard and we believe in family. Our school is a great place for kids to learn. It is a place where we are teaching kids to respect the differences found among us and be friendly and welcoming. We believe in the hard working students and the teachers and staff who continue to mold them into the leaders of the future. And now-WE ASK YOU TO BELIEVE IN US. Keep our site open!
#SaveMusick #MusickFamily

Sincerely-
Musick Elementary PTA

Email message received from Alejandra Vazquez

Original Message

Hola soy Alejandra Vazquez y estoy Mandando este mensaje para no al cierre de la escuela Schilling es una de las mejores escuelas que han estado mis hijos y les daría mucha tristeza que la cierren por eso also mi voz al no al cierre de la escuela Schillings Elementary school

Inbox

Translation

Hi, I am Alejandra Vasquez and I am sending this message to say not to the closure of Schilling school as it is one of the best schools attended by my children and they will be very sad if the school is closed. For this reason I raise my voice against closing Schilling Elementary school.

Email received from Krizna Shema Vargas

Schilling Elementary School has been my son's second home. The staff and the teachers here are like family to us. It is amazing how the staff knows every student very well. They have been very patient and helpful during this pandemic specially with the home schooling. Me and husband is against it's closure. We are hoping our voices will be heard. Spare our school! Spare our second home please!

Sent from my iPhone

Email received from marisol marisol

Original Message

Hola quiero mostrar mi preocupacion por la posibilidad que hay que se cierre la escuela Schilling Elementary tengo 2 hijas en esa escuela tengo hijos pequeños que deseo que bayan a esa escuela mis hijas an ido alli por 7 años ellas se sienten muy contentas alli y les pone muy tristes que exista la posibilidad de que la cierren los maestros que trabajan en esa escuela son muy dedicados el personal es muy amable porfavor les pido que consideren eso.

Translation

Hello, I want to let you know my concern for the possible closure of Schilling Elementary as I have two daughters in that school and I have younger children that I wish to attend this school. My daughters have attended this school for seven years and they have been very happy there. The teachers and personnel there are very nice and I request that this school not be closed.

Hi my name is Gizel Rodriguez And I want to speak up on why I think schilling should not be closed, I had been going to schilling ever since I was in kindergarten all the way until sixth grade And through all those years I've had amazing memories In all my grades If schilling closes down it's going to affect a lot of people

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Because some people walk to school because they have no vehicle and It will be hard for them if they switch schools. My siblings go to schilling and They enjoy going there And Neither of them want schilling to close down and that's why am asking for schilling To stay and not close down.

Email received from Angy Rodriguez
Original Message

Hola buenas tardes yo lesqueria pedir que no cierren la escuela schilling ami me gusta muchisimo mi hijo estubo 6 anos ahi y ahora mi hija va en segundo grado me encanta enlopersonal la directora trabaja mucho siempre esta ayudando y tomen encuesta que muchos padres no manejan muchas personas caminan a la escuela yo les agradeceria que tomaran en cuenta mi comentario mil gracias.

Translation

Hello and good afternoon. I would like to ask that you do not close Schilling school. I love this school and my son attended this school for six years and now my daughter attends 2nd grade. I like the staff and in particular I love how the principal works hard and is very helpful. Please take into consideration that many parents do not drive so they walk to school. I would be grateful if you can take this into consideration. Thank you!

Email received from Carlos Garcia
Original Message

Hola buenas tardes yo lesqueria pedir que no cierren la escuela schilling ami me gusta muchisimo mi hijo estubo 6 anos ahi y ahora mi hija va en segundo grado me encanta enlopersonal la directora trabaja mucho siempre esta ayudando y tomen encuesta que muchos padres no manejan muchas personas caminan a la escuela yo les agradeceria que tomaran en cuenta mi comentario mil gracias.

Translation

Hello and good afternoon. I would like to ask that you do not close Schilling school. I love this school and my son attended this school for six years and now my daughter attends 2nd grade. I like the staff and in particular I love how the principal works hard and is very helpful. Please take into consideration that many parents do not drive so they walk to school. I would be grateful if you can take this into consideration. Thank you!

This is about Musick Elementary. One thing I know about this school is that it is not just a building, Musick Elementary is loved by many especially me. I have been there since kindergarten and I wish I wasn't leaving so soon. The second thing is that our school has Pride. I have so many good memories and friends there that I would be in pieces if it closed. and the most important thing is our school as a family. Musick has been a second home for a while. When we all were going in person it was my happy place, when I was going through a rough time. Musick and all my friends and teacher helped so much. No school should be closed and especially not Musick.

To whom may be concern,

I don't think that it's fair to close down our schilling school. We have got the best principal Dr Wendy to organize our school. We also have got the best teachers and they always work as team to support our students learning. Especially, our school students attendance have improved these few years! Please reconsider your decision making again!

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Thanks

Esther Kuo

Email received from Julia Quintero

Original Message

Hola pies respecto al cierre de escuelas no creo que sea buena idea porque cierran las escuelas y cada vez hay mas niños en los salones de clase y es por esa razón que no les ponen los maestros la atención necesaria y no les explican bien debido a tanto niño la escuela schilling no quiero que la cierren porque ai an ido mis hijos grandes y los chicos también ban hai es una escuela muy especial y necesaria bueno no sólo esa todas son necesarias y no creo que sea necesario cerrar escuelas es como privar a los niños a aprender no estoy adecuado en que se cierre ninguna escuela.

Translation

Hello, with respect to the school closure I do not believe that it is a good idea because the schools close and then the classrooms are packed with more children and for this reason the teachers don't give children the needed attention and they don't explain because they have too many children and I do not want you to close schilling school because my older children attend this school and the youngers will attend this special school ane we need well not just this one but but all are needed and I do not believe that we need to close the schools it would be like keeping the children from learning and I do not agree that any school be closed.

Email received from Rebecca Valdivia

To whom it may concern,

AUGUST SCHILLING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL has always been the GREATEST SCHOOL on earth! Closing it down would erase so many memories for my family who has been attending SCHILLING FOR YEARS and new memories that have yet to come for our littles ones. The staff and teachers have always been amazing in putting their students education first. Our school has a variety of ethnicities and we celebrate each one Of them which makes our school so special.

Thank you for your time and please keep AUGUST SCHILLING ELEMENTARY OPEN!

Email received from Maria Garcia

Original Message

Hola yo soy madre de familia de Schilling's y mando este email por que no pienso que sea la mejor idea de cerrar Schilling's elementary school el cual todavía tengo niños que aún tengo niños que asisten a esa escuela aparte schilling a hecho y esta haciendo mucho por nuestras familias schilling hay muchas oportunidades para estudiantes. Como maestros y padres de familia es una escuela donde se imparten igualdad respeto por todos hemos aprendiendo mucho de nuestra gran directora de.Wendy Castaneda leal por favor tengan en mente el bienestar de cada estudiantes y padre de fam.

Translation

Hello I am a mother from Schilling and I am sending this email because I do not think that it is the best idea to close Schilling Elementary school and I still have children attending this school and besides Schilling has and

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is still doing much for our families and there are many opportunities for the students. As teachers and parents it is a school where equality and respect for everyone and we have learned a lot from our great principal Wendy Castaneda who is loyal so please keep in mind the well being of each student and parent.

I am a student of Schilling, and want to speak up to the people who are making the decision to close our school. This is not right. How would you, directors of the district, if you, as a kid, had your school shut down. How would you feel if you had to move to a new school with no other choice? Yeah, doesn't feel good, does it? Please, consider changing your mind, and let the children, staff, and teachers make a living at the school they always have.

Best wishes,
Student of Schilling

Hello. I am a student of Schilling, sending this to change your mind about the cruelty of the decision you are making to shut down our school. How would you feel, directors of the district, if you were still kids, and your school shut down? How would you feel if you had to move to a new school, without any other choices? Yeah, doesn't feel too good. I hope this changes your mind, not just for me, but for the teachers, staff, and students here at Schilling.

Best wishes,
Student of Schilling

hello i'm a student from schilling and im here to tell you why you shouldn't shut down my school,here is why you shouldn't close down my school even tho im in 6th grade and im going to 7th grade and won't be in the same school does not mean that there will not be any other kids in that school there will be kindergarten-6th grade students and if you close down my school your just forcing kids to go to another district and some people will have to move to another home just because they're old house will be far from the new school kids will have to go. Plus if you close down this school what are you going to do with the land, so please i beg you that you don't ruin other kids knowledge, **student from schilling**.

Hello Newark unified school district. I am a student from Schilling school. I have a couple of reasons why you should not shut down our school. the first reason is that if kids like in first grade or in kinder would be sad and If i were you i would not shut it down because i would want them to remember how our school was like. not just pass by our school and say that used to be my school.

and if you read this thank you.

Email received from Karina Martinez

Original Message

Buenos días, mi nombre es Karina Martinez ,

estoy escribiendo este correo electrónico para dejarles saber sobre mi descontento y preocupacion por el posible cierre de la escuela Schilling en Newark, en la cual mi hijo a asistido desde que nos movimos a la ciudad de Newark ya casi 6 años.

La escuela esta a una cuadra de distancia de mi casa, es muy combeniente para mi esta escuela, porque mi

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hijo puede caminar de regreso a casa, a mi no me es posible ir a recogerlo después de la escuela por mi trabajo.

Soy madre de 3 hijos y tengo que trabajar tiempo completo para mantener mi hogar. Es más fácil y seguro que mi hijo camine una cuadra de regreso a casa después de escuela , o un vecino de mi confianza vaya a la escuela en caso de alguna emergencia.

Mi hijo más pequeño está muy ilusionado por asistir a la escuela Schilling, la misma escuela donde su hermano está asistiendo.

En caso de que la escuela Schilling sea cerrada, tendré que llevar a mis 2 hijos a otra escuela más lejos de mi hogar, mi hijo tendría que caminar una distancia más larga de regreso a casa. Me preocupa mucho la inseguridad en la calle, el aumento de homeless en la ciudad. Tal vez tendría que buscar un servicio para que lo lleven a casa , pero esto me costaría dinero , dinero que necesito para pagar mis pagos y comida en esta situación tan difícil por la que estamos pasando por el Covid-19.

Otra de mis opciones sería pedir permiso en mi trabajo para salir y recogerlo a la escuela, lo cual me quitaría casi 2 hrs de trabajo diaria serian 10 hrs de pago por semana. No creo poder sobrellevar los gastos con un recorte de horas tan grande. O trabajar más tarde para recuperar las horas perdidas. Esto significa que regresaría más tarde a casa, mi hijo tendría que estar más tiempo solo o con supervisión de algún vecino que me haga el favor de atenderlo.

De todas las maneras posibles, es verdaderamente triste , triste y muy desolador el destino y los cambios que como padres tendremos que hacer por el cierre de la escuela Schilling. Así como yo hay muchísimas familias que caminan a la escuela por falta de automovil o porque los padres tienen que trabajar y no pueden ir a recogerlos. Los niños estarán más expuestos a la calle, a quedarse con los amigos en la calle , a ser influenciados a meterse en problemas o no cumplir con sus labores de la escuela.

Agradezco de su tiempo por leer esta carta y agradecería aun mas el que porfavor lo piensen bien, tomen en cuenta la situación por la que se está pasando con el problema de el covid-19, escasez de trabajo y los que lo tenemos , no podemos darnos el lujo de llegar tarde , salir temprano para llevar o recoger a nuestros hijos de la escuela , porque necesitamos trabajar para darles de comer y un techo donde vivir. Pero también nos preocupa su seguridad , su bienestar y por supuesto su futuro.

Nuevamente muchas gracias.

Translation

Good morning, my name is Karina Martinez, I am writing this email to let you know my disagreement and concern for the possible closure of Schilling in Newark, My son has attended this school since we moved to Newark almost 6 years ago.

The school is a block from my house, is very convenient for me this school because my son can walk from school, I cannot pick him up from school because of my job.

I am the mother of 3 children and I have to work full time to support my house. It is easier and safer for my son to walk one block to our house after school or that a trusted neighbor walks to pick him up in case of an emergency.

My youngest son is looking forward to attending Schilling school, the same school his brother attends.

In the case that Schilling school is closed, I would have to take my two sons to another school that is far from home, my son would have to walk a longer distance on the way back to the house. I worry a lot for the safety in the street, the increased homeless in the city. I would probably need to hire a pick-up from school service but this could cost me too much money, money that I need to pay for my expenses and food in these difficult times that we are living with Covid-19.

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Another option would be to ask my employer to let me get out of my job to go pick them up and drop them off which would mean I would miss almost 2 hours of work every day and would be 10 hours of pay per week. I do not think I would be able to manage the expenses with such a big pay cut. Or I would have to work until late to make up the house. This would mean that I will be home later and my son would have to be home alone for a longer period of time or he would have to stay under the supervision of a neighbor that would do me the favor.

From all angles this is very sad and desolate the destine and the changes that as parents we would have to make with the closing of school Schilling. Like me, there are many families that walk to school for lack of an automobile or because the parents have to work and can't pick up the children. The children will be more exposed in the street, staging with friends in the street, can be influenced to get into problems and to not complete their homework.

I appreciate your time and for reading this letter and I would appreciate even more if you please think well, and take into consideration the situation we are facing with covid-19, less jobs, and those that have the jobs can't have the luxury of being late, leave early to take and pick up our children from school, because we need to work to give feed them and give them a roof where to live under. But also we are concerned for their safety, wellbeing, and of course their future.

Again thank you.

dear district here are some reasons why the school should NOT close down, even tho I am in sixth grade I don't want to see the school I went to all my life to close down, I don't want teachers,custodians,lunch ladies I know to get fired,get switched to other schools, its like your being forced to leave your family just like that and kids who made friends will have to be separated, mothers and fathers will have to drive everywhere to drop and and pick up kids.

sincerely, student

thank you for whoever is reading this and actually took some time to read this message that i have. you probably know that i am a schilling student and i'm trying to keep the school open, i am a sixth grader who is about to go to junior high. When I first heard the news that our school might be closed I didn't really care since it was my last year, after i took some time thinking about it, i realized that people are just starting school and are really looking forward to school, but if they were to see that their school has been shut down. theoretically if you were to close the school the district would be lowering down since people see that there schools are closing, they wouldn't want to come here. thank you for reading this. -shilling student

You should not close down SCHILLING it is the BEST school in the world there is no reason for you guys to close it my mom has 4 kids if you guys close that school it is going to be a waste of gas and it is going to be hard for her because she works and she comes back to mine and my family house tired like it is going to be hard for her to be going to one school then to three more schools i am a 6th grader here and when i finish and pass sixth grade i want to come visit my old school and my little sister wants to come here when she enters kindergarten and i do not want to tell her that her up coming school is going to get shut so please PLEASE do not close the BEST school on earth.From a student in SCHILLING.

Hi Newark Unified School District , I am a student at A.L schilling I strongly disagree with you on planning to shut down Schilling. Every school is each their own family if you were to shut down schilling you are basically splitting up a family. What would happen to all the staff? What would happen to all our amazing teachers? If

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you were to fire them how would they earn money? I am upset about all this. I am going to be going to Junior High next year so u might just wonder what do I have to worry about. Well I would be sad what if once and a while I would want to go visit my teacher that always helped me get and to my teacher that why I am going to Junior High if it wasn't for all my teacher that always helped me I wouldn't be going to Junior high. I also wouldn't want to pass by my school and see an empty place where there was once a schilling family.

From,
A student at A. L schilling

To the Newark District,

Hi, I'm a student from Schilling, I heard that two schools are going to be shut down. Well, I don't want my school to be shut down since I have brothers there and I've been in this school since kindergarten. If you shut down our school, then many students will be separated and parents would have a hard time picking up their kids in different schools that is not their home school. Other students in Schilling that were sent to different schools can be bullied. I don't want my school to become a ghost school either, because if I ever come back to this school to visit it would feel like this school is abandoned. In conclusion, please do not shut down our school.

Hello, I am a student from Schilling elementary

i heard that they were closing down 3 schools here.

here's my opinion on schilling being closed down (if it were to close down)

in my opinion a part of me would feel bad but yet again i would probably already be in junior high by next year and i wouldn't be in schilling anymore to conclusion i would still feel pretty bad for the other students here
thank you -student from schilling

Hello there. I'm Student 4 . I'm a sixth grader from Schilling Elementary School. My mom and dad have just had a baby. I really like my school, and would love to have my sibling to go there. But that might not happen.

You can guess why I sent you this email. I want to persuade you to not shut down our school. Our school has been around for such a long time, the teachers and students love it here. We've made so many great memories, and they teach us very useful things. So why shut down our school? We many of the workers here have been working for more then 10 years. We would just hate it if we passed by our school to see that it has nobody in it.

Think about the families, too. Where will they send us to school? Will we have to move? Will our parents have to find new jobs? I know you've probably gotten dozens of emails like this, but please. Think about our school.

hi, I'm a student at schilling. and I heard about the possibility of our school shutting down. I'm a little upset when I heard this, so I'm here to protest. I would not like our school to be shut down, for many reasons too. One reason might be that the first graders just got in this school and are now being put out of it.

Hello Newark unified school district. I am a 6th grader at schilling school and I heard that you might close our school next year. Why should you not? Here's why. Think of all the kids That just got schilling and you're going to close it. Think of all the teachers who put their heart and soul into this school. My mom works at schilling and she is a 3rd grade teacher that has been working at a school for over 20 years. Think how she feels. Think of all the teachers who worked here for over 15 years how they feel. I have been a student at

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schilling for 7 years now and to hear that my only elementary school I have ever been might close. And what about the teachers just getting to move to a different school after all the hard work they put into schilling. This is my last year at school and just because i won't be here anymore doesn't mean it's ok. I spent my whole childhood here and think about kids that also want their whole childhood to be at schilling elementary. Thank you for your time. -schilling student

Even though I'm in 6th grade I might want to go back to my old school and say " I was there since kindergarten and it still looks nice" . I don't want to go back to a haunted place. I don't think anyone does. kids that are coming to kindergarten I want them to have a great time like i did. Once i get older i might even want to work there or maybe even visit my teachers that i had. From a student at schilling elementary school.

Hello, I'm a fellow sixth grader at Musick Elementary school. I hope so much you don't close our school. I have friends who have sisters or brothers who go to our school and I know it would be upsetting to see that our school would be gone and that they would have to go to different schools, seperated. I also have a cousin who goes to our school. He loves going to school, and learning to play with his friends. And I would personally like him to go with my fifth grade and reading teacher Mrs. White. Yes, she would probably tourter him but, I learned alot from Mrs. White and it would be upsetting to see he wouldn't have an opportunity to be in her class or any other class for the rest of the years he has there. So I ask nicely to please take this as a consideration to not shut down Musick Elementary or any school for that matter, because one day if we would want to visit our school again it would be gone forever. Our school is more than just a school, it's a place where we can be happy, learn new things, see our friends, have fun, and grow.
-A fellow student at Musick Elementary.

Email received from KristinRoze Gonzales

Everyone has a place where they love and feels like home, filled with memories. Everyone has a favorite place, right? So I think you shouldn't shut down Schilling Elementary School. Some of my several reasons are that you guys should not close our school because this school is like home to many students. My daughter has been here for 6 years full of memories that made her smile, and my other daughter has been here for 4 years also full of happy memories she will never forget. So please don't shut down Schilling Elementary School forever because it is home to many students and we still care about our school.

Dear Newark Unified School District,

I am a parent of a student in The August Schilling Elementary School. My child only registered The August Schilling Elementary School from the second trimester of last school year. However, he is so eager to go to school. He likes the teacher and his friends so much. His teachers are very friendly and also have experience teaching students even not know English. My child has improved so much and learned many interesting and useful lessons after one year. The Principle and the teacher staff support parents and students a lot and always follow close to us whether in-class learning or distance learning. My child burst into tears when receiving the news Schilling is on the list of potential schools to be closed. It is a strong indication that he will be upset if he has to move to another school. He often says that Schilling is the greatest school. We believe that many other students and parents have the same ideas as us. We hope that Schilling will still open in the coming years. We pray that our voices will be heard.

Sincerely,

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Mrs. Phuong Do

To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING ELEMENTARY! I am a concerned and frustrated parent to two children that attend Schilling. Closing our schools will be detrimental to our community. This school has 70-85% of families who are low income. If this school is closed then that would increase expenses for our families that are already struggling to keep food on the table, gas in our cars by increasing our travel and increasing the time we have to drop our children off at another school and more. This school is in close proximity to where our families live and if this school is closed then there's a risk that many of these families may leave Newark. What other options have you all considered or thought about? Are there any "out of the box" ideas that SOMEONE can try to come up with? Closing schools will increase classroom size and how is that fair to the students who are trying to learn and teachers who are trying to teach? How will that learning be effective? Where will our amazing teachers and staff go? Either way closing schools will lose many of the Newark community. Newark will not be a place where families want to live. Please reconsider and DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING ELEMENTARY!

Thank you,

Michelle Gapuz

My Name is Marion Silva a grandparent of a 5th grade student at Lincoln Elementary. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at Lincoln for the past 9 years. I have helped in Kdg. through 5th grade, the school library, the F.A.M.E. program and organized Read Across America for the past 3 years. At Lincoln they have 3 SDC classes, an ESL Specialist, speech and language teacher, resource program as well as, a strong and caring teaching staff and principal. The volunteer community is strong and supportive of the school.

The school also has a choir and a dramatic arts program which perform twice a year.

I care deeply for this wonderful neighborhood school.

In closing I would like to point out that the has many students who transfer from the other schools.

Finally, Lincoln is not the oldest elementary school in the Newark Unified School District.

Thank you

Email received from Victoria Katy

Original Message

Buenas noches mi nombre es Guadalupe Pacheco mi hija va en cuarto grado en la schilling quisiera pedir de favor que no cerrarán la escuela porque para mí es muy útil yo soy madre soltera mi hija es la que se transporta sola a la escuela le queda cercas a mi me perjudicaría mucho si cerrarán la necesito porque no tendría modo de llevar a mi hija A su educación gracias y me siento muy cómoda y segura con el personal de la escuela gracias

Translation

Good evening, my name is Guadalupe Pacheco and my daughter is in fourth grade in Schilling. Please do not close this school because I am a single mom and my daughter walks by herself to school and it is very close. It will affect me significantly if you close this school. If you close it I will have no way to take her to school. I am very happy with the staff and education at this school. Thank you

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Email received from Alyssa Lopez

Hello,

I'm writing this email in regards to the possible closure of Schilling Elementary. If you were to do this thousand of students and faculty will suffer. You're making the lives of minority, low income, and undocumented families worse by taking this school away from them. If these students have to switch to another schools how are you gonna support these families and students who have to find better means to afford transportation and time to accommodate their move? My question to you is why? Out of all the schools why is schilling the school that has to be cut? This isn't the first time a closure has been upon the Newark community and honestly it will not be the last. Everyone who is anyone knows schilling is a school of minority students. As a previous student of Newark and a sister. The message is clear that this is a lot bigger than a budget cut. This is a issue and push on vulnerable groups. We're in middle of pandemic where everything own Uncertain and to bring this upon the students and community is another setback on their education. I think there should be more support for these schools rather than a closure. There should more action towards helping these low income schools than tryin to save your budget or city. There's obviously money in the budget if you are building a new city hall.

Regards,

Alyssa

Email received from Schilling PASS

Dear SCAC Committee,

You will soon be making a recommendation to send four schools to the board in which two will close. That decision will be based on a scoring matrix. However, can you honestly tell the community that this recommendation took all factors into consideration? You had schools who lacked representation. No one advocated for them and it will be no surprise if the committee recommends that you close Schilling or Graham.

Well even if there wasn't any representation in the committee for these schools, there are plenty of us in the community ready to have our voices heard.

The board recently passed a resolution addressing systemic racism, however don't you think taking away resources from your most under-served and under-represented students is only permitting and promoting this systemic racism? The criteria used in your committee is punishing schools like Schilling for having too many Latinos. Yet have you really taken the time to research why the school has the demographics it has? It's no secret that your affluent and Caucasian parents don't want to send their students to Schilling. If you close Schilling, you will only allow this systemic problem to continue and validate nay-sayers opinions that these schools and their students are not worth it.

It's easy to say, **"well that school is scoring poorly, let's get rid of it!"** But have you considered what you

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will do with the students of school like Schilling? Have you thought about what you will do to make sure all these students who walk to school will get to another campus safely? Have you thought about what you will do to make sure these students get to school dry on rainy days? We are currently dealing with COVID, but now you want to close a school down without taking into consideration that my child will now be exposed to the cold for longer times, because he will have to walk a longer distance to get to another school. We don't have options, to take our children to school. My elementary age child and his friends will have to look out for each other when crossing the major streets. My young child and his friends will now have to worry longer about bullies chasing them home, strange cars following him and his friends, insisting that they get into the car. Have you thought about the dangers you are exposing my child to because we unfortunately don't have a car to drive him to and from school? Which is the same situation for many of his friends and my neighbors. And I'm sure you haven't thought about it. Why would you? Why would you want to put yourself in the shoes of our most needed families? I would not want to do it either. It's not pretty. But it's reality.

We know the district needs to close schools. **But don't close the schools that are NOT represented, it's obvious that schools represented created a criteria that sets up the NON-represented schools in receiving the highest amount of points. It's obvious that more points are allocated for a bigger school, older school, which makes Schilling being eliminated in a very easy way. Why don't you see it in the sense of a Bigger School equates to more space for more students instead. Don't close a school when it received the most points because it was not diverse enough and had too many minority kids. We don't want to see this action as "an EXCLUSION" instead of "an INCLUSION of minority kids."**

Don't close the largest schools, which can house large numbers of students. Especially with current social distancing protocols that will HAVE to be in place once the students return. How can you cram a ton of kids into a smaller school just because the scores are better or the parents have the means to transport their children to school and provide hot meals in the morning, many basic necessities that we do not have? If you're going to close a school do it by keeping in mind the people that will be affected more severely. Think of the students. Think of the walking community. Think of the non-English speaking community who did not have a voice in this process due to a lack of representation by the non-english speaking community. Make a recommendation based on the preface of being someone who represents your constituents and that represents the 55% of the students in your district, along with everyone else.

Board members, please don't be political. Most people already voted - don't do this for the votes! In your hands are the lives of many young people. In your hands are the lives and education of many black and brown students who are hoping you don't let them down. Walk your talk - listen to your resolutions and provide a safe place to learn and show all students that Black Lives do Matter. Prove that economically disadvantaged children matter, prove that latino students' matter, and prove that you will not make a decision because it will make you look good amongst the politically powerful or Newark's loud noise makers.

If my child's life and education matter to you, then don't close a school that will jeopardize his learning and make it more difficult for him and his friends to succeed in a world that is already betting on his failure. Do the right thing! You know better. Don't act on pressure. Be an advisory committee and a real board member and actually represent ALL students in Newark not just those that are more fortunate than others.

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Sincerely,

Submitted by Parents and Schilling Staff on behalf of a consensus of parents that collaborated in the draft of this letter.

Email received from Mansi Agarwal Bandarupalli
Dear Committee,

Please reconsider closing Newark schools. We are first-time parents of a Kindergartener in NUSD at Schilling, and despite the negative looking test scores often causing new families to enroll elsewhere, we are extremely pleased with the level and quality of education at Schilling. The teachers and staff are amazing and supportive, helping navigate this tough COVID/distance learning situation. Our son is thriving at Schilling, and we would hate to see the school close. Class sizes are fantastic and advantageous for our students compared to neighboring districts. Teachers are caring and attentive, and the support programs for those who need them are unbeatable. Ultimately, we believe closing school sites is not the answer for a more successful school district. Please reconsider.

-Kindergarten parents at Schilling

Dear SCAC,

I am a parent of three NUSD students, two who have graduated from Schilling and one that is still there. I am a caucasian parent of three African American young men, and there is no other school that I would choose or have chosen for my boys. Being able to be part of the existing demographic at Schilling has taught my children that ANYONE can succeed, The values and goals implemented by the teachers and administration have told my boys that they matter, that Black Lives Matter.

Given the current systemic racial issues that have been in existence since the beginning of time and more affluent in the past year, my children are faced with the fear that walking down the street may cause them to be stopped by the police, heckled by racist people, or flat out disregarded as young men because of the color of their skin. Schilling has given my brown children a sense of dignity, pride, and a close place to be able to walk to school in the neighborhood that they live in with the students that look and live like them. There is no sense of division because of socio-economic status at Schilling among students or teachers and everyone is treated like they matter.

In closing, I ask that you do what matters, make a recommendation that not only fits into the matrix of the board driven calculation based on superficial items like school size or age of the building, but one that considers the impact that closing Schilling will have on the majority of the students and their families that attend there. Make a recommendation that considers the affluent programs, progress it has made in meeting educational goals, and hard working parents that sometimes are unable to see their children off to school or even be at home with them for dinner because they have to work 2 jobs to survive in this area. Make a recommendation based on the many teachers and staff that have been there for a significant amount of time working hard to help improve the baseline of state driven scores that so many times make parents enroll their children elsewhere because of a number. It's in NO WAY a reflection or compromise of education, but an obvious factor that many Title IV schools have. The fact that the majority of the teachers have dedicated 10+ and some 20+ years in a commitment to staying at Schilling should tell you something about our community

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of students, parents, and administration. . Make a recommendation that matters.

Proud Schilling Parent,
Kathy Robinson

Good evening,

I am emailing to advocate for Graham Elementary School to remain open. My daughters currently attend Graham Elementary School. We moved from San Jose to Newark about 3 years ago and since then my daughters have loved being a part of the Graham School family. They enjoy attending school ever since they transferred from San Jose. Our home address is assigned to attend another Elementary School in this district which currently has a better ranking than Graham Elementary however, My wife and I have continued to keep them at Graham Elementary because the experience has been nothing but wonderful. The help and support that my daughters have received at Graham has been so valuable. Their teachers, classmates and staff have played such a vital part not only for them but for my wife and I as well. My wife and I have also built a wonderful relationship with the parents at Graham Elementary solidifying a strong support group. It would be heart breaking to my daughters and I to see Graham School close therefore I ask and beg to please consider keeping Graham Elementary opened. Our terrific Teachers, Staff, Students and Parents are more than eager to welcome students from other schools to join and be part of the Graham Family.

Thank you

German Contreras

To the Consolidation Committee members and representatives:

Please keep Graham Elementary School open. While this request is self-serving, as my children attend school there and it is closest to my home, I believe that Graham has merits to keep it open.

First, I believe Graham is the most central school in Newark. I believe it makes sense for Graham to stay open given its central location. It lies on Cherry Street, the same road that new housing developments were built near the Silliman Center, and next after Birch Grove in serving the southern area of Newark.

Second, Graham has a larger campus than other schools, and therefore has greater potential in utilization. It can incorporate more students in its campus, with ample space, which is an important consideration given the pandemic and its health requirements. If outdoor classrooms/classes are an option, Graham has a large yard space.

Graham also serves a large number of economically disadvantaged families. It also is home to moderate to severe special day classes. These students and their families have grown to trust and be comfortable with their school campus, classroom, and teachers. They may not adapt so easily to a new school.

Finally, the Graham staff and faculty are a tight-knit group of seasoned employees who are all very loyal to Graham Elementary. I was surprised to find out that several teachers commute to Graham from outside of Newark! This reflects the sense of community that Graham fosters.

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I hope you keep Graham Elementary School open.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cara Kundrat

Email received from Maggie Carcamo

To whom it may concern:

My name is maggie and I have 2 very important people in my life who attend Graham Elementary as a second grader and a kindergartner. This school has done wonders with these kids. I have seen the interest and the love the staff has shown them and I hope that you reconsider closing it down. Instead, I urge you to help the school be even better. The children of this school might be the ones whose family have low income and need extra help. The Graham staff has gone above and beyond to provide that help. Why would the city consider closing such a place where these kids find the help they most desperately need? I urge you to please reconsider and keep Graham elementary as so many kids depend on it. Thank you

- maggie C

To Whom it may Concern:

It is to my understanding that Graham Elementary School is at risk of closing. That would be such a shame for me, my family and neighborhood.

I currently have my daughter enrolled there and hope to have my son there next year for Kindergarten.

I live right across Graham and I love it. The mornings and afternoons traffic has never been an inconvenience for us. I love seeing all the kids going to school every morning happy! So many of us get to walk our kids to school, it is such a convenience. All the staff is really friendly and helpful.

I would hate to see this school go and it's place they will probably build condominium or who knows. I rather see my kids beautiful school.

Sincerely,

Lesley Avila-Vazquez

Email received from Esperanza Rosas

My is Esperanza and I am currently a senior at San Jose State University planning to apply to PhD programs. I am hear to voice my concern about the closure of two schools and to advocate to keep Schilling elementary, my former elementary school, open. Schilling serves a high population of Latinx students and it boggles my mind how in the middle of a pandemic NUSD has decided to close two schools. Schilling has served not only as an educational center for students but the place where students feel and see the love from their teachers and begin to dream about all the possibilities life has to offer. This is the place where I found my love for science with Ms. Tang, my like for reading with Ms. Canario, and the bravery to reclaim my narrative with Mr. Rodriguez. The closure of Schilling means the loss of these interactions between current students and

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teachers. It is the responsibility of NUSD to uphold their promise of "inspire and educate all students to achieve their full potential and be responsible, respectful and productive citizens". NUSD can no longer continue to fail it's students and must keep Schilling and all other schools open.

Email received from Cupertino Rodriguez Angel
Original Message

Hola me preocupa que allá la posibilidad de que cierren la escuela Schilling Elementary me preocupa porque ahí los niños se sienten como en casa a nosotros los padres nos tratan con mucho respeto y amabilidad yo tengo 2 hijas allí mis hijas an ido ahí por muchos años a ellas les preocupa y se sienten tristes po la posibilidad de que cierren su escuela a muchos niños latinos ban a salir afectados por favor tomen en cuenta todo eso.

Translation

Hello, I am worried about the possibility of the closure of Schilling Elementary. I am concerned because in this school children feel like they are in their own home. Parents are treated with much respect and kindness. I have two daughters in this school and they are very concerned and are sad because of the possibility that they close their schools. Many latin children will be affected so please take this into consideration.

To School Cite Council
And NUSD ;

The closure of Graham will be a distraught action to the students. This pandemic closure has graham students in a disarray already. If students have to return to a different school it can lead to anxiety and lack of interest in many children. With the increase in home building and the city's future plan of tearing down the mall to build more housing we are going to be in need of our schools. Also Graham teachers and staff have been more then just a school to my kids , it has been one big family .

The Benavides Family
Manny & Cecilia

Email received from Arin Dofredo

Dear School Board Members

It is with utmost importance that you do not close Shilling Elementary. As a parent to 2 children in Newark, I value the location of the school in close proximity to our home where my children are able to walk to and from school. If we had to move to another school, the location would not be walking distance and there will be multiple large cross streets to walk through which is to the detriment of their safety. This will also be an undue hardship for families that don't have a means for transportation to drop off or pick up their students at school.

I also value small classroom sizes and a smaller community setting. This allows for a more quality education for my children as well as community involvement.

Schilling is also a school where many disadvantaged families go for resources for daily food distribution. This would be an undue hardship for those that rely on this resource to feed and sustain their growing children. Please do NOT close Shilling Elementary as it is an important part of our neighborhood.

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Thank you,
Arin D.

Losing Musick school would be a huge lost. Being a part of Musick school is like being a part of a family. The support you get from teachers, staff, parents & children is amazing. The resources they have help so many children. Also a lot of low income children who don't have transportation attend this school. I can't imagine how far they would need to walk to attend another school. If another school is even available. I personally know parents who have taken their children out of private school to attend Musick. They feel the education & support they received was so much better. Please help save Musick school! So many children depend on this school!!!

Nicole S. Ybera

Hello NUSD,

I would like to emphasize my support for our elementary school Graham. I currently have 2 children attending this school. 1 boy in the 5th grade, and a girl in the 1st grade. Not to mention, also a nephew that is in Kindergarten. Graham has been a second home for our children. The teachers are all outstanding, and all take great pride in what they do. Not everybody can be teachers and educators, but I can assure you, from what us parents have observed with the Graham teachers, they are all very skilled and knowledgeable with what they do.

Having been working from home even before the pandemic, I have observed what these teachers have had to endure during this distant learning school year. Frankly speaking, teaching in front of a computer, is not the easiest of tasks. I salute Mr. King, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Villo, Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Erwin, for the efforts that they have put in to my children during this distant learning phase. I have observed how they have adapted to our current state of well being, and can see their dedication towards their students. If I remember correctly, test scores have gone up from previous years as well.

Graham is our children's 2nd home, their teachers are their role models. Please consider not closing Graham school.

Thank you,

Nathan Jose

Email received from Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Two School Closures: I have been a resident of Newark since 1996. The school district need to be long range thinking about maintaining the current schools since we are adding more homes being built. Quality education in any city is a plus factor.

To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING ELEMENTARY! I am a concerned and frustrated parent to two

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children that attend Schilling. Closing our schools will be detrimental to our community. This school has 70-85% of families who are low income. If this school is closed then that would increase expenses for our families that are already struggling to keep food on the table, gas in our cars by increasing our travel and increasing the time we have to drop our children off at another school and more. This school is in close proximity to where our families live and if this school is closed then there's a risk that many of these families may leave Newark. You all may already have your minds made up and are just going through the "process" but please listen with your hearts. You can still make a decision to keep Schilling open. The principal, teachers and staff are amazing here! This school is truly a hidden gem. We will lose many of the Newark community. Newark will not be a place where families want to live. Please reconsider and DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING ELEMENTARY!

Thank you,

Steve Ha

Email received from Yolanda Guerrero

I am a Schilling parent that is concerned about my daughter's school remaining open, I know Schilling is a great school for our kids and should remain open for various reasons:

It's academy (distance learning) more advanced than Lincoln (I have family members in both schools at the same grade levels of 1st, 4th, and 5th grade) those in Schilling have been learning at a higher level with the teachers and principal being more committed in working with the parents.

The school land is much bigger which provides the necessary land for future growth as schools will immediately grow in student count next year, it is more accessible from main roads which will help with foot traffic and is closer to new home builds.

Schilling has a vast amount of student programs that are not available at all schools, but are so necessary for the academic success of a big sector of our community. The principal along with the teaching staff have been working really hard the last 2-3 years to make Schilling one of the best schools in our district.

This is a very frustrating situation for all Newark residents, but especially for those of us who are in the high list of schools to be shut down.

Respectfully,
Shillings Parent

Hello,

My name is Aryanna, I am a former student of Musick Elementary school. I've recently heard that it could potentially be shut down, I would be so sad to see that happen. Before I had gone to Musick Elementary, I had attended a school in the valley that wasn't a very great environment for me, I was getting in trouble, not doing my school work, being told that I was just a stupid kid by the teachers, which made me act up ect. When I first came to Musick, the teachers were so nice, and showed they cared about me, yet I would still act up and try to be rude I did everything I could to get out of doing work, because I was not used to being cared

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about. Eventually, I realized that they do care, And they were there to guide me and help me get the best education I could. They changed me, and I am so grateful because I know, if they didn't show they cared I'm not to sure where I'd be right now. Not only were the teachers nice and made the students priority, the general staff was as well. I remember the lunch lady, she knew I didn't have money to buy a hot lunch, and she could tell I would be hungry, so she would always save a meal for me and give it to me without any worry of money or anything. Little things like this motivated me to keep going, to want to better myself. In my personal opinion, I believe that it would be a major toll on some students lives if Musick Elementary were to close, because I know that my sister attends, and is so sad to the point of tears calling me on the phone, because she won't see her favorite teachers, her friends, get a chance to go on fun feild trips, make more awesome memories with the students and staff ect. These students need a place like I did, they need an escape where they feel safe, where they feel like is awesome, where they want to be, and want to go. They couldn't have that if it were to shut down, so please consider all these reasons why the school helped me And why it should not be shut down.

Sincerely, Aryanna waterhouse :)

Email received from Christian Carcamo

Hi,
I would like to start off by saying that we in the Hispanic community need the help from our schools for our children. As an example, Graham elementary students depend on the help Spanish speaking students get during school as well as after school programs at Graham. Please do not close this school. The majority of the students that go to this school come from low income families. These kids walk to school. Some even depend on the lunch for a good meal for the day. Why would we tear down a school that is helping these kids? This makes no sense. The school in low income communities should be the last schools to tear down. They need the help the most. Please save Graham elementary as it's vital for a lot of our families.

Thank you for your time in reading this

- Christian

Hi,
I am a student at Schilling school. I don't want my school to close. I can walk and ride my bike there. If you close the school then my parents have to drive me and that costs extra gas and extra time that might cause them to be late for work. The teachers, staff and principal are the best here!!! Please do not close Schilling, I love this school!

Thank you,
Quinn Ha

Hi,
I am a student at Schilling. I can ride my bike here and walk there. If you close Schilling then my parents will have to drive me which will cost extra gas which will mean less food on the table and time causing them to be late to work. The teachers, staff and principal are awesome. They care about us and they always push us to do well. I DO NOT WANT SCHILLING TO

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[illegible]

Thank you,

Email from Emmanuel Carapia

Please don't close Graham school. I have three kids in this school and they love it. The think together program is a lot of help for so many working families that are barely making ends meet.

Email received from Marlen Carrere

Original Message

Hola soy Marlen Carrere madre de una alumna de la escuela Graham y no estoy de acuerdo en que la escuela cierre ya que es una escuela muy buena a nivel educacional. Que podemos hacer? Para que no cierre ?

Translation

Hello, I am Marlen Carrere, mother of a Graham student. I am not in agreement that you close this school because it is a good school at educational level. What can we do so we don't close it?

I'm writing as a Newark resident, PTA board member and parent to 2 Schilling elementary school kids. We are truly hoping you will reconsider closing down Schilling elementary school. Many of the families at this school are underprivileged and need the resources the Schilling community provides (ie free afterschool program). Many are without cars and walk their kids to school. Some kids are forced to walk to school by themselves because their parents leave for work early. These past few years, I've seen the absenteeism/tardiness rate decrease significantly at Schilling. Families have worked hard to prioritize their child's education despite economic challenges. Closing Schilling will negatively impact our underserved families.

Hayley Chan-Culpepper

I'm writing as a Newark resident, PTA board member and parent to 2 Schilling elementary school kids. We are truly hoping you will reconsider closing down Schilling elementary school. Many of the families at this school are underprivileged and need the resources the Schilling community provides (ie free afterschool program). Many are without cars and walk their kids to school. Some kids are forced to walk to school by themselves because their parents leave for work early. These past few years, I've seen the absenteeism/tardiness rate decrease significantly at Schilling. Families have worked hard to prioritize their child's education despite economic challenges. Closing Schilling will negatively impact our underserved families.

Hayley Chan Culpepper

I'm writing as a Newark resident, PTA board member and parent to 2 Schilling elementary school kids. We are hoping you will reconsider closing down Schilling elementary school. Many of the families at this school are underprivileged and need the resources the Schilling community provides. Many are without cars and walk their kids to school. Some kids are forced to walk to school by themselves because their parents leave

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for work early. These past few years, I've seen the absenteeism/tardiness rate decrease significantly at Schilling. Families have worked hard to prioritize their child's education despite economic challenges. Closing Schilling will negatively impact our underserved families. In addition we need to look at the future. With the addition of hundreds of new homes in the Schilling school zone. This will be bringing in more taxes and additional families who will be sending kids to Schilling. I urge you to look at the potential growth of the school and the progress made at this school.

Lake Culpepper

I have just found out that Graham is in jeopardy of being closed. We don't want this to happen because Graham has wonderful teachers that have taught my children so much. Without this great school and great teachers my kids would not be the excellent students and people that they are today. Please consider sparing Graham from being closed. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Ken Feliciano, Father of 3.

Email received from Maria Martinez

Original Message

Buenas tardes por este medio Quiero decirles que por favor no cierren la escuela Graham que nosotros la necesitamos muchos y hay muchos niños alrededor que necesitan esa escuela les pedimos su comprensión y que por favor escuche nuestras voces nosotros necesitamos una escuela cerca de nosotros Les pedimos de favor que no cierren la escuela gracias

Alice

Translation

Good afternoon.

I would like to ask that you do not close Graham school please. We need this school and there are many children around this school that need this school and we ask that you understand and that you hear our voice as we need a school close to us. Please do not close this school.

Dear: School Consolidation Advisory Committee

My name is Dianna Farias and I have been a member of the Newark community for over 25 years, and am currently a Parent Partner for NUSD. I was heartbroken to hear of the possible closure of Schilling Elementary as I have been working on site there for about three years. During my service at the Schilling Parent Partner Resource Center, I have become part of a community that works to serve and help one another. To many families, Schilling has become a safe haven that accepts everyone with open arms, with an open door policy where they are able to come in for services, to borrow a listening ear, or even just a shoulder to cry on. Under Dr. Wendy's leadership, Schilling has undergone a huge transformation and has grown to become an important center for community building in Newark. It would deeply saddened many of us to see Schilling close, as I speak on behalf of my families to please consider keeping Schilling Elementary.

Sincerely,

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Dianna Farias

Email received from Alexy Rubio

I have to students at James Graham school, teachers, staff and the whole Graham community make this school feel like home. I have two kids attending to Graham 5th and 2nd grade. I have two toddlers and I can't wait for them to be on in an environment as great as Graham elementary school every time I go to open school or the events they have it's just like at home it's a big family they treat you with respect everyone's knows each other the parents. My 11 year old son can wait to returns to Graham he misses the school and everyone at school. After he's in fifth grade teacher told him that Graham school may shutdown he got very sad he wanted to cry because he said that Graham was a very beautiful school everyone it's like a family and to hear that from my son broke my heart he thought of his teachers And his brother who is in second grade now he said that why is he going to go now where's he going to go what is going to happen to his school his teachers his friends And to hear that from my son Broke my heart please DON'T DO THIS TO OUR KIDS .Think they are just kids it's just like taking them away from their families.

Email received from Teresa Palos

Original Message

Cómo madre de familia me preocupa el cierre de estas escuelas ya que nuestros hijos serían los más afectados emocionalmente el señor Contreras es un buen candidato para que nos represente en la escuela

Translation

As a mother I am worried about the closure of these schools because our children will be most affected emotionally. Mr. Contreras is a good candidate to represent in the school.

Email received from Crystal Izzy

Good morning,

It is really sad news during this pandemic time that school is closing down. Kids are already affect by pandemic, having hard time to cop with school work through distance learning, on top of that school is closing. It is really sad to know that school district is not thinking about kids during this hard time.

Changing school can bring a lot of problem for kids, mentally and socially.

Why the school is closing, what is the reason.

I am really against this discussion.

Kids should be our first priority.

I strongly don't support this discussion.

Thank You

To the SCAC Committee,

I am writing to ask you not to close HA Snow school this is my son's school and I also attended this school as well ,so yes it has a special place in my heart. This school has been in our community for decades and is great value to our community. The staff alone has years of experience and dedication to our kids. They make this school a learning growing loving home for our kids. They are dedicated to teaching our children and it shows my son is autistic and since he has been in Snow school he has thrived to the point that he no longer

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needs speech class. These teachers earned the right to be in the Seal program and that speaks volumes. Maybe you should look at other ways to fix our budget problem like cutting salaries but not the teachers. Its just a shame that our kids are going through all this with the pandemic and now might not have their school to look forward to.

Sincerely
Vikki Zamora

Email received from Irene Garcia

My son, nieces and nephews all went there. Now my grandson is there as well. He has been going there since kindergarten. He is now in the 5th grade. He enjoys the teachers and students. Graham is like a 2nd home to him. He has learned so much, and he likes helping others. The teachers are very kind, listen to him. There very helpful and dedicated teachers. Closing Graham would be a huge mistake. How are you going to bus kids to the other schools? There's a lot of families that don't have access to transportation, me included. PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE DOWN GRAHAM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a mother of 2 children who attend a fantastic school called Snow elementary. I am hoping and praying this school remains open because of its great qualities and location. The staff here is a great unit together, before and after care facilities are supportive as they all are, the field is used for sports by teams, the special needs staff are always informative, and it would be a shame to close Snow. This unit works great together as a whole and to close this school (or any at this time, before home building is complete) would put the district at risk. Some things to note from: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/consequences>

1. Challenges creating, maintaining, and improving distance learning.
2. Gaps in childcare.
 - If school programs are not available or limited. (Also affects economy and healthcare workers)
3. Increased pressure on schools and school systems that remain open.
4. Rise in dropout rates.
5. Challenges measuring and validating learning (in these times this is already an issue.)

Another major concern are all children's mental well-being as these times are already difficult enough. To come back to something totally different is not emotionally healthy. As working in the healthcare field, I urge you to keep Snow elementary open. Thank you.

Jenine C.

Dear School Closure Committee:

I strongly urge you to only concentrate on one task at hand, determining which school sites to close. There is not enough research, numbers, or information brought forth to determine what cost savings measures there would be to move the 6th graders to the junior high. It has NOTHING to do with "being stuck in the 1960s" as Ms. Bloom so untactfully insulted all fifth-grade families last week.

For starters, there would need to be new staff hired at the junior high level to accommodate these students.

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Currently, the student-to-teacher ratio in PE alone is 1 instructor to 50 students; and if more staff isn't hired then I am assuming that ratio would jump significantly. Adding counselors, office staff, school monitors, and teachers would add up quickly as well. Also, additional classrooms would be needed to house these students and it's been said before the solution would be to stuff them into portables, which again have a price tag. It took Fremont four years to plan and implement two of their five junior highs to change to middle schools. I know we only have one junior high but I would imagine it would take closer to 2 years to implement in our district, not 9 months. Expediting any process comes with hefty price tags not cost savings.

We have had a lot of families moving out of our neighborhood and many moving in. I am constantly advocating for Snow School and all of the schools in 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 fifth 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 fifth graders won't be getting that this year. 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

Email received from Joyce Jiawan

Based on the failure of the previous merger of Bunker and Milani and unanswered questions around the sale of Russian more assessment is still needed before any decision is made.

What is now known as Birch Grove Intermediate should be at the top of the list for closure. From the lack of strong administration to safety issues Birch Grove Intermediate is NOT able to handle an influx of students.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Email received from Liz Leyva

Original Message

Me comunico con ustedes para abogar al "NO AL CIERRE DE LA ESCUELA SCHILLING" no sería justo para todos los estudiantes que asisten a esta escuela ni para el personal en general así que les pedimos que NO AL CIERRE DE LA ESCUELA SCHILLING.

Translation

I am writing to you to advocate to "NO TO THE SCHILLING SCHOOL CLOSURE" It would not be fair for all the students attending this school nor for the staff in general so we ask that you DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING SCHOOL.

Email sent to jcroce@newarkunified.org

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Email received from Naty Rodriquez

Dear committee my name is Natividad Rodriguez and I have learned that the district is planning to close schools in Newark. I'm one of the moms at Snow Elementary School. I have four children in grades first, fourth, and ninth. As my children have learned that two schools can be closed, it has caused them a sadness because they do not want their school Snow to be closed. And only thinking that they would go to another school with new teachers and new friends would be frustrating for them. Since they love their school, and their beautiful garden. We have very good teachers who work very hard to support our children. We have a beautiful staff working to care for our children and an excellent principle Mrs. Tommasini who is always ready to help us in what we need. For this and many more reasons, I think Snow should remain open. Maybe you don't see the great qualities Snow has, but for our children your school is proud. We hope that you will take into account our comments and that you will have the opportunity to get to know Snow School a little more. Thank you

Hello,

I attended Graham Elementary where I benefited from programs such as GATE, and had some tremendous teachers. As the local elementary in that part of Newark, closing the school would be a huge blow to local families. I know times are tough but I hope you'll consider keeping it around.

Best Regards,
Marianne Bland

Dear School Consolidation Advisory Committee,

After watching a few of these meetings it has become clear to me that there are still a lot of questions not only from the public but the committee members themselves. One of the most important details that i-s still unclear is the exact amount of money that will be saved from closing each school. It seems that the method to determine this amount does not take into account all the variables at play. For example, staff at closed schools may have higher seniority then others and therefore they would be moved to a new school which now bumps a lower wage staff member out. This will happen across the board for reassigned (non-teacher) staff, therefore reducing the amount saved by those staff being let go. In addition, if a closed school is left in place there will still need to be grounds keeping on that site so as not to cause an eyesore for the community. This also minimizes the true savings calculated for site upkeep. Lastly, we will likely lose some parents over these closures and each lost child is a -\$10,000. If we lose 10 kids that would equal a total loss of \$100,000, which further negates the overall savings amount calculated for the closure.

I would like to see the committee recommend only one school for closure next year instead of two. Once that school has been closed for two years they can reassess. This would allow the district to obtain a true and accurate amount of savings for that closure and understand how the community deals with the closure. Rushing to close 2 schools based an estimate of what we SHOULD save versus what we know for certain we will save is not fair to parents, teachers, and especially the students.

Magdalena Rodriguez (Parent)

Email received from Victoria Katy

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Original Message

Buenas tardes soy una madre soltera tengo una niña que va en 4 grado para mi es muy importante y basica la escuela schilling mis motivos son que en el trabajo en que me encuentro en este momento entro a las 5 de la mañana y mi hija de tan solo 9 años se dirige sola a la escuela y no tengo suficiente dinero para pagarle a una persona que me lleve a mi niña a la escuela y a demás los maestros cuentan con toda mi confianza. Es por esa razón que les pedimos que sigan permitiendo el uso de la escuela y que no caigamos en el racismo ni la discriminación

Translation

Good afternoon I am a single mother and I have a girl that attends 4th grade for me it is very important and basic schilling school and my reasons are that in my current job I start work at 5am and my daughter of only 9 years of age goes by herself to school and I do not have enough money to pay for someone to take my daughter to school and moreover I trust the teachers very much. It is for this reason that we ask that you continue the use of this school and do not fall in racism and discrimination.

Dear committee, during the last meeting, a member asked if the district had explored other ways in which budgets could be pared down. The current financial crisis has been long in coming. The pandemic and declining enrollment are only two challenges facing the board. They inherited years of misspending which include lavish conferences, new administrators hired at higher salaries than their predecessors and being given "new" titles and misappropriations of funds from those general to the specifics of a bond. Upon bringing these to light, community members have been brushed off and ignored. As you carefully consider which sites to close, I implore you all to continue being involved and to hold this new generation of board members accountable to OUR CHILDREN for the choices to come. Noel Doot

To whom it may concern,

Our family has lived in Newark for 36 years, during which time the children of each generation has attended Graham elementary. Having grown up in the classrooms and hallways of Graham it holds a dear place in my heart and memories. Now that I'm a mother of school age children I have been privileged to bring my kids to the same campus for them to start their educational journey. Graham is special to us and lots of other Newark families. Please allow us to continue making memories at this school. Our family will be devastated to see this institution close. Please save graham for our children.

Sincerely, Ashley Feliciano

To whom this may concern,

Hello my name is Gloria. I have lived in Newark,ca my whole life. I attended Graham Elementary along with my 5 sibilings. Now I am a mother of 3, 2 of which are as well attending Graham. They love their school very much and can not wait to return. They feel safe and cared for because that is what Graham is a family that cares for all students. I know that you must make a decision to close schools but please don't close Graham. That is our second home and with everything going on with this pandemic the last thing we need is for something else to be taken away from these kids. Please reconsider i do not believe now is the time to think about closing schools.

-Gloria Gomez

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Email received from Alma Orozco

Original Message

Porfavor no cierren nuestra escuela!! Es una muy bonita comunidad la que hay en nuestra escuela, nuestros hijos adoran estar ahi y a nosotros cómo padres nos gusta el bienestar de ellos. Por favor no nos dejen sin esta maravillosa escuela

Translation

Please do not close our school!! This school has a beautiful community and our children love being there and we parents are happy with the children's wellbeing. Please do not leave us without this wonderful school

Email sent to jcroce@newarkunified.org

Hello my name is Student 5 . I am a student at Snow school and I am in fourth grade. I know that they are planning on closing 2 schools so I wanted to ask the committee to please consider keeping Snow as an open school. Snow is a very successful school. We have the best teachers, one of my favorite teachers being Mrs. Noland. We have an amazing staff that takes care of us and supports us. We also have an excellent principal Mrs. Tomassini. Please give us the opportunity to keep growing in Snow.

Thank you.

Email sent to jcroce@newarkunified.org

Dear Committee,

I have been informed that the NUSD is on the lookout for closing 2 schools. As an ex-Snow School student, and a current 9th grader the thought of knowing that my elementary school could potentially close would not only cause me a terrible feeling but would also impact my life strongly.

I was, and will always, a part of this loving and admirable community for as long as I can. As the oldest of 3, I always talk about the school with a proud and honorable voice to my brothers. It would be a privilege if all 3 of them had the opportunity to graduate from Snow.

Many memories were made while attending this school, one being our beautiful garden that I helped put together. I still remember the beautiful colorful flowers that I helped plant along with my classmates and science teacher. Every year on back to school night, the science teacher always gives me a tour of how our flowers are doing. Each and every year they are looking taller and prettier than the last. It brings me much joy knowing that other people can enjoy the beautiful garden as much as I do. If our school closed it would leave an awful feeling in my heart.

I owe a lot of my achievements to the staff members at Snow, especially my teachers. The Snow staff is the best. They are always very attentive and motivate their students to do better and give it their all. This is one of the reasons why I am a successful student I am today. Their dedication, patience, and hard work make it easier for students to give their best effort in everything. They always find a way to provide the students with the support they need. Without our staff our school wouldn't be where it is.

Our school may be a small one but I can assure it is the best one there is. We are full of love, support and positivity. We always get through things together as the great community that we are. For this, our school doesn't deserve to be shut down. If it does, many opportunities would be lost as well as hope. I ask in all respect that Snow School should remain a part of this amazing community.

Thank You!

Deysi Montiel Rodriguez

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the same home and school zone since I was an infant. I grew up at graham elementary

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and have had the pleasure of taking my children to the same campus and classrooms where I built my love of learning. Graham holds a special place in our hearts and our family. Please don't close the school and break apart the tradition for Newark families. My kids love their educators and supporting staff. Give them a chance to continue learning in these halls filled with decades of history. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ashley Feliciano

To whom it may concern,

Our family has lived in Newark for 36 years, during which time the children of each generation has attended Graham elementary. Having grown up in the classrooms and hallways of Graham it holds a dear place in my heart and memories. Now that I'm a mother of school age children I have been privileged to bring my kids to the same campus for them to start their educational journey. Graham is special to us and lots of other Newark families. Please allow us to continue making memories at this school. Our family will be devastated to see this institution close. Please save graham for our children.

Sincerely, Ashley Feliciano

Email received from Ana Herrera

Hello,

Graham is the school for my son Ricardo Espinoza if the school closes it will be hard for my son. The teachers know him very well and is used to them. My son receives resources at Graham. Meeting new teachers for my son will probably not do well for him. Please don't close Graham Elementary School.

Email received from Bayron Mora Rubio

Original Message

Necesitamos la escuela schilling en mi opinión cumple con las necesidades de mis estudiantes.

Translation

We need schilling school in my opinion meets the needs of my students.

Email received from Marta Franco

Original Message

Yo Marta Franco , y mis vecinos no estamos de acuerdo con el cierre de escuelas , pues sería muy difícil para las maestras tener más estudiantes en clase

Translation

I, Marta Franco, and my neighbors do not agree with the closure of schools, because it would be very difficult for the teachers to have more students in class

Hello committee members,

I would like the members to recommend closing Birch Grove Intermediate. BGI is not conducive to growth. If more students are added they will likely lose the music, indoor P. E. and Maker Space rooms. Also the traffic at BGI is horrific, safety is not enforced , and childcare kids are packed like sardines. Please talk with the principal, police officers, crossing guard, and parents regarding the safety issues facing this campus. Also, a

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few cons I've experienced from the Bunker/Milano merger were the grade levels are too large to accommodate field trips and transportation, reading buddy program was dissolved, siblings are separated, and parents need to go to two campuses.
Thank you for your time.

Suzie McCarty

Please do not close Graham Elementary School. Graham Elementary has improved a lot over the years and it continues to do so. Both my children and my brother's children attend Graham and the amount of effort that teachers put into their education is beyond explanation.

Thanks,
Ahmad Wasim

NUSD must develop a plan so our kids can go to school in person. On-line learning was just a temporary fix. Even if in person learning is just a few days per week, we need in person teaching.

Linda LaVigne

To whom it may concern,

Please do not close BGP. This is the only reason we are staying in the area bec of their good rate plus the closest to our community with new houses being built near Ohlone college so the potential of getting more enrollment is big.

Thank you.

Jane Hilario

Email received from Quirino Rodriguez

Hello everyone,

I'm one of the proud parents of the kids that attends August Schilling Elementary School. I wish this school to remain because of it's very good standard in teaching and very helpful teachers and staff. Over the years , they have been excellent in their work and mold the children to being better in their class. I hope Schilling will be chosen to stay to continue the service that they are giving to the students and families. Thank you !

To whom it may concern,

My message maybe late but I still want to voice out my concern regarding the possibility of closing Schilling Elementary School. My two kids attended Schilling from kinder to 6th grade and graduated there and I have another one graduating 6th grade next year and she's worried that she might not be able to attend next school year and see her classmates, friends and teachers. My kids love this school so much and the teachers and the office staffs and they were so sad upon hearing this news. Please let it stay open! Please save Schilling Elementary School!

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Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Rodriguez

Hello,

It is sad that any school in Newark needs to close. With Newark building so many houses I don't see the need to close any schools. Just the houses alone off willow are going to house so many children. And I see new builds off Newark blvd and Mathews coming up! Please save our schools. Please save our teachers jobs! My child currently goes to Graham and we LOVE our school!!!! As a past private school teacher of 10 years, turned stay at home mom, I was weary to send my child to Graham due to the scores. My neighbors said the same. But we are on year two at Graham and couldn't be happier. The teachers and staff are amazing! I love that we can walk to school. The park next to the school is beautiful. The school is small & not crowded!!! My child's friends all live near by. Please please don't close Graham! Or any school in Newark! Small is good. & with the housing market going up, couldn't the money home owners pay in taxes help the schools? I hope we can save the schools. Prevent overcrowding and keep Newark's small town feel. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Michelle Machado

To the SCAC and the Board of Education,

My name is Cheryl Goguen and I am a parent in the district with two children attending Musick Elementary (one who is in the preschool).

The meeting on Aug 29th of the School Consolidation Advisory Committee has a big flaw. The voting process was not conducted fairly and this may lead to a recommendation that does not accurately reflect the opinion of the community. Initially, a vote was taken asking the committee to choose four schools to recommend. Later, this vote was done again asking for only two schools. Neither of these votes were ranked. Here is what I mean by this: the vote asking for 2 schools showed Graham and Musick recommended for closure, but some members voted for Snow, Kennedy, Lincoln and Schilling. Had you done separate votes for every choice, the results may have been different. A vote should have been taken for one school and when that school was decided, another vote should have been taken for the next school to recommend (and so forth until four schools were selected). Further, if you compare both sets of results, it is very apparent that most people agree on the closure of Graham, but the placement of Musick Elementary is vastly different in both. I do not think the recommendation is fair in this regard.

Another thing I would like to point out that needs to receive a great deal of consideration, is the cost for moving the preschool at Musick Elementary. It is not as simple as moving general education classrooms. A lot of money has been invested to give the preschool a playground with accessible equipment, bathrooms with small toilets in the classrooms and changing areas for children who are in diapers. These are investments that are necessary and will have to be undertaken again at another school should you close Musick Elementary. These retrofits are not optional – a special needs preschool legally requires accessibility features and this money has already been invested twice – once at the old preschool campus and again at Musick. It is simply nonsensical to continue to move the preschool around making modifications at every new location.

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The special needs preschool team at Musick are fantastic at what they do. My daughter, who is in her second year at the preschool, has gone from barely speaking to talking all day long and is now very social. She has gone from diapers to fully independent toileting and she is already reading small words. I attribute her success to the special education teachers, paraprofessionals and various therapists that she has worked with over this time. For many of the children who attend this preschool, change and transitions do not come easily for them. By uprooting the preschool (again!), the staff and children will need time to adjust to the new environment and the quality of education will suffer during this transition. Please, consider striking Musick Elementary off your list of potential schools for closure and if it absolutely must close, please make sure a new preschool is well equipped and ready for when the time comes.

Thank you for your time,

Cheryl & Joel Goguen
In support of Musick Elementary remaining OPEN!

Hello,

I'm saddened that any school in Newark needs to close. With the children and staffs safety in mind & believe schools that are nestled within the community and not near busy roads, need to be saved. Graham, Snow and Lincoln being at the top of the list for the safest locations. However, I hope that there is some way to save all the schools in Newark from closing! Please save our schools!

Thank you,
Michelle Machado
Newark resident