



Kodiak Island Borough School District

*Engaged in Learning.
Prepared for life.*

January 17, 2025

Dear Kodiak Island Borough School District Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As we continue working through the difficult decisions surrounding school consolidation, I want to provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding the school closure process. Our goal remains to be as transparent as possible while ensuring that the Board of Education has the necessary data to make an informed decision that best serves our students and community.

Board Decision Timeline Update

At last night's Board of Education meeting, I presented updated school closure data, including information on the potential closure of East Elementary at the request of the Board earlier in the day. This was in addition to previously reviewed scenarios involving Main Elementary, North Star Elementary, and Peterson Elementary.

While my role as Superintendent is to provide recommendations and data, it is important to clarify that the Board of Education is the sole decision-maker in determining which school will close. The original anticipated decision date was January 20, 2025, during the Regular Board Meeting. However, due to the late request for additional analysis on East Elementary, the Board has decided to **delay the school closure decision to a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Board Room at Central Office.**

A Challenging but Necessary Decision

We recognize that school closure is one of the most difficult decisions a district can make. It affects students, families, staff, and the broader Kodiak community. However, as we face an \$8 million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2026, the Board must make strategic decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability of our district while maintaining quality education for all students.

As part of this process, the Board is considering multiple factors, including:

- **Financial Impact:** Ensuring that any decision results in significant and sustainable cost savings.
- **Student Enrollment and Demographics:** Examining current and projected enrollment to maximize efficiency.
- **Building Utilization and Condition:** Assessing the costs of maintaining and operating each facility.
- **Transportation and Logistics:** Evaluating how school consolidation would affect bus routes, school start/end times, and accessibility for families.

- **Equity and Educational Opportunities:** Ensuring that students continue to receive high-quality instruction, with a focus on equity in class sizes, access to diverse learning models, and social-emotional support in age-appropriate environments.

Commitment to Transparency and Community Engagement

We understand that uncertainty surrounding this decision is difficult. We are committed to keeping you informed and engaged throughout this process. Families, staff, and community members are encouraged to:

- **Complete the School Consolidation Survey:** The Board is reading all survey responses daily. If you have not yet completed the survey, we strongly encourage you to do so to ensure your voice is heard. <https://forms.office.com/r/mE6gES35jY>
- **Attend the Regular Board Meeting on January 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Central Office:** The Board will continue its discussion on school closure at this meeting.
- **Attend the Special Board Meeting on January 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Central Office:** This is when the Board is expected to make its final decision regarding school closure.
- **Provide Input via Email:** The Board is also reviewing emails daily. You can share your thoughts and concerns by emailing the Board of Education at board@kibsd.org.
- **Stay Informed:** Updates will continue to be shared through the district website and official communications. <https://www.kibsd.org/budget-information/>

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued engagement as we work through this challenging process. The Kodiak Island Borough School District remains committed to our mission—to engage and empower all students for growth and success.

Sincerely,



Cyndy A. Mika
Superintendent

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