

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
ALUM ROCK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 26-24/25
RE: SCHOOL CLOSURES AND CONSOLIDATION**

WHEREAS, the District is a true mosaic of individuals, families, interests, talents and cultures that embody the history, traditions, strengths, and resilience of the Alum Rock community;

WHEREAS, all students and families deserve safe schools equipped with talented staff and the resources to provide excellent instruction and strong social-emotional supports—all things which require adequate resources, staffing, and properly managed and maintained school sites;

WHEREAS, the District has experienced a significant and steady decline in enrollment over the past ten years, from an enrollment of 10,915 students during the 2015/16 school year to the current enrollment of approximately 7,270 students;

WHEREAS, based on the most recent demographic and enrollment projections presented to the Board and the public at the September 12, 2024, regular Board meeting, the District is projected to decline in enrollment by 3.44% (or 250 students) for the 2025/26 school year and is projected to have a declining enrollment over the next six years, with a projected 5,520 students in the 2030/31 school year - a projected total decline of 1,797 students (decline of 24.72%) over the next 6 years;

WHEREAS, based on current District loading standards and classroom space, the District has a net classroom capacity of 16,774 students, and a current enrollment of approximately 7,270 students, which means that the District's current facility utilization factor is only 43.3%, i.e., that only 43.3% of the District's total classroom capacity is being used;

WHEREAS, assuming the District's loading standards remain constant and no additional facilities are built or removed, and based upon projected declining enrollment, the District's projected utilization factor in six years will be even lower at 32.6%;

WHEREAS, the District's under-enrolled schools and declining enrollment exert current and long-term fiscal pressures on the District and impact the District's ability to adopt an annual balanced budget;

WHEREAS, the extraordinary one-time funding from the state and federal governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer available to address the District's long-term financial challenges;

WHEREAS, without making such ongoing revenue available, the District cannot stay solvent, operate such a disproportionately high number of schools, and avoid making programmatic reductions that fundamentally undermine the ability of the District to operate and provide a basic level of instruction to all of its students, particularly those students with the highest needs;

WHEREAS, the District is faced with an approximate \$20,000,000 projected budget shortfall for the 2024-2025 fiscal year;

WHEREAS, in April 2024 the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) notified the District that in order for her (the County Superintendent) to approve the District's then-forthcoming 2024-2025 adopted budget, the District would be required to provide her with a detailed Fiscal Stabilization Plan that would identify schools to be closed, detailed timelines for each closure, and the projected expenditure reductions associated with each school;

WHEREAS, at the Regular meeting held on May 9, 2024, the Board heard and considered a Comprehensive Budget Solution Plan prepared and presented by the District Administration which included a review of the estimated savings from the closure/consolidation of elementary, TK-8 and middle schools;

WHEREAS, at the special Board meeting held on May 21, 2024, the Board voted to approve a long-term budget solution that would include the closure and/or consolidation of up to nine (9) District schools and which would require the implementation of budget reductions of approximately \$10,000,000 for each of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years;

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2024, and pursuant to her oversight authority, the County Superintendent notified the District that, as a condition of her approval of the District's 2024-2025 adopted Budget, the District should submit a detailed Fiscal Stabilization Plan which would identify schools to be closed and/or consolidated, detailed timelines for closures and specific details for the projected expenditure reductions associated with each school;

WHEREAS, also on August 6, 2024, the County Superintendent assigned a Fiscal Expert to work with the District to develop and monitor the progress of the District's Fiscal Stabilization

Plan, and the District continues to work with the assigned Fiscal Expert on the Stabilization Plan and take steps toward lasting fiscal solvency;

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the District Superintendent established the School Consolidation Advisory Committee (SCAC) whose membership included one parent representative from each school, district administrators, labor bargaining unit representatives, District staff, and community members totaling 34 individuals - one of whom was found ineligible to continue;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent charged the SCAC with identifying up to nine schools for closure beginning in the 2025-2026 school year;

WHEREAS, the SCAC met on September 18, 24, and 25, and October 2, 8, 9, 16, and 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, at its meetings, the SCAC received, reviewed, considered, and discussed District demographic data, enrollment projections, facilities information, budget issues, enrollment projections, human resources, district programs and facilities, business services, and educational services, and the SCAC developed criteria for recommending to the Superintendent which schools should be considered for closure;

WHEREAS, all meetings of the SCAC were noticed and agendized;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent held several in-person town hall meetings at individual school sites to discuss the closures and consolidations, including at Hubbard Media Arts Academy (September 5), Linda Vista (September 11), Cassell (September 12), San Antonio, and LUCHA (Nov. 4, 2024), Aptitud (Nov. 6, 2024), Lyndale Elementary (Nov. 7, 2024), Painter Elementary (Nov. 12, 2024), Cureton Elementary (November 12), Joseph George Middle School (Nov. 13, 2024), Cassell Elementary (Nov. 15, 2024), Adelante II (Nov. 18, 2024), Meyer Elementary (Nov. 18, 2024), Renaissance at Fischer (Nov. 19, 2024), and Renaissance at Mathson (Nov. 20, 2024);

WHEREAS, the Superintendent also held multiple districtwide virtual Town Hall Meetings on October 17, October 29, and November 7th, separately holding multiple site-level presentations to discuss and receive input regarding the closure/consolidation process;

WHEREAS, the SCAC developed a comprehensive set of criteria to evaluate schools for potential closure or consolidation, including:

- (1) Low enrollment: Maintaining smaller sites presents challenges in staffing, resource allocation, and cost-effectiveness. Elementary schools with fewer than 300 students and middle schools with fewer than 400 students were considered under-enrolled, making them candidates for review.
- (2) Proximity to Charter Schools: This criterion supports the district's goal of sustaining local enrollment and providing families with a strong public school choice.
- (3) Operational Capacity: Schools not fully utilizing their available space create inefficiencies in resource use and staffing and were considered for consolidation. By consolidating these schools with those operating closer to full capacity, the district can improve operational efficiency and direct resources more effectively to meet the needs of the student population.
- (4) Building Maintenance and Renovation Costs. Schools with high maintenance and renovation costs were evaluated as candidates for closure, as the cost of upgrading and maintaining older facilities can be prohibitive within the district's financial constraints. This criterion allows the district to focus its investments on facilities with lower upkeep demands, enhancing sustainability and cost efficiency.
- (5) Special Programs. Schools with specialized programs, such as Dual Language Immersion (DLI) and Special Education, were evaluated based on the ability to relocate these services without disrupting students or forfeiting grant funding. Programs that could be moved with minimal impact were considered for relocation to consolidated sites, while those tied to specific funding sources or county requirements were preserved to maintain service continuity and funding stability.
- (6) Parent Transportation: The feasibility of parent transportation was a critical consideration, ensuring that any consolidation would not impose an undue burden on families. The committee evaluated whether families could reasonably transport their children to new school sites if consolidation affected their current schools. This consideration aims to maintain equitable access to education across the district.
- (7) Equity in Access to Quality Education. To ensure that all students, regardless of socioeconomic background or geographic location, have access to quality educational facilities and resources. Schools serving high-need populations were carefully evaluated to ensure that any consolidation would not disproportionately impact vulnerable or underserved communities. The district prioritized minimizing disruptions to schools that serve students who rely on additional support programs, transportation services, or other resources.

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2024, the SCAC agreed to recommend 7 school closures to the Superintendent, and although the committee was unable to reach full agreement on the

remaining schools for their full recommendation to the Superintendent they identified 13 schools they were considering for the Superintendent’s consideration;

WHEREAS, after consideration of the SCAC report the Superintendent made his recommendation for the closure of seven schools that were recommended by the SCAC, the consolidation of two schools, and the redesign of one District school;

WHEREAS, at the November 14, 2024, Regular meeting the Board held a public hearing to take public comment and input on the Superintendent’s recommendation;

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2024, the Board held a special meeting to take additional public comment and to discuss and consider the Superintendent’s closure and consolidation recommendation;

WHEREAS, after consideration of public comment and Board discussion, the Superintendent revised his recommendation to include the following schools for closure, consolidation, or redesign effective the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

1. Sylvia Cassell Elementary School - Closure
2. Donald Meyer Elementary School - Closure
3. Horace Cureton Elementary School - Closure
4. A.J. Dorsa Elementary School - Closure
5. Renaissance Academy at Fischer (RAF) – school closure and consolidation with Renaissance Academy at Mathson
6. Joseph George Middle School – Closure
7. Aptitud Academy – Redesign
8. Hubbard Media Arts Academy – Redesign
9. Learning in an Urban Community with High Achievement (L.U.C.H.A.) – Consolidation
10. Ben Painter Elementary School – Consolidation
11. Cesar Chavez Early Learning Center – Redesign, and
12. Adelante Dual Language Academy (“Adelante I”) and Adelante II Academy to be consolidated as one school effective July 1, 2026, and re-located at the former RAF Fischer site.

WHEREAS, the closure and consolidation of schools as outlined above, and the modification of school attendance boundaries to realign with the above closures and consolidations will not result in an increase in original student capacity at any of the “receiving/welcoming” schools by more than 25% or ten classrooms, and the utilization of such

“receiving/welcoming” school sites will be less than 100% of original student capacity even after closures and consolidations;

WHEREAS, the closure and consolidation of schools and attendant adjustment of attendance boundaries (the "Project") is a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000, et seq., ("CEQA")) and its implementing regulations (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.; "CEQA Guidelines"), except that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.18 and CEQA Guideline 15314 related to minor additions to existing schools; and

WHEREAS, the Project will not result in any physical additions to facilities (i.e., no construction of new additional classrooms); and

WHEREAS, the Project is subject to categorical exemptions under Public Resources Code section 21080.18 and CEQA Guideline 15314; and

WHEREAS, the Project does not involve any of the following and so is eligible for an exemption as described above under State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2:

a) The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, which over time are significant;

b) An activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;

c) A project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway;

d) A hazardous waste site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and

e) A project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines also exempt from further CEQA review those activities that are covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment; Where it can be seen with certainty that

there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA (the "Common Sense Exemption"); and

WHEREAS, upon a determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA, the District is entitled to file a Notice of Exemption with the Santa Clara County Clerk pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15062.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED, AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALUM ROCK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The foregoing recitals are adopted as true and correct.
2. The Board hereby approves the closure of the following schools as detailed below and as follows at the end of the 2024-2025 school year:
 - (1) Sylvia Cassell Elementary School (CDS: 43693696046312), 1300 Tallahassee Dr.
San Jose, CA 95122-3939
Welcoming receptor school: Cassell students will thereafter be in attendance area of Aptitud Academy, 2475 Van Winkle Ln, San José, CA
 - (2) Donald Meyer Elementary School (CDS: 43693696046155), 1824 Daytona Dr.
San Jose, CA 95122-1719
Welcoming receptor school: Meyer students will thereafter be in attendance area of Hubbard Media Arts Academy, 1680 Foley Ave, San José, CA
 - (3) Horace Cureton Elementary School (CDS: 43693696046189), 3720 East Hills Dr.
San Jose, CA 95127-2418
Welcoming receptor school: Cureton students will thereafter be in attendance area of Lyndale Elementary School, 13901 Nordyke Drive, San José, CA
 - (4) A.J. Dorsa Elementary School (CDS: 43693696046114), 1290 Bal Harbor Dr.
San Jose, CA 95122-1902
Welcoming receptor school: Dorsa students will thereafter be in attendance area of Hubbard Media Arts Academy, 1680 Foley Ave, San José, CA
 - (5) Renaissance Academy at Fischer (RAF) (CDS: 43693696046148), 1720 Hopkins Dr.
San Jose, CA 95122-1632

Welcoming receptor school: RAF students will thereafter be in attendance area of Renaissance Academy at Mathson, 2050 Kammerer Avenue, San José, CA

- (6) Joseph George Middle School (CDS: 43693696068910), 277 Mahoney Dr.

San Jose, CA 95127-3547

Welcoming receptor schools: Joseph George students will thereafter be in Sheppard Middle School (480 Rough and Ready Road, San José, CA) or Ocala STEAM Academy (2800 Ocala Avenue, San José, CA) attendance area

3. The Superintendent is hereby directed and authorized to notify the California Department of Education and all other responsible authorities of the closure of the above schools effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
4. The Board hereby approves the consolidation of the following schools as detailed below and as follows at the end of the 2024-2025 school year:
 - (1) Renaissance Academy at Fischer to be consolidated into Renaissance Academy at Mathson, 2050 Kammerer Avenue, San José CA. Renaissance Academy at Mathson will be the new home school (attendance area) for non-terminal RAF students (i.e., students in grades 6th through 8th) effective 2025-2026 school year.
 - (2) L.U.C.H.A. to be consolidated into and merged with San Antonio Elementary School, 1721 E. San Antonio Street, San José, CA. Students enrolled in the L.U.C.H.A. program will attend class at the San Antonio Elementary School site effective 2025-2026 school year.
 - (3) Painter Elementary School to be consolidated into and merged with Sheppard Middle School, 480 Rough and Ready Road, San José, CA. Students enrolled in Painter Elementary in the 2025-2026 school year will attend class at the Sheppard Middle School site.
5. The Board hereby approves the full and complete merger and consolidation of Adelante II Academy (CDS: 43693690135749), 1970 Cinderella Ln., San Jose, CA 95116-3503, into Adelante Dual Language Academy, 2999 Ridgemont Avenue, San José, CA at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - a. The merged and consolidated Adelante Dual Language Academy shall be relocated to the former RAF site at 1720 Hopkins Drive, San José, CA, effective as of July 1, 2026;
 - b. Adelante II Academy shall be **closed** as of June 30, 2026;
 - c. The Superintendent is hereby directed and authorized to notify the California Department of Education and all other responsible authorities of the closure of Adelante II Academy effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

6. In order to implement the action of the Board by this Resolution, the hereby approves the reconfiguration of the District schools' attendance boundaries consistent with the above closures and consolidations authorized herein the Superintendent is hereby directed and authorized to notify the California Department of Education and all other responsible authorities and agencies of the District's schools' reconfigured attendance areas.
7. The Superintendent is directed to notify forthwith all students, families, and guardians in the schools to be closed and consolidated of this action by the Board and to inform all such persons of the closure and consolidation of the schools as directed herein, and to notify all affected students, families and guardians that they have the option to transfer to any other school in the district of their choice, subject to school capacity, in accordance with Board Policy 5116.1, and to provide each such student, family and guardian with a copy of Board Policy 5116.1.
8. The Board hereby empowers the Superintendent to take all necessary action to effectuate the school closures, consolidations, and relocations authorized in this Resolution.
9. The closures, consolidations, redesigns, and attendance boundary reconfigurations authorized herein are hereby found to be exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.18, and State CEQA Guidelines sections 15314 and 15300.2, as set forth above, and are hereby approved.
10. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to file a Notice of CEQA Exemption for this Project with the Santa Clara County Clerk in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and the findings set forth in this Resolution.
11. The Superintendent and/or his designee are authorized and directed to take such further actions as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on December 2nd, 2024, by the Board of Trustees of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I, Minh Pham, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is duly introduced, passed, and adopted at the time and place and by the vote as noted above.

Minh Pham, Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District