

From: Kerry Hill

Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 8:23 AM

To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>; parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>; board@bsd405.org

Subject: Opportunity: Newly Empty Elementary Buildings

Dear Bellevue City Council, Parks Board, and School Board –

I am writing to you today in regards to the Bellevue School District's plan to consolidate three elementary schools due to decreasing enrollment. My concern is about what will be done with the newly empty buildings. My concern is that if the District leases these buildings to private or charter schools, there will be newly opened classroom space that will potentially entice additional families to move away from the district, creating a snowball effect of disenrollment from BSD.

I would much prefer that the buildings that taxpayers funded with their levy dollars be leased to the Bellevue Parks Department for opportunities to enrich the lives of the entire Bellevue community. A prior Elementary school could host recreational basketball in the gym, the library could be turned into meeting space, classrooms could be used as art studios, or combined to become dance or exercise studios. There is history of this happening in our area – I am thinking about the successful long term lease of the Old Redmond Schoolhouse from LWSD to the City of Redmond.

The creation of something new for the benefit of all residents may take some of the sting out of the consolidation of the elementary schools.

If you would like to discuss further, you may reply to this email or call my cell

Thank you for your consideration,

Kerry Hill