

Austin Neighborhoods Council

*Established 1973 • Strength Through Unity
Post Office Box 176 • Austin, Texas 78767*

To: Superintendent Forgione & AISD Board of Trustees

January 26, 2006

RE: Becker Elementary School

On January 25, 2006, the Austin Neighborhoods Council passed the following resolution in opposition to proposed changes at Becker Elementary School:

WHEREAS, Austin Independent School District Superintendent Forgione has proposed closing Becker Elementary and repurposing the facility as a pre-kindergarten center; and

WHEREAS, Becker Elementary has served as an important source of community pride to the Bouldin Creek neighborhood for more than 70 years; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood schools and smaller classes demonstrably improve students' educational performance and their opportunities for educational success; and

WHEREAS, the closing of Becker Elementary would require future and current students, 89 percent of whom come from economically disadvantaged families and a high percentage of whom enter school with a limited proficiency in English, to attend schools outside of their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of Bouldin Creek children to schools outside of their neighborhood as well as the transportation of non-neighborhood children to a pre-kindergarten center will increase traffic and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, closing a neighborhood school runs counter to City of Austin planning and development objectives of encouraging vibrant and non-auto-dependent neighborhoods in the urban core;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Austin Neighborhoods Council: the Austin Neighborhoods Council, a coalition of more than 50 neighborhood associations representing diverse geographical areas throughout the City of Austin, urges Superintendent Forgione and the AISD Board of Trustees to retain Becker Elementary School in its current configuration as an elementary school.

Thank you for your consideration,
Laura Morrison
President, Austin Neighborhoods Council