

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 24-17**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM THE KPBSD SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE TO
PRIORITIZE AND ENSURE QUALITY, EQUITABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION
FOR SMALL SCHOOLS AND FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PLANNING
SUPPORT FOR THOSE SMALL SCHOOLS WHO ARE ALSO LOCATED OFF THE MAIN
ROAD SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, As one of the many small schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) and the only school located in the remote community of Seldovia, Alaska, Susan B. English School is a community hub that provides essential education and services for the area; and

WHEREAS, KPBSD Board of Education established a small schools committee in the spring of 2023; citing that “Due to the nature of small schools with unique locations and challenges, there is a particular importance to propose innovative solutions to support students in their education”; and

WHEREAS, the small schools committee reviews and makes recommendations to the board regarding measures that can benefit small schools and suggest ways to acknowledge the strengths and overcome unique challenges, as well as improve collaboration between the district and communities to share ideas to better support students.

Such recommendations would be made to ensure that small schools are:

- staffed adequately,
- offered additional support for staff, through collaboration with specialists and/or other KPBSD staff,
- provided reliable and varied distance education opportunities for students,
- supported in addressing the unique social needs of rural students,
- increasing place-based educational opportunities and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Susan B. English School has had an unprecedented year with staff turnover and student retention that may have long-lasting detrimental impacts on the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, due to Seldovia’s unique location and small size, innovative solutions are a necessity to prevent this scenario from continuing and repeating; and

WHEREAS, through discussion on the Parent Advisory Site Based Committee (PAC) level, community level, and City Council level the following community needs have been identified to ensure high quality, sustainable, and equitable education for the future of Susan B. English School and its students:

- Evaluation and implementation of a small schools funding formula appropriate for educating in a remote location,
- Further evaluation and consideration of adequate staffing levels for multi-grade k-12 classrooms, along with the process for onboarding staff prior to the start of the school year, including education generalists, aides, and special need aides,
- Consideration for incentives to recruit and retain quality educators in remote communities, such as, housing options, wages, and student loan support incentive programs,
- Consideration of education and funding support options that encourage local recruitment of certified and classified professionals, including education funding support, mentoring programs, and student teaching,

- Long-term transitional planning during staffing turnover, such as mentor and transitional staff crossover, early onboarding, and support for establishing school goals, plans, and expectations and their carryover through partnership with the PAC and community,
- Increased resources and support for multigrade classroom; mentor availability, more hands-on classroom management and system support, earlier and more regular in-person check-ins from the district office,
- More community involvement in the hiring process; reimplement inviting a member of the community or PAC to the hiring committee for certified professionals,
- Continue to explore and implement supplemental education opportunities that allow children the opportunity to work with subject experts and explore place-based education opportunities,
- Continued support and advocacy for full funding for education through the Kenai Peninsula Borough and State of Alaska, including an increase to the Base Student Allocation,
- Continued and increased collaboration with the community to establish and maintain education goals and support; and

WHEREAS, Susan B. English School is a cornerstone in our community, the success of the education of our children is critical to the success of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Seldovia City Council would like to thank the Small Schools Committee for their hard work and commitment to evaluate, recommend, and support these unique and essential community foundations through continued collaboration and innovative solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Seldovia City Council recognizes the importance of Susan B. English School and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and desires to collaborate and continue to lend support for the betterment of the community as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City of Seldovia, Alaska requests support from the KPBSD Small Schools Committee, KPBSD Board of Education, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to prioritize and ensure quality, equitable, and sustainable education for small schools and for further consideration and planning support for those small schools who are also located off the main road system.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 13 day of November, 2023.

ATTEST:



 Liz Diament, City Clerk

APPROVED:



 Jeremiah Campbell, Mayor

