From "jennifer mabry <Jennifermabry@outlook.com>" <Jennifermabry@outlook.com>
Subject **{BVS Board} Keep Historic Whittier School Open**
To "bvs.board@bvsd.org" <bvs.board@bvsd.org>
Date May 5, 2026 2:55:10 PM MDT

Dear Superintendent Anderson and Members of the BVSD Board of Education:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the potential closure of Whittier Elementary School, in central Boulder. I learned, through Historic Boulder, of the immense history this school holds in our community, and Colorado. As a proud graduate of Boulder Valley School District (Paddock, Southern Hills, and Fairview) and current Boulder resident I believe closing this building would be a shortsighted solution to enrollment challenges and undermines the resilient schools vision the district claims to uphold.

Whittier Elementary is more than just a facility; it is a community anchor that connects our past, present, and future history. I urge you to consider the following points:

- **Historical and Cultural Continuity:** Whittier Elementary has served as a cornerstone of this neighborhood for decades. It is a repository of local history where generations of families have built their foundations. Removing this institution erases a vital piece of our community's identity.
- **The Anchor Effect:** Schools are the heartbeat of residential stability. When a neighborhood school closes, the surrounding community often sees a decline in engagement and property value, making it even harder to attract the very families the district needs to reverse enrollment trends.
- **Equity and Accessibility:** Small, neighborhood-based schools provide a level of individualized support and safety that cannot be replicated in larger, consolidated "hubs." For many students, especially those with specialized needs, the disruption of moving to a new environment can have long-lasting academic and emotional consequences.
- **Sustainable Alternatives:** Before moving toward the least acceptable outcome of closure, I ask the Board to further explore flexible uses for the building. Expanding focus programs or utilizing the Community Schools model—where the building serves as a multi-use neighborhood hub—could generate revenue and maintain the building's role in our lives without displacing our students.

We understand the financial pressures of declining enrollment, but we believe the value of Whittier Elementary cannot be measured solely on a spreadsheet. We ask that you prioritize community cohesion and long-term stability over immediate consolidation.

Please preserve Whittier Elementary and work with the community to find a creative, sustainable path forward that honors our history and protects our children's future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer E. Mabry, Ph.D.

Boulder native, resident and graduate of the BVSD school system