From "Rob Price <rob.price@bvsd.org>" <rob.price@bvsd.org>
Subject **{BVS Board} Re: Fireside Elementary's future**
To Antonio Gonzalez <argonzalez415@gmail.com>
Cc "bvs.board@bvsd.org" <bvs.board@bvsd.org>
Date April 27, 2026 12:34:00 PM MDT

Hi Antonio,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. I appreciate your passion and support for Fireside Elementary.

The challenge the district is working through is broader than any one school. We have 3,600 fewer students than we did eight years ago and are projected to have 1,700 fewer students over the next five years, while our overall portfolio of schools has remained largely unchanged.

As the district considers how to respond to declining enrollment, the focus is on the long-term alignment between enrollment, the number of schools we operate, and the learning experience we provide for students. As you know, families across the district care deeply about their schools, and each school community is valued for its own unique strengths.

Sincerely,

Rob

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On Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 3:37 PM Antonio Gonzalez <argonzalez415@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Mr. Price,
> cc: bvs.board@bvsd.org
>
> As you consider proposals to close or significantly change schools due to declining enrollment, I am writing as a concerned parent and engaged community member to respectfully urge the Boulder Valley School District to preserve Fireside Elementary as a kindergarten to fifth grade school.
>
> Boulder Valley School District has long distinguished itself as a district committed to providing the highest quality education and serving as a destination for families seeking exceptional schools. Any decision regarding school closures or consolidation should be guided first and foremost by that mission: ensuring students receive the best possible education within available resources. By that measure, Fireside Elementary stands out as an asset that should be protected and leveraged—not diminished.
>
> **Proven Standard of Excellence**
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> Fireside Elementary is not simply a neighborhood school—it is one of the highest-performing schools in the district and beyond, with a track record of strong academic outcomes and meaningful recognition for its achievements. As you know, Fireside most recently received the Colorado Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award in 2025 for demonstrating exceptional student growth. Schools like Fireside Elementary elevate the reputation of the entire district and are precisely the type of institution that attract families like mine to BVSD. Closing or significantly altering a high-performing, award-recognized school risks undermining the District's broader goal of maintaining and strengthening its standing as a leader in public education, and I fear it would also force parents in an affluent area like Fireside to explore private school options if the school were to only offer certain elementary school grades or close – which would only decrease enrollment in BVSD more.
>
> **Unique and Nurturing Culture**
>
> Equally important is the culture that defines Fireside Elementary. It is widely known among families as an exceptionally warm, inclusive, and nurturing environment. That culture is not incidental—it is foundational to student success. Students who feel safe, supported, and known by their teachers are better positioned to engage, learn, and thrive. This kind of environment cannot be easily replicated or transferred; it is built over time through relationships, leadership, and a shared commitment among staff and families. Disrupting that culture would come at a real cost to students, most of whom walk to and from school and engage closely with their neighbors, as opposed to further-flung schools where commuting by car is more common.
>
> **Walkable Neighborhood School**
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> Fireside Elementary also serves as a cornerstone of its community. Many families are able to walk to school, creating daily opportunities for connection—between students, parents, and neighbors. These small, consistent interactions foster a sense of belonging and strengthen relationships that carry into the classroom. The walkable nature of the school reinforces the very culture that makes it successful and contributes to a cohesive, engaged community that supports student learning in meaningful ways. As a parent of two young children who are now walking to school themselves or with friends, the location of the school is the primary reason we opt for Fireside as opposed to other schools, including private options.
>
> **Strategic, Central Location**
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> From a practical standpoint, Fireside Elementary is also uniquely well-positioned to serve the District's broader needs. Its central location in the Louisville and Superior region makes it an ideal school to absorb students from other schools facing closure due to declining enrollment.
>
> Rather than closing or altering a high-performing school, the District could more effectively utilize Fireside Elementary as a hub—maximizing existing infrastructure while preserving quality and continuity for students.
>
> **Aligning Decisions with BVSD's Core Mission**

At a time when enrollment challenges require difficult decisions, it is critical that the District prioritize what matters most: delivering an excellent education and maintaining BVSD as a place where families actively choose to live and enroll their children. Preserving high-performing schools like Fireside Elementary is essential to that goal. These schools are not just part of the system—they are a key driver of its success and reputation.

For these reasons, **I respectfully ask that Fireside Elementary is preserved as a kindergarten to fifth grade school as the Board explores solutions that protect both educational quality and community stability.**

Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued commitment to the students and families of Fireside Elementary and the broader Boulder Valley School District.

Sincerely,

Antonio Gonzalez