CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Matt Mahan
Mayor

March 20, 2026

Nancy Albarrán
Superintendent
San José Unified School District
855 Lenzen Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126

Dear Superintendent Albarrán,

I'm writing regarding San José Unified School District's (SJUSD) ongoing *Schools of Tomorrow* process and the difficult conversations underway about potential school closures and consolidations.

First, I want to acknowledge the challenge the district is facing. SJUSD has lost roughly 6,000 students over the past several years — nearly 20% of total enrollment. That shift raises real questions about how to deploy staff, programs, and facilities in a way that ensures every student has access to strong academic opportunities.

At the same time, many families have reached out to my office expressing deep concern and confusion about your current closure and consolidation process. One point that continues to come up is that the district has indicated there is no immediate fiscal crisis requiring school closures. Instead, the rationale appears to center on the long-term goal of concentrating students in schools large enough to support the full range of academic programs and supportive services. That goal is understandable.

Every student should have access to counselors, arts and music programs, and the support that helps children succeed. But when a school is high-performing and well-attended, it becomes difficult for families to understand why their community should lose a school to advance a long-term resource allocation strategy.

Strong school communities do not happen overnight. They are built over many years through the commitment of teachers, principals, parents, and students working together. Once that culture exists — the trust, the relationships, the shared expectations for excellence — it is one of the most valuable assets for a school district. I would urge careful consideration of a simple principle: schools that are thriving and serving a strong enrollment base should be preserved whenever possible.

I also want to underscore the district's own policies recognizing the critical role of parents in shaping school communities. The Board's policies affirm that parents have the right to participate in decisions related to their children's education and the broader school program, and that meaningful communication and engagement with families are essential to effective decision-making. Decisions of this magnitude must fully reflect those principles.

For that reason, I encourage the district to engage even more deeply with families across San José as these options are considered. Transparency, clear communication about the data and tradeoffs, and meaningful opportunities for parents to weigh in will be essential to maintaining trust through this process.

San José's public schools are one of our community's most important institutions. Decisions that reshape them will affect families and neighborhoods for decades. It is essential that we get this right.

I recognize these are complex decisions, and I appreciate the thoughtful work the Board, staff, and advisory committees have undertaken. My goal is not to prescribe a specific outcome, but to ensure that families feel heard, that the process remains transparent, and that the final decisions reflect both fiscal responsibility and the value of strong neighborhood schools.

I will continue to follow this process closely and remain available to support constructive engagement between families and the district.

Sincerely,

Matt Mahan
Mayor, City of San Jose