

RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - 13

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE
OF NEIGHBORHOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

WHEREAS, neighborhood elementary schools (a) are widely recognized as being the most effective way to educate primary school students, (b) are vigorously supported by their students, parents, alumni, and staff, (c) are the social glue that binds their neighborhoods together in a community, and (d) are integral to the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan of 2006; and

WHEREAS, there are concerns (a) that Lowell Elementary School will not be reopened for the 2009-2010 school year, and (b) that Lowell, Larrabee, and Columbia Elementary Schools will be permanently closed in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2008-09 on April 14, 2008 establishing a policy directive of the City to continue developing and implementing long-term plans to pursue infill and growth strategies in order to meet City growth projections; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2008-09 provides for five planning steps, all acting concurrently, that direct future Bellingham growth away from the outskirts of town towards existing neighborhoods and redeveloped urban villages, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this policy directive to pursue growth within our city limits and not on the fringe, the City Council sees the importance of maintaining the existing infrastructure of neighborhood schools.

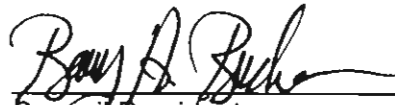
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BELLINGHAM:**

That the City Council hereby,

1. Recognizes the immense value of neighborhood schools to our community,
2. Encourages the Bellingham School Board to reopen Lowell for the 2009-2010 school year; and
3. Encourages the Bellingham School Board to keep Lowell, Larrabee, Columbia Elementary and other neighborhood schools open in the future.
4. Renews our willingness to collaborate with the Bellingham School Board on strategic planning efforts important to both the City and School District as it pertains to the City's infill policy directive; and

5. Encourages the Bellingham School Board to consider the intent and spirit of the five infill and growth strategies contained in City Council Resolution 2008-09 and their relationship to neighborhood schools when deliberating long-term planning goals and short-term budget decisions.

PASSED by the Council this 4th day of May, 2009.

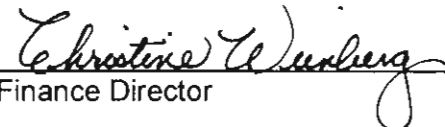


Council President

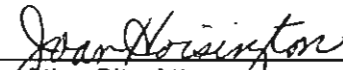
APPROVED by me this 11th day of May, 2009.



Mayor

ATTEST: 
for Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney