



News Release

For Immediate Release: October 18, 2006
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Superintendent Announces Final Recommendation on School Consolidation and Closure Phase II

Superintendent Raj Manhas announced his final recommendation on school consolidation and closure – phase II on October 18. His announcement begins a final period of review and community input prior to the School Board vote on November 1.

The Superintendent understands how difficult school consolidation and closures can be. However, he is committed to accomplishing the task in order to improve academic achievement and school quality in the district.

“The School Board, Senior Leadership, Administration, Staff and the community are working on creating a stronger, better Seattle Public Schools,” said Superintendent Manhas. “Seattle Public Schools cannot improve without strategic reinvestment.”

The recommendation is summarized below and the Superintendent’s written report, which includes a discussion of considerations and rationale, is available at www.seattleschools.org. The Superintendent’s final recommendation for school closure and consolidation phase II, organized by region, are as follows:

North Area

Goal: Close one building

Pinehurst Building (AS #1)	Close building	Co-locate educational program with Summit K-12
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West Seattle Area

Goal: Close one building and new location for Pathfinder program

Genesee Hill (Pathfinder)	Close building	Genesee Hill building will close and that the Cooper and Pathfinder communities will work together to create an expanded alternative, K-8 school that will continue to serve West Seattle. In order to assist with this transition, the Superintendent has recommended a co-principalship for the 2007-08 school year.
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Final Recommendation

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Roxhill Elementary was removed from the list of school closures as part of the Superintendent's final recommendation.

“My staff and I agree that Roxhill Elementary is raising academic achievement for a diverse student population,” said Superintendent Manhas. “While academic outcomes need to continue to improve, the school has the right elements for student success. Because one of the criteria is to minimize disruption and we can not relocate the school population as a whole, I am withdrawing my recommendation to close Roxhill.”

Superintendent Manhas adjusted his preliminary recommendation based on the school's leadership and cohesive staff; the substantial parent, community and business partnerships and support; and families currently served by Roxhill access the school by walking or Metro transportation. These transportation opportunities would not be easily accessible for Roxhill families being reassigned to Arbor Heights or Gatewood elementaries.

Individuals are encouraged to voice their opinions about the recommendation. A public hearing is scheduled for October 24 at 6 pm at the John Stanford Center (2445 Third Ave. S.). Individuals may also email comments to feedback@seattleschools.org.

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