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Dear Ordway Families,

As many of you are becoming aware of the BISD Budget Challenge, we as the PTO would like to support the Ordway Community.

Please join us in the Ordway Library on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

The district has released 3 scenarios of school consolidation/closure. They will affect Ordway in the following ways. The communication with more information can be found online [HERE](#).

- Scenario A - Ordway, including El Velero, will move to the Sakai School. The school will become Sakai Elementary with Grades K-5 [We incorrectly listed this as K-6 in the previous version of this email. We appologize for any confusion.]
- Scenario B - (a) Ordway grades K-3 will be split and moved to Blakely and ħalilic elementary schools; (b) Ordway grade 4 will move to Sakai; (c) El Velero will be housed along with Odyssey (K-8) and Mosaic in either the Commodore or Ordway building.
- Scenario C - No change to Ordway students

We have created a survey asking you to let us know your opinions and preferences. The survey also allows you to share your questions/comments and alternative scenarios you may have in mind. Please fill out the

survey as soon as possible. Your response will remain anonymous, and we will share the results with the School Board Members. We understand that not everyone can attend meetings. This survey is a way to get your voice heard by the School Board.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

The BISD Budget Challenge, and their proposed scenarios, will affect every student on this island. We encourage you to delve into the videos and details outlined in the scenarios, presented by the district, and ask yourselves if this is the best we can do for our kids. There are still many unanswered questions which are very concerning. To date, we do not have a full picture of what each of these scenarios actually look like - from a budget, staffing, and logistics standpoint.

One of the scenarios suggests an impact on families who rely on alternative methods on getting to and from school, i.e. biking, walking, and carpooling. More kids may have to be bussed, for up to an hour, to get to their new school locations. What happens if they miss that bus?

Scenarios B and C would keep/put kids into buildings that are past their useful life. As presented by Dane Fenwick, Director of Facilities, at the 11/27/23 School Board Study Session,

"The Ordway and Commodore school buildings lack the necessary structural components to comply with modern code in terms of seismic tolerance due to their age and date of construction. Building finishes are worn and the floorpans of each building do not support 21st century learning environments."

(reference slide 21, linked [HERE](#))

The health and safety of all our children must be our number one priority.

Ordway also embraces being partnered with the community - the Bainbridge Public Library and the Helpline House are just two examples. What happens to the Parade of Condiments, which benefits our kids and so many families on this island? Introducing our kids to the diversity within our community is impactful! This potential loss will be felt.

These incomplete scenarios will be presented by Peter Bang-Knudsen, the Superintendent, to the School Board on December 14th. At that time, the Board will decide whether or not to move forward. These incomplete scenarios lack actual numbers from a budget perspective, including HOW each scenario will affect every school in the district.

It is extremely important that parents/guardians get involved in this discussion. Without our voices and perspectives, this decision will be made without a clear view of the lasting impact on our school and island community. Advocating for our kids will support them now and in their future.

We, the PTO, would like to open up the discussion to you, the Ordway parents/guardians. We need to hear your voices and come together in support of our kids. We will discuss the scenarios the District has presented to the Board, and we will listen to you.

Please join us in the Ordway Library on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Contact the PTO Co-Presidents ([email here](#)) or Sarah Dunstan ([email here](#)) for a Zoom link.

We have listed resources, below, where you can view videos, slides, and other information from the meetings that have been held recently. We encourage you to look through them.

We are thankful to be part of this community with you and to provide a supportive space to come together

and share our voices. We appreciate your time, your voice, and you.

Sydney & Jennifer
PTO Co-Presidents
ordway.president@bainbridgeptos.org

"Reach for your own words. Tell the world who you are and how you will make it better."

- Peter Hamilton Reynolds, *The Word Collector*

Resources:

- [HERE](#) is a list of meetings on the budget discussions for ways to listen / get involved
- The Ordway PTO Budget Resources website, linked [HERE](#), has additional information and resources
- The District-wide communications are posted online, [HERE](#)
- School Board Study Session on 11/27/23:
Superintendent Peter Bang-Knudsen presented the scenarios to the School Board, which includes the questions & comments from the board. Video recording and the Presentation Slides are available to the public.
 - Video linked: [HERE](#)
 - Slides linked: [HERE](#)



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