

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE
EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE BY THE
MORIARTY-EDGEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board (MESD) of Education voted on December 17, 2013 to close the Edgewood Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the decision to close the Edgewood Elementary School was based on a budget shortfall for the 2014-2015 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education has failed to provide to the public and surrounding entities meaningful information or an adequate opportunity to comment prior to voting on such a crucial matter affecting the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, sufficient facts regarding this budget shortfall should have been available to the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education to allow it to consider this matter with sufficient time to provide to the public and surrounding entities meaningful information or an opportunity to comment prior to voting; and

WHEREAS, The Moriarty-Edgewood School District (MESD) has failed to include all stakeholders, including parents, other Edgewood citizens and members of Edgewood's governing body as members of any committees considering all options regarding the budget shortfall and solutions other than the closing of any school in the MESD. Some shortcomings, involving solutions and recommendations, are thought to be violations of MESD's policies and or/rules, and may be violations of Federal Title 1 requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education, including its superintendent, has failed to communicate honestly and openly with the public and surrounding entities, including previously representing that the Edgewood Elementary School was not being considered for closure; and

WHEREAS, Edgewood Elementary has consistently performed higher than other MESD elementary schools and presently ranks highly among all elementary schools within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education have not taken into consideration or made efforts to determine the extent of the impact that the closure of the Edgewood Elementary School will have on the community, and municipality; and

WHEREAS, closure of the Edgewood Elementary School will result in diminished support of future initiatives of the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education based on a lack of confidence; and

WHEREAS, closure of the Edgewood Elementary School will impact future mill-levy efforts by the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education as the residents of the Town of Edgewood will have less investment in the district; and

WHEREAS, closure of the Edgewood Elementary School is likely to result in a split district and/or creation of a charter school as the community will have to seek alternative methods to address the educational deficiency created by the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education's decision; and

WHEREAS, further proceedings by the Moriarty-Edgewood School District Board of Education are necessary to address these matters, provide the community with ample opportunity to comment on this crucial matter of concern, and consider alternatives to closure of the Edgewood Elementary School which better serve the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE Town of Edgewood Council hereby calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to not approve the closure of Edgewood Elementary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Town of Edgewood Council, in order to address the concerns set forth herein and the concerns of the community for a more representative governance of our schools and to provide a positive educational environment for our children based directly in our community, we hereby call upon the People of Town of Edgewood to form an exploratory group to consider the IMMEDIATE FORMATION of an independent school district for the Edgewood community.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED THIS 18th day of JANUARY, 2014.



Brad E. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST:



Estefanie B. Muller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer