

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN OF EDGEWOOD TO LEASE, PURCHASE, OR ACCEPT DONATION OF THE OLD EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH COMPLEX FROM THE MORIARTY EDGEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR EDUCATIONAL, CIVIC, AND COMMUNITY PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Town of Edgewood's Citizen taxpayers, parents, and community organizations have clearly expressed their desire and need to *continue utilizing* the South Complex of the old Edgewood Elementary School (EES) *instead of* demolishing the building; and

WHEREAS, the Moriarty Edgewood School District (MESD) closed Edgewood Elementary School and in return, the Superintendent promised at community meetings during the decision that the buildings would not be shut down but rather, Re-Purposed for the Town; and

WHEREAS, MESD does not meet the NMSA 1978 Section 22-24-4 statutory requirements for building demolition funding from Public Schools Facilities Authority (PSFA), has been denied the funding once, and does not have authorized bond funds for demolition; and

WHEREAS, there are no firm and funded plans, or even publicly noticed discussions, about building a new EES; and

WHEREAS, MESD owns the 40 acres of land and buildings on this section in the Heart of Edgewood and could build a new EES on 20 acres of available land without disturbing the North or South complexes on the EES campus; and the NM State Land Office and Town's current Stakeholder-created EDGEWOOD COMMONS MASTER PLAN and COMPREHENSIVE PLAN have designated an additional 70 acres for a High School which could be used; and

WHEREAS, MESD promised during the EES school closure decision, "Municipal Agencies.... we would always welcome working with our local [municipal] agencies in regards to their needs and our available facilities." and "In regards to re-purposing EES, it is part of the EDGEWOOD COMMONS MASTER PLAN and the Town of Edgewood may want to utilize part of that facility." (*emphasis added*) and in fact, the Town has very successfully utilized the North building for a community Library and Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, MESD's stated goals and efforts included having a Boys and Girls Club or YMCA at EES and there has now been a Youth Events for Summer (YES!) Program, Route 66 Arts Alliance Program, Chamber of Commerce, Little League, Jr. Police Academy, AYSO, etc. for the community's children and families utilizing the campus, including the fields, playground, library, gym, classrooms, and north complex; and

WHEREAS, MESD's stated goals and efforts included adding Higher Education opportunities for Citizens and Students such as a Mesalands or CNM community college satellite campus and now, the Edgewood Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Edgewood have partnered with Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) with the need for the classroom and community spaces, at times when other school facilities may not be available, for 5 classes beginning in August 2022; and

WHEREAS, MESD's stated goals and efforts included utilizing EES for A Pre-K program, a Head Start program, Day Cares, and Early Childhood Administration, and now, there is currently such a Pre-K program, Smarty Pants Pre-School which has been leasing space at EES for many years which has covered the District's insurance costs; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

WHEREAS, the building is currently in use and not abandoned since Smarty Pants Preschool and other community groups have been asked to involuntarily to leave the building (i.e. eviction); and

WHEREAS, the Pre-K Program does not have other suitable facilities to move into with a safe playground and capacity for the demand; the location they have been forced to lease has decreased their capacity from 22 to 14 children per classroom with no room for growth; and they are beyond capacity, with extremely limited storage, and a long waiting list for Pre-K services in Edgewood; and

WHEREAS, MESD's current FACILITIES MASTER PLAN formulated by Stakeholders and approved by the Board of Education and the PSFA very specifically includes creating the gym, kitchen, lobby, office, and restrooms into a Community Center for Edgewood; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Edgewood's former Councilors, prior to COVID, were pursuing a lease for this planned community utilization of the South Complex for a business incubator and other civic uses; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Edgewood is relatively young, established in 1999, and does not have debt capacity to replace this 37,000 sq ft building at \$400+/sq ft as estimated by PSFA, or more, for a new-construction multi-use community/civic center; and

WHEREAS, a decision to demolish the EES south complex should not be undertaken without researching all available options for use, sale, donation, or lease and opportunity costs to spend taxpayer dollars rather than destroy a \$14MM+ taxpayer asset; and

WHEREAS, GAO-14-704 G standards paragraph 8.03 clearly indicates Waste of government taxpayer dollars is the act of using or expending resources carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose; Abuse involves behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary operational practice given the facts and circumstances; the community does not see any impending need to demolish a usable building which replacement value is \$14MM+ and which currently serves multiple educational and community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Edgewood has current funds and upcoming opportunities through the federal Infrastructure Bill and other capital outlay sources for funding to provide any repairs and maintenance

WHEREAS, the areas' citizens, children, families, businesses, and taxpayers would continue to realize higher quality of life, economic development, fitness, and level of educational success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Governing Body, the Inaugural Commission, of the Municipality of the Town of Edgewood, State of New Mexico, hereby commits to working in continued intergovernmental cooperation with MESD to lease, purchase, or accept donation of the land and buildings and is willing to bear the costs of necessary repairs and maintenance at 285 Dinkle Road, Edgewood, NM 87015.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOTED this 28th DAY OF JUNE 2022

Audrey J. Jaramillo

Audrey J. Jaramillo, CMO, Mayor

ATTEST:

Estefanie Muller

Estefanie Muller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer

