

Save Our Strong Neighborhood Schools!

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood in matters such as land use, traffic control, environmental protection, public services, consumer protection, the protection and enhancement of Barton Creek, and other matters of neighborhood concern; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Independent School District Facilities Task Force has recommended closing Central and East Austin schools, including our own Barton Hills Elementary, with no consideration of community, economic impact, or academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, Barton Hills Elementary, is ranked in the top 20% for both academic educational efficiency and academic achievement according to the Financial Allocation Study for Texas 2010, issued by the Texas State Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, maintaining quality public education in the central city is key to maintaining diversity and contributing to the overall growth and livability of Austin; and

WHEREAS, closing successful central city schools clearly runs counter to our community's long-term planning goals; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood schools contribute to the safety and walk-ability of a neighborhood and of the community as a whole, and they encourage infill development in the urban core as a way to limit urban sprawl; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association has experienced a large, school-motivated increase in younger families moving to Barton Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association offers to work in conjunction with other associations to address our common interests; and

WHEREAS, Barton Hills Elementary has served as an anchor and the heart of this neighborhood since 1964 and has prepared our children for successful, community-oriented lives;

NOW, THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association opposes any Task Force recommendation that Barton Hills Elementary and other similarly successful neighborhood schools be closed in the name of efficiency and that we encourage the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees to first look to more effective ways of reducing the budget while maintaining educational excellence.

A vote was taken and the membership approves this resolution on the 25th day of January, 2011.

Signed, The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

By: _____

Craig Smith, President