



Board of Education
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 2025

TO: CBJ Assembly
FROM: JSD Board of Education
SUBJECT: Dzantik'i Heeni playground

The Juneau School District Board of Education (hereafter 'Board') appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the CBJ Engineering Department's playground options for the Dzantik'i Heeni campus.

The Board has observed CBJ's scoping and planning process since fall 2024 and the Board's Facilities Committee has fielded several presentations from staff this year during the following meetings:

1. January 14, 2025 Facilities Committee meeting. The committee reviewed three "re-scoped" design proposals per CBJ's PWFC directive. The committee was concerned with the lack of ADA compliance for sidewalks and lack of safety surfacing and fencing across all proposals.
2. January 22, 2025 Joint CBJ/JSD Facilities meeting. Following discussion, the assembly directed CBJ Engineering to provide additional options at three price points: \$880,000/\$1,200,000/\$1,500,000
3. February 11, 2025 Facilities Committee meeting. Committee members still had questions about structures, safety, and compliance with ADA and Alaska School Construction Standards for playground structures.
4. March 4, 2025 Facilities Committee meeting. The committee discussed compliance with the Alaska School Design & Construction Standards, 2022 (Available at: <https://education.alaska.gov/facilities/publications/ConstructionStandards2022.pdf>) and the Americans with Disabilities Act/U.S. Access Board.

After reviewing the materials provided during the referenced meetings, and all above referenced documents, the Board has multiple concerns with the proposals, including:

- i. Insufficiency to meet standards of a "playground" per the Alaska School Design & Construction Standards 2022. Specifically, 0138 Baseline 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. These concerns include the availability of age-appropriate play equipment (i.e., swing sets) and comprehensive safety measures (i.e., fencing).
- ii. Insufficiency to meet guidelines from the U.S. Access Board's "Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards" and "A Summary of Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas" (2007).

Specifically, guidelines under Equivalent Facilitation, Phasing in Play Areas, and Ground Level Requirements Based on Elevated Play Components.

iii. Insufficiency to meet standards and requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. Specifically, the height/width/ramp/access/surface requirements and sidewalks.

Thank you for your consideration of these items. We hope this process can move forward expeditiously to ensure the students at the Dzantik'i Heeni campus and the surrounding community have access to a playground.

The Juneau School District Board of Education