

**Resolution in Support of Appropriating Funds to Redesign  
the West High/Romig Middle School Campus  
as a Center of Community**

Whereas the Municipality of Anchorage's 2020 plan describes the intersection adjacent to the West/Romig campus as a future West Anchorage Town Center;

Whereas responsible use of limited resources suggest that school campuses can be used as centers for the community open during the day and into the early evening through out the year;

Whereas the West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School campus is well situated to become a center of community and can provide a model for how limited resources combined with private/public partnerships can improve educational and community opportunities;

Whereas both schools offer diverse and strong academic programs that include Spanish and Russian immersion programs, Cook Inlet Tribal Council Native programs, a magnet School through the Arts program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma, and gifted and highly gifted programs;

Whereas West Anchorage High School graduates approximately one third of Anchorage's Presidential and National Merit Scholars;

Whereas 28.5% of West Anchorage High School's students are also economically disadvantaged; 27% are homeless or in transition; and 39.2% do not graduate;

Whereas West Anchorage High School has the highest drop out rate in Anchorage and, on any given day, hosts one hundred homeless students, many of whom have little or no access to computers and technology and lack transportation to a public library;

Whereas no significant facilities improvements have been made to either West High School or Romig Middle School since 1995;

Whereas providing a campus that is open throughout the day and early evening to students and citizens can provide resources necessary for students to succeed and members of the community to continue life long learning;

Whereas the West/Romig campus already functions as a center of community for Anchorage and the State of Alaska;

Whereas the West/Romig campus is heavily used by the community with over 66 different community organizations renting campus facilities on a regular basis;

Whereas because of its facilities, the West/Romig campus hosts Statewide competitions including Alaska State Basketball and Volleyball Championships, All State Band and Orchestra, State of Alaska Russina Olympiada, and the Alaska State MathCounts Competition;

Whereas the West Alumni Association and Anchorage community recently orchestrated a \$1.4 million refurbishing of the Anchorage High School Auditorium demonstrating a continued strong community support for using the campus as a center of community for the State and City of Anchorage;

Whereas national consultants Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. have engaged the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage School District, Anchorage businesses, non profit agencies, and citizens in an effort to vision what could be on the campus;

Whereas the vision for the campus includes a center that will not only meet Anchorage School District requirements and prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce and advanced education; but will also offer flexible and accessible space for students and citizens to learn, meet, play, compete, entertain and share experiences all on a campus that binds neighbors together as a community;

Whereas developing the campus as a center of community requires extensive public/private partnerships between the State of Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage School District, private businesses and public agencies and such partnerships will need to be coordinated in a master plan;

**NOW THEREFORE, the Turnagain Community Council:**

- 1) Supports the continued efforts of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage School District, and citizens to design a public campus that serves all members of the state and local community; and**
- 2) Encourages the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to appropriate the funds necessary to complete the master planning of the West/Romig Campus as a center of community.**