

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #236 (98-99) March 22, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting the establishment of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska is part of a growing network of educational centers nationwide established in memory of the space shuttle Challenger crew. The learning centers have three goals:

1. To develop students' self-confidence and abilities in science, math and technology.
2. To help students build strong communication and problem solving skills which enhances their creative and critical thinking abilities.
3. To inspire students to pursue careers in science, math and technology.

The core of the center will be a space lab and mission control room simulator, complete with interactive computer technology. Students will be encouraged to navigate through space and explore the solar system in a "real-life" atmosphere. The \$5.2 million center will be located in Kenai, but will be open to all students of Alaska, not just through direct visits, but also through the Internet and by way of classroom materials delivered to teachers statewide. Funds are being raised through corporate donations, state and federal funds, and individual contributions.

BC/LW/RF

Prepared by: Roger Fiedler, Public Affairs Specialist

Approved by: Larry Wiget, Executive Director, Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

ASDR 98/99-7

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska is part of a growing network of educational centers nationwide established in memory of the crew of the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle; and

WHEREAS, the Challenger Learning Center is designed to get students enthused about science, math and technology through the exploration of space; and

WHEREAS, the core of the center is an interactive computerized simulation of a space lab and mission control room, allowing students to navigate a lunar landing, chase a comet's tail or voyage to Mars; and

WHEREAS, through the center, teachers statewide will receive innovative and nationally recognized materials to promote science, math and technology studies in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, this \$5.2 million project will be financed by corporate, state and federal funds and by individual contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, to be located in Kenai, will be open to, and will benefit, all Alaskan students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board supports the development, construction and operation of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska and encourages Anchorage citizens to participate in fundraising efforts and events.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of March, 1999.

Harriet A. Drummond, President

Peggy Robinson-Wilson
Dave Werdal
Debbie Ossiander

Kathi Gillespie
Rita Holthouse
Bettye Davis

Bob Christal, Superintendent