



**Polaris K-12 School
Resolution #15
Debate Club Resolution
Submitted by Joshua Pak
April 5, 2023**

Be it resolved by Operational Group, that the Polaris K-12 Debate club will be created.

1. **Whereas**, there is a widespread interest and need for a debate club in the Polaris secondary community;
2. **Whereas**, numerous secondary schools across the Anchorage School District currently have a debate club, including but not limited to: Bettye Davis East High school, Dimond High school, and Girdwood Middle High school, which shows that Polaris secondary students are lacking certain opportunities;
3. **Whereas**, there are many benefits for participating in a debate club, such as critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, emotional maturity and overall improved academic performance, which are all useful both in and outside of school (Lynch);
4. **Whereas**, it was researched that “While only 50 percent of high school students in urban schools graduate, ninety percent of urban high school debaters graduate,” demonstrating that debate is, at the least, correlated to increased graduation rates (American Debate League);
5. **Whereas**, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has long proposed that competing on a debate team or participating in a club both boost college readiness and increases chances to success in life;
6. **Whereas**, it is proven that even one or two debate experiences improves academic performance for high school students (American Debate Club);
7. **Whereas**, providing enrichment programs within schools such as this debate club, reduces the gap in preparing at-risk/low income students for their readiness above the graduation level since their parents might have less resources to help;

8. **Whereas**, competitive debate is one of the most attractive extracurricular activities for college admissions officers: they know that students who participate in debate are better prepared than their peers for the demands of college academics;
9. **Whereas**, debate requires constant intellectual stimulation and develops poise which prepares students for the professional world;
10. **Whereas**, students who participate in debate programs will discover and develop the following skills: confidence, curiosity, critical thinking, communication, control – eliminating the fears of public speaking, creativity, camaraderie and leadership;
11. **Whereas**, a debate club would introduce important topics and issues of politics, public policies, and philosophies, broadening the perspectives of participants;
12. **Whereas**, there has been an increase in polarization of political beliefs, ideologies, and values in our nation, engendering a lack of civil discourse. Formal debate fosters a desire for mutual understanding, diversification of perspectives, and public policies, which are critical in our day and age;
13. **Whereas**, Larry has agreed to facilitate a debate intensive in the fall of 2023;
14. **Whereas**, there are currently 38 secondary students interested in a debate club intensive;
15. **Whereas**, presently, there is a large number of senior students who express interest in participating in a debate club. They possess indispensable experience in debate and public speaking that will fail to be invested in younger Polaris students without an immediate debate club, necessitating immediate creation of this club.

Therefore, be it resolved by Operational Group, that a Polaris K-12 Debate club be established.

Action Statement: Upon the approval of this resolution, the student directors of this club will submit the completed Student-Led Activities application and Activity Agreement Form in accordance with the Student-Led Activities policy under the Polaris K-12 Website. The student directors will finalize the location, time, commitment, and outline for the debate club as well as the debate intensive with the respective faculty sponsor, then initiate the club for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, also planning for the future of the club in the following school year.

Works Cited:

Lynch, Matthew. "The Benefits of Debating." *The Edvocate*, 13 Feb. 2021,
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sites.google.com/a/woodward.edu/debate/prospective-debaters/top-5-reasons-to-join-the-debate-team. Accessed 4 Apr. 2023.