

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-6000078****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Anchorage - West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle School Redevelopment Funding

State Funding Requested: \$3,000,000**House District: 26 / M**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

This funding request is for a 35% schematic design consistent with the 2010 West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle School Master Plan.

In 2008, the State of Alaska funded a master plan to redevelop the West Anchorage High School and the Romig Middle School campus as a 21st century center of community school. The master plan was completed and approved by the Anchorage School District in June 2010.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$3,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$3,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

In 2006, the Anchorage School District dedicated \$85,000 to complete a Pre-Planning Vision Report to determine the future of the West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle Schools. In 2008, the State of Alaska granted \$900,000 to complete a Master Plan for redeveloping the campus as a 21st century center of community school.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

In 2008, the Alaska State Legislature appropriated \$900,000 to create a Master Plan for redeveloping West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle Schools as 21st Century schools in a center of community. Both West and Romig's Parent Teacher Student Associations and the eight Anchorage Community councils feeding West and Romig support redeveloping the campus as a center of community school.

The planning process moved forward in November 2008 with a community wide effort to define the 21st century educational programs as well as the campus as a center of community school. Meetings were held over the next year seeking input from the schools, teachers, parents, students, the Municipality of Anchorage, businesses, non-profit agencies, and the community as a whole. The planning process was completed in May 2010. A Master Plan with sufficient detail to redevelop both schools to meet the educational needs of the 21st century and provide center of community schools was presented to and approved by the Anchorage School Board in June, 2010. A copy of the Master Plan can be found at: http://www.asdk12.org/renewal/HS/west_romig/index.asp.

This legislative request is to fund a 35% schematic design that will enable the project to move forward. Without it, the project is stalled. The Master Plan recommends "[t]o take full advantage of the enthusiasm, community investment, and synergy that has been developed with the creation of the Master Plan, funding should be committed to redevelop the West Romig Campus as a center of community (school) as soon as possible."

Consistent with the Master Plan, the Anchorage School District and the Municipality of Anchorage placed on this April's bonds \$1.2 million to design 36,000 square feet of new career, technology and education space. The Anchorage School District has also planned for phases one, two, and three of redevelopment starting in year 2014 and continuing through 2017. In order to determine the scope and cost of each of the three phases the 35% schematic design needs to be funded and completed as soon as possible.

Once the West Anchorage High School and Romig Middle School Campus is fully redeveloped it will set a standard for how public school facilities can be redeveloped and leveraged to expand educational opportunities for students during the day, in the evenings, on the weekends, and through out the year. The concept is premised on the belief that working together, educators and the community, can provide excellent educational opportunities so that students can graduate career ready and college prepared. Based on such a vision the community has already invested nearly \$500,000 in the campus. This request for a 35% schematic design is important so that this project can move forward without delay.

Project Timeline:

Consistent with the Master Plan, ASD and MOA placed \$1.2 million to design 36,000 sq. ft. of career, technology, and education space on the West Romig campus on the April 2011 municipal ballot. The ASD Capital Request Advisory Committee recommended funding phase one of this project in 2014, phase two in 2016, and phase three in 2017. The 35% schematic design, however, needs to be completed to determine the scope and cost of each phase.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Anchorage School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Mike Abbott
 Title: Anchorage School Distrcit
 Address: 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
 Anchorage, Alaska 99504
 Phone Number: (907)742-4389
 Email: abbott_mike@asdk12.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Anchorage School District

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March 2, 2011

Honorable Hollis French
State Capitol
Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear ^{*Hollis*} Senator French,

I understand the West High School and Romig Middle School Parent Teacher Student Associations have recommended your consideration of a legislative grant request for the preliminary design of the West/Romig Building Renewal. The Anchorage School District endorses this request.

Last night, the Anchorage School Board adopted the 2011-2021 Capital Improvement Program. This ten-year plan lays out the capital investment priorities for the district. The West/Romig project is a major part of that ten year program. The renewal is necessary to bring West and Romig up to the district's current educational standards and to replace and/or upgrade key building systems that are at or beyond their anticipated useful life.

Any support you can provide in support of this project would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

cc: Anchorage School Board
Mike Abbott, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services

Resolution in Support of Appropriating \$3 Million to Complete a 35% Schematic Design Consistent with the 2010 West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School Master Plan

Whereas in 2006, the Anchorage School District dedicated \$85,000 to complete a Pre-Planning Vision Report to determine the future of the West Anchorage High and Romig Middle Schools;

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 in the State of Alaska;

Whereas, both West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School 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 programs;

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

Whereas, approximately 50% of West Anchorage High and Romig Middle Schools' students are also economically disadvantaged and close to 40% do not graduate;

Whereas, West Anchorage High School has one of the highest dropout rates 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 the educational opportunities and 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 by hosting city and statewide events as well as over 66 different community organizations renting campus facilities on a regular basis;

Whereas, the West Alumni Association and Anchorage community recently raised \$1.4 million to refurbish the Anchorage High School Auditorium thereby demonstrating a continued strong community support for community use of the campus;

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

Whereas, that plan is designed to prepare students for the 21st Century workforce and post-secondary education while offering flexible and accessible space for students and citizens to learn, meet, play, compete, entertain and share experiences that bind teachers, students and neighbors together as a community;

Whereas both West Anchorage High and Romig Middle Schools' Parent Teacher Student Association as well as the eight Anchorage Community councils feeding the campus have passed resolutions supporting redeveloping the campus as such a center of community school;

Whereas in 2008, the State of Alaska granted \$900,000 to complete a master plan to redevelop the West Anchorage High and the Romig Middle School campus as a 21st century center of community school;

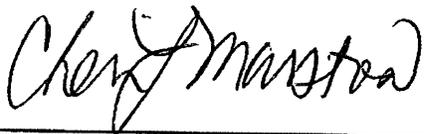
Whereas in 2010 the Anchorage School District approved the 2010 West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School master plan;

Whereas no further action can be taken to implement the master plan facility improvements until a 35% schematic design that estimates cost and phasing of the project is completed;

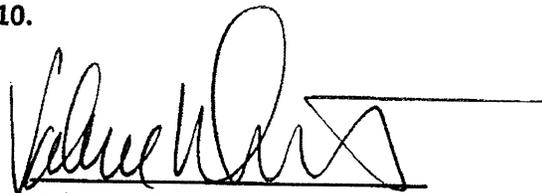
Therefore, be it resolved that the West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School Parent Teacher Student Associations support the continued efforts of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage School District, and citizens to redevelop the West High and Romig Middle School campus as a 21st Century Center of Community School; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School Teacher Student Associations encourage the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to appropriate \$3 million to complete a 35% schematic design of the West Anchorage High and Romig Middle School Campus consistent with its 2010 Master Plan.

RESOLVED this 23rd and 25th day of February, 2010.



**Cheri Marston, Secretary
West Anchorage High School PTSA
1700 Hillcrest Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517**



**Valerie Whitmore, President
Romig Middle School PTSA
2500 Minnesota Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517**