

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO INCREASE TEACHER-PARENT COMMUNICATIONS, PROVIDE INCREASED SECURITY AND HEIGHTEN COMMUNITY PRIDE AND RAPPORT BETWEEN STUDENTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

WHEREAS, school, community and family are inextricably joined and must work closely together for the benefit of every child and every community; and

WHEREAS, collaborative working relationships with schools, the business community, social service agencies, government agencies, faith-based organizations, civic groups, neighborhood associations and post-secondary educational institutions increase parent involvement and student academic achievement to ensure an overall high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque have worked together for a number of years on a community education model that would combine resources from public and private sources to serve the educational needs of all members of a community; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque approved resolutions to form a community schools partnership and to set forth principles, alternative approaches and a scope to accomplish the mission and goals of a community education program; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque jointly participated with the Albuquerque business education compact in a 2005 study with high-level executives and staff members to clarify the options and steps required to implement community schools within the Albuquerque public school system; and

WHEREAS, the community schools approach recognizes that only about twenty-two percent of a child's life until ten years of age is spent in school and that conditions within the family, neighborhood, among peers and within the larger community affect young people's motivation to learn and be successful in school; and

WHEREAS, the character of family life, family income, stability, peer and family drug and alcohol use, mental health, nutrition, housing, neighborhood crime, gangs, the educational level of family members and the importance family members place on learning all have an impact on learning; and

WHEREAS, over fifty leaders from community schools in Albuquerque were interviewed, and their responses contained important guidance for implementing community schools; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque, along with the Albuquerque business education compact, reviewed ten national and international models of community schools nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the community schools task force recognized

that implementing community schools would require a significant commitment of staff and financial resources by Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools, the city of Albuquerque and the state's private foundations; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools, the city of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque business education compact have each made a one-time contribution of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to fund the start-up costs and initial operations of the community schools partnership; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque approved a joint powers agreement to achieve administrative efficiency in the funding of programs by the establishment of the community schools partnership; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque public schools and the city of Albuquerque request a significant commitment of staff and financial resources from the state of New Mexico to implement the community schools effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state commit staff and financial resources to implement the community schools effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the superintendent of the Albuquerque public

schools and to the members of the legislative education study committee.