

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 00-058

Expressing the Support of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners for Passage of the May 2000 Local Option Funding for the Portland Public Schools

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

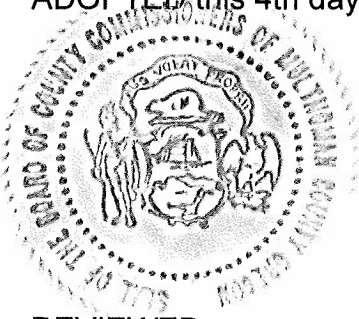
- a. The public interest of all the citizens of the City of Portland is served by stable, effective school systems, which create a vital economy and an attractive climate for children, families and business. Stable, effective schools avoid flight from the City and public schools, increase public safety, produce an informed and involved electorate and provide equal opportunity and common bonds across socioeconomic and racial, and ethnic barriers;
- b. 442 teachers and staff have been cut from all 100 schools, caseloads for high school counselors have jumped 43 percent and class size is up every grade level;
- c. Administrative and support staff have been cut 17 percent, maintenance workforce has been cut 40 percent and maintenance management 50 percent, and classroom teachers have been cut 11 percent;
- d. The 1999 Legislature did not provide adequate financial support for Portland schools but did enact a Local Option funding bill allowing Portland and other districts around the state which were not given adequate funding to seek additional local revenues in order to avoid unacceptable cuts in programs and services to children;
- e. Passage of a Local Option funding plan for the Portland Public Schools is critical in order to replace outdated science, history and other textbooks that are ten to fifteen years old;
- f. Passage of a Local Option funding plan for the Portland Public Schools is critical in order to help to restore art, music, and other lost basic programs;
- g. Passage of a Local Option funding plan for the Portland Public Schools is critical in order to reduce class size in order to hire additional teachers;
- h. Passage of a Local Option funding plan for the Portland Public Schools is critical in order to help struggling students with appropriate programs such as Saturday classes and summer school;
- i. Multnomah County has provided millions of dollars in funding to the Portland-area school districts in the past three years but cannot provide core funding to the schools on a long-term basis;

- j. Multnomah County citizens need to hear from the County's elected leaders about the critical importance of providing essential funding to the Portland Public schools and the critical gap which will be filled by the Local Option revenues; and
- k. This levy will produce an estimated \$78.3 million for Portland Public Schools over five years and a typical home in the District will pay \$8 per month.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The County Board of Commissioners expresses its unanimous support for the May, 2000 "Local Option" measure which would provide essential funding to the Portland Public Schools over a five year period and help to maintain a healthy, diverse, and thriving public school system essential to the long-term well-being of the City of Portland, its individual neighborhoods, and the balance of Multnomah County.

ADOPTED this 4th day of May, 2000.

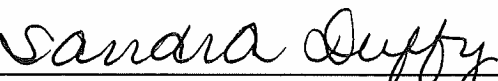


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By 
Sandra N. Duffy, Deputy County Attorney