

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 06-034

Directing Preparation of Alternative Program Offer "Schools Bail-Out Package" for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In 2003, the voters of Multnomah County passed and approved Ballot Measure 26-48, a temporary three-year income tax to benefit local public schools, public safety and human services at a time when the continued lack in adequate funding from the State of Oregon resulted in school districts cuts to programs and instructional days, and in County reductions to critical services affecting seniors, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable members of our community.
- b. With the expiration of the temporary income tax, Multnomah County also faces its own impending budget crisis. Accordingly, the County will make nearly \$30 million in cuts to public safety programs and human services over the next two years. Nevertheless, Multnomah County recognizes its ongoing role as a partner in education funding.
- c. In a first step towards permanently easing the amount of future cuts to county services, the Board adopted Resolution 06-009, the 2005-2006 Multnomah County Supplemental Budget, which in part increased appropriations by \$6 million to the Capital Debt Retirement Fund in order to capture future savings of \$12 million dollars. The increase was possible due to a slightly better-than-expected revenue forecast that falls short of eradicating the funding gap, but was envisioned as leverage for even greater savings in the coming years.
- d. Multnomah County has clearly made its priority to children, schools, and educational success known through its priority-based budgeting process, and has further demonstrated its commitment to education and services for children by annually funding tens of millions of dollars in youth-targeted programs ranging from early childhood and ready-to-learn programs, to school-based health clinics and mental health services, to neighborhood libraries.
- e. Multnomah County also seeks to strengthen its partnerships with the schools by increasing collaboration for programs such as health and obesity prevention, gang prevention, and family involvement in schools programs.
- f. The school districts are fortunate to have additional partners who support education funding, most notably the City of Portland and the many businesses in this community.
- g. Multnomah County is also fortunate to have a dedicated community partner in the City of Portland, and fully expects the City to maintain it's partnership with the

County on their comprehensive approach to public safety, including continued funding for Project 57 (Multnomah County Detention Center jail beds), alcohol and drug treatment programs, and increased support for law enforcement.

- h. On March 13, 2003 the Board found in Resolution 03-037 that "The Oregon Legislature and the Governor continue to disinvest in our community's public infrastructure. They have failed to adequately fund schools and have reduced funding for public safety, health and senior services to the point where it endangers people's lives and livelihoods." We find this to be still true on March 23, 2006 and call again upon the Oregon Legislature and the Governor to fulfill its constitutional duty to provide a sufficient sum of money for the quality education of our children.
- i. The County collects Business Income Taxes (BIT) county-wide and distributes \$3,000,000 directly to the City of Gresham and none to the City of Portland.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The Board of County Commissioners will consider an alternative funding proposal for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$6.4 million for Multnomah County schools during this time of exceptional crisis.
- 2. The Board directs the County Budget Office to prepare an alternative program offer for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget entitled "School Bail-Out Package" to provide \$5.2 million for Portland Public Schools and \$1.2 million for all other school districts in the County, distributed as shown below. The revenues from this package would come from purchasing Program Offer 10052 Debt Reserve Cash Transfer and unobligated OTO General Funds (by reducing the GF contingency). The budget office is also directed to develop another program offer to deal with the \$1 million of on-going funds required to pay the debt payment for the Juvenile Detention Center.

School District	Percentage*	Contribution
		1,200,000.00
Centennial	0.0682	175,472
Corbett	0.007	18,010
David Douglas	0.1068	274,786
Gresham Barlow	0.1164	299,485
Victory Middle School	0.001	2,573
Parkrose	0.0418	107,547
Reynolds	0.119	306,175
Riverdale	0.0053	13,636
Scappoose	0.0009	2,316
	0.4664	1,200,000
* relative percentage of ADMw based on MC distribution of ITAX to schools as of last distribution		

3. The County requests the approximately \$3,000,000 given to the City of Gresham in BIT funds be contributed to schools in the County to achieve an ADMw distribution this year for County schools

ADOPTED this 23rd day of March, 2006.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney