

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Providing a Temporary Education ) RESOLUTION  
Surcharge for Public Schools in ) 97-202  
Multnomah County )

WHEREAS, Multnomah County has adopted three long-term benchmarks to direct the provision of County services: reduce children living in poverty, increase school completion with life skill's equivalency, and reduce crime; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County finds that education is a primary factor in achieving these benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, all citizens, including the business community, benefit from the provision of adequate public school education and achievement of the educational benchmark; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon has primary responsibility for providing adequate funding for public education, but the services to youth and families provided by Multnomah County and achievement of the benchmarks are dependent on the presence of adequate public education; and

WHEREAS, public schools serve children, parents, and citizens throughout Multnomah County's various communities and the public schools traditionally have been at the center of community life and activity in our neighborhoods and need to be accountable to each community and neighborhood for actively enhancing the quality of life in each community or neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, revenues available to public school districts in Multnomah County are not sufficient to continue the level of education provided over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, four Multnomah County Commissioners agreed, in July 1996, to impose a Temporary Education Surcharge on the Multnomah County Business Income Tax if the 1997 Oregon Legislature did not fund public schools in Multnomah County at their 1995-96 service levels; and

WHEREAS, the public school funding allocation by the 1997 Legislature was not sufficient to restore school districts in Multnomah County to their 1995-96 levels; and

WHEREAS, the school funding problem will become more serious in 1998-99. School districts will need additional funds to provide services at 1995-96 levels, at reduced 1996-97 levels, or to maintain 1997-98 levels of service; and

WHEREAS, the Temporary Education Surcharge, with adjustments to limit the burden on small businesses, is an appropriate means for Multnomah County to raise revenue to address the financial needs of school districts in Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS, the Multnomah County and City of Portland auditors offer to contract to conduct performance audit scans to identify areas of possible improved business practices or efficiencies for the Portland School District and other public schools districts in Multnomah County requesting such audits; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County would appreciate the opportunity to share progress it is making in achieving its school completion benchmark with the County school districts. Similarly, Multnomah County would appreciate reports from the school districts on their progress in meeting their educational goals for their students. Annual meetings of representatives of the County and districts would facilitate this joint reporting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners and the Portland City Council intend to advocate at the 1999 Oregon Legislature for increased funding for public school districts in Multnomah County, and a different funding formula that takes into account the higher cost of providing services in public school districts in Multnomah County; now therefore

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners will refer to the voters for the March 10, 1998, election a measure to impose a Temporary Educational Surcharge of one-half percent (.50%) on the Multnomah County Business Income Tax. This Temporary Educational Surcharge will exempt persons doing business within Multnomah County whose 1998 Business Income

Tax is under \$100. The Temporary Educational Surcharge will be imposed for one year and will end December 31, 1998.

2. Receipts from the Temporary Educational Surcharge shall be used only to benefit public schools in Multnomah County. Receipts from the Temporary Educational BIT surcharge shall only be used to maintain or reduce class size by preventing teacher layoffs in Fiscal Year 1998-99. The public school districts with projected budget shortfalls in FY 98/99 shall only spend surcharge revenues to pay for teacher positions or other state certified positions, that would otherwise be eliminated. To be eligible for BIT surcharge funds, school districts with projected budget shortfalls in FY 98/99 shall submit a list of teacher positions or other state certified positions subject to elimination from the budget and their accompanying salary, to Multnomah County no later than May 30, 1998. Districts without budget shortfalls in FY 98/99 shall submit a list of additional teaching positions and other staff certified positions and materials directly related to instruction. Multnomah County will allocate the BIT surcharge revenues to each public school district to pay for teacher positions or other state certified positions, based upon the list submitted by each school district.

3. The Board of County Commissioners requests that the Superintendents from the school districts in Multnomah County convene for the purpose of recommending a distribution formula assuming a .5% temporary business income tax surcharge is approved by the voters. The Board requests that recommendations be forwarded to them no later than December 15, 1997. In the event that the Superintendents are unable to reach consensus on their recommendation, the County will distribute the revenues raised by this surcharge using the same formula developed by the County and school districts in distributing the 1996 County financial contribution to public school districts:

Centennial	5.75%	Portland	76.50%
Corbett	.40	Reynolds	4.00
David Douglas	4.10	Riverdale	.10
Gresham-Barlow	5.50	Sauvie Island	.05
Parkrose	3.60		

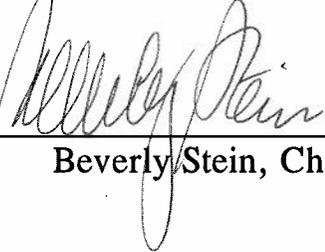
4. The school boards receiving funding as a result of the Temporary Educational Surcharge shall commit to restore the public schools as the

active center of each community or neighborhood. Various approaches to explore include use of buildings and grounds for community or neighborhood activities and after school programs for neighborhood children, participation of faculty and administrators on community or neighborhood civic and business associations or groups, and integration of programs such as school libraries with existing public library system and programs.

Adopted this 2nd day of December, 1997.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

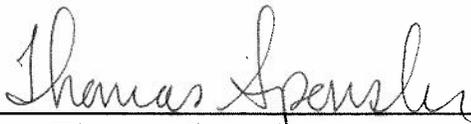


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Beverly Stein, Chair

**REVIEWED:**

**THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY COUNSEL  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**



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Thomas Spensler

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