

RESOLUTION NO **35603**

Recognize April 28th as the kickoff of the Portland Public Schools Foundation's Schools Matter campaign, support the Coalition for School Funding Now's 5 75 billion statewide school funding goal and encourage other municipalities to pass similar resolutions (Resolution)

WHEREAS, citizens of Portland have consistently listed public school funding as their top priority,

WHEREAS, public schools serve as the focal point of many Portland neighborhoods and maintaining excellent neighborhood livability relies on a strong and vital public school system,

WHEREAS, business organizations like the Portland Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Business Council and other business organizations are advocating for adequate school funding,

WHEREAS, the future economic vitality of Portland is dependent on citizens who have received a quality education,

WHEREAS, ensuring a quality public school education is the basic responsibility of government and the children of the City of Portland deserve the best education and opportunities,

WHEREAS, religious organizations like Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon have recognized that providing a quality education is a moral imperative,

WHEREAS, the five school districts in Portland, Centennial, Reynolds, David Douglas, Parkrose and Portland have been forced to lay off almost 1,000 employees, including over 300 teachers,

WHEREAS, average class size in school districts in Portland has increased to 27-28 per class and some high school programs go up to and over 45 students in a class,

WHEREAS, last year the City of Portland contributed over nine million dollars to local school districts to help offset budget reductions caused by inadequate state funding,

WHEREAS, this year the City of Portland has been forced to cut its budget by Measure 47 and therefore will not be able to help offset budget reductions,

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WHEREAS, the public education budget proposals being considered by the Oregon Legislature would mean that school districts in Portland would have to lay off more employees, including hundreds of teachers,

WHEREAS, the historic quality of Oregon's public education system has contributed to the booming business climate in the State of Oregon and the City of Portland and thus continued budget cuts seem as short sighted as they are unfair,

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon pays four to five times more to incarcerate an adult in prison than it pays to educate a child in public school,

WHEREAS, the Coalition for School Funding Now! is calling for a minimum total budget of 5.75 billion dollars for adequate and equitable school funding for each region of the state,

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council fully supports the Coalition for School Funding Now!'s proposal,

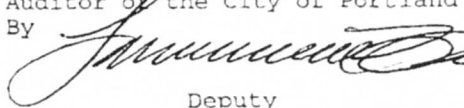
WHEREAS, the Portland Public Schools Foundation is calling upon the public to make its support for quality public schools visible through the Schools Matter campaign,

WHEREAS, businesses such as Starbucks, Burgerville, Powells, Borders Books, Hanna Anderson, and Azumano Travel and many others will be distributing School's Matter materials,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Portland declares April 28th to be Schools Matter Day and declares support for Coalition for School Funding Now!'s school budget recommendation and announces its participation in the Schools Matter Campaign and urges other local governments in Oregon to approve similar resolutions of support for their own schools

Adopted by the Council
Commissioner Sten
Marshall Runkel
April 17, 1997

APR 23 1997

BARBARA CLARK
Auditor of the City of Portland
By 
Deputy

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Agenda No

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Title

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INTRODUCED BY	DATE FILED April 17, 1997 APR 17 1997
Mayor Katz, Commissioners Francesconi, Hales, Kafoury, & Sten	Barbara Clark Auditor of the City of Portland
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	By <u>Ray Kershner</u> Deputy
Affairs <u>[Signature]</u>	For Meeting of _____
Finance and Administration <u>[Signature]</u>	ACTION TAKEN
Safety <u>[Signature]</u>	
Utilities <u>[Signature]</u>	
Works <u>[Signature]</u>	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau	
Prepared by Date <u>4/17/97</u> <u>Marshall Runkel</u>	
Budget Impact Review	
Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	
Bureau Head	

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS		
Consent	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Francesconi	Francesconi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NOTED BY		Hales	Hales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Attorney		Kafoury	Kafoury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Auditor		Sten	Sten	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Engineer		Katz	Katz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	