

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Accept Mutual Agreements between Portland Public Schools and the City of Portland relating to Fy 2012-13 Budget Support Resolution #655

Yes, it is good that we have helped save teachers jobs which means students their education.

However, the City could be getting more from the school district.

The people of Portland already bought the Foster School Site, and they already bought the land acres at Washington Monroe.

Please note within this IGA deal the city has no ownership in the Foster School site.

Both of these parcels should be given over to the City for Housing and parks purposes respectively.

Placing a right of first refusal on the 1.66 acres at WAMO provides virtually nothing and we shouldn't be paying fair market price for a piece of land that we taxpayers have already paid for in 1906.

It is absurd that we could have leveraged private and public dollars to keep the Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women school for girls open. That was one of the most obvious actions for equity that the city and the school district could have done and yet both bodies (PPS Board of Directors -- except for two members and City Council -- except for Amanda Fritz voted against equity, against success for these girls and girls of color. Yes, it is embarrassing.

I can't say the taxpayers and City Employees who are foregoing their cost of living increases, got what they should have in this deal where we gave over 7.5 million dollars to the school districts.

Yes, we taxpayers need a community and state supported educational system. Might I suggest, supporting Oregon Partnership as well as the City and Counties Lobbyists efforts? Yes, It is time for a Dime."

Now is the time to make our voices heard in the Legislature, to increase the frozen 1977 penny-a-pint beer production fee. A 10-cent-per-drink increase could provide more than \$80 million a year in prevention, treatment and recovery, and law enforcement training when they approach intoxicated and drunk individuals.

Did you know \$900 million of your state dollars are paid into human services each year because of alcohol and other drug problems?

Yes, It is time the beer industry pays its fair share of the social and economic cost of it's product. Until microbrews produce over X# barrels that mini increase does not effect their profits. If I were a brew master, I would start monitoring Food and Water Watchers goals to protect public interest... whoops I digress.

In closing, I want PPS Board of Directors to transfer the Title to 1.66 acres to Portland Parks & Recreation pubic gardens program – and Foster Elementary to NAYA. Property the public paid for controls ownership in the commons for the next seven (7) generations. As for PPS plans to sign off on 99-year lease(s), stay tuned.

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Schwab, Community Activist