



SCHOOL EFFICIENCY AND
QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE
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School Advisory Council to Hear How County Tax Money is Being Used, Plans March Release of Report

The School Efficiency and Quality Advisory Council plans to issue a report by the end of March on how Multnomah County school districts are using money provided by the voter-approved County income tax. Prior to issuing the report, the Council will hold two public meetings in February and one in March to hear testimony on districts' use of the money and plans to improve student performance, as well as to discuss and approve the report.

The Council will meet next **Tuesday, February 10** from **3-6 p.m.** in the **Rose Room of Portland City Hall**, which is located at **1221 SW 4th Ave.** in downtown Portland to hear testimony from the Riverdale, Parkrose and Centennial school districts.

The Council also will meet on **Tuesday, February 17** from **3-6 p.m.** in the **U.S. Bank Room of the Multnomah County Central Library**, which is located at **801 S.W. 10th Ave.** in downtown Portland to hear testimony from the Corbett, Gresham-Barlow and Reynolds school districts. The Council heard testimony from the Portland Public and David Douglas districts at a Jan. 30 meeting.

A third meeting will take place on **Monday, March 15**, from **5-8 p.m.** in **Room 112 of the Multnomah Building**, which is located at **501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.**, in Portland for the Council to review and approve a report summarizing how money from the County income tax for schools has been used this year. All meetings are open to the public and the media.

The 23-member Council is charged with ensuring that revenues from the new, temporary Multnomah County income tax benefit students in the classroom and that the tax money is well spent. In addition, the Council will monitor schools' progress in improving the educational performance of all students. The three-year County income tax and the advisory council were created by passage of Ballot Measure 26-48 last May.

The Council is co-chaired by Qwest Oregon President Judy Pepler, and Baruti Artharee, a regional director for Providence Health Systems and former chairman of the Urban League. Portland Mayor Vera Katz and Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn serve on the Council. Other members include representatives of business, education, labor, school parents and taxpayers, as well as Multnomah County's different ethnic and geographical communities.

The school advisory council will review budgets and plans submitted by County school districts to improve academic success and operational efficiency. The Council will review separate performance audits prepared by Multnomah County and City of Portland auditors and it will send a report of its own findings to every household in the County. In addition, the new advisory council will report its findings to the Portland City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

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