



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **New School Advisory Council to Oversee Use of County Tax Funds to Meet on Dec. 16**

The School Efficiency and Quality Advisory Council, which was created to oversee the use of new voter-approved funding for Multnomah County public school districts, will hold its first meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 16**, from **3-6 p.m.** in the **Rose Room, Portland City Hall**, which is located at **1221 S.W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.** in downtown Portland. The meeting is 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.

In addition to an introductory discussion of its own role, procedures and key milestones, the agenda for Tuesday's meeting includes a briefing on existing state and federal educational performance goals and laws, as well as other trends, such as demographic changes, that affect Multnomah County schools.

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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