

Resolve 13-06/07

Passage 4-4-07; 9-0

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
DONNA J. CARR (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JAMES I. COHEN (5)
JAMES F. CLOUTIER (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF
CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIONS**

WHEREAS, Maine's most regressive tax, the property tax, imposes a significant and growing burden on taxpayers throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Despite past efforts at both the State and local level, the burden imposed by the property tax continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, It is important to the future of the City, region and State to do everything possible to control the burden imposed by the property tax on our citizens; and

WHEREAS, That tax has historically and currently paid for more than half of the cost of public K-12 education throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, The cost of public education on the local property taxpayer in many communities makes up the largest portion of the property tax; and

WHEREAS, Governor Baldacci has introduced and the Maine Legislature is now considering a wide-ranging proposal to consolidate school administrative units throughout the State for the purpose of saving millions of dollars in tax expenditures and concentrating a greater proportion of state and local resources on education rather than administration; and

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council has actively supported the concept of greater regionalization of municipal services, including through the City Council's establishment of a Task Force on Regionalization in 2003 and its adoption in 2006 of a resolution supporting the establishment of the Metro Regional Coalition among the municipalities of Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, Westbrook, and Falmouth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has actively pursued regional cooperation in numerous areas, including in the area of public works, waste disposal, specialty vehicle maintenance, emergency dispatch, and a regional crime lab.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council endorses the principle of school administrative consolidation as set forth in Governor Baldacci's proposed budget and urges the Portland Delegation and the rest of the State Legislature to support the consolidation of school administration in order to relieve the property tax burden on our citizens and enhance the availability of financial resources for learning.