

Passage 7-1 (Duson opposed, Leeman absent)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR. (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 A PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE
EDUCATIONAL QUALITY IN PORTLAND**

WHEREAS, Portland has had a long history of providing high quality education to students and wants to ensure that such quality is maintained in the long term; and

WHEREAS, rising costs coupled with reductions in General Purpose Aid for Education from the State strains the resources of Portland taxpayers being asked to support the continued quality of education in Portland Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, new state laws requiring cost reductions, as well as a pending budget deficit within the Portland Public Schools, requires the Portland Public Schools to develop new efficiencies in order to continue delivering high quality education with fewer financial resources; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2005, the Joint Finance Committee of the Portland City Council and the Portland Public Schools approved a resolution supporting consolidation of maintenance services, consolidation of certain finance services, and recommended adoption of a resolution by the Council and School Committee stating as follows:

The City of Portland and the Portland School Department should unify operations where possible to create a strong, capable and unified organization that has the ability to deliver high quality services, encourage innovation, empower employees and increase efficiency in order to best serve the people of Portland; and

WHEREAS, at a July 19, 2007 Joint Finance Committee, the Finance Committee of the Portland City Council voted unanimously to adopt a "Plan for Sustainable Educational Quality in Portland," a substantial portion of which was subsequently approved by the Finance Committee of the Portland School Committee in August, 2007; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this Plan, the Portland Public Schools and the City of Portland are to work together to find efficiencies and consolidation opportunities in order to lower the long-term costs of operating our schools so that educational quality can be sustained into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to ensure sustainable educational quality in Portland, the Portland City Council hereby approves the following Plan for Sustainable Educational Quality in Portland:

- Mission: Develop a financial and structural plan to address the fiscal constraints facing the Portland Public Schools while ensuring the long-term quality of education in our schools. Such plan shall also meet the goals established by the Joint Finance Committee on December 2, 2005.

- Areas of Focus: City and Schools shall work together, to be overseen by the Joint Finance Committee, to accomplish the mission by evaluating and implementing the following tasks:
 1. **FY2009 School Budget Review.** Evaluate and report back on the following:
 - a. FY07 budget deficit payback
 - b. Anticipated changes in EPS funding
 - c. State mandated Alternative Plan cost reductions
 - d. Grant revenue
 - e. Ensuring ongoing fiscal responsibility

 2. **Financial Recovery Plan.** Develop plan to address the FY2007 budget deficit.

 3. **Consolidation of Facilities and Services.** Evaluate and report back on opportunities to consolidate facilities and services between and among the Schools and City, including specific plans related to:
 - a. Building Maintenance
 - i. Evaluation of wage scales
 - ii. Evaluation of staffing
 - iii. Bargain labor contract language
 - iv. Development of a reasonable phase-in plan
 - v. Budget Development

 - b. Financial Management
 - i. Evaluation of wage scales
 - ii. Evaluation of staffing
 - iii. Policies and procedures
 - iv. Budget development and administration
 - v. Structure for reporting to legislative bodies, press, etc.

 - c. Facilities. Consider opportunities to streamline school facilities in order to reduce ongoing costs and improve services.

 - d. Technology services. Evaluate and implement opportunities to consolidate technology services, including web site development and maintenance services.

4. **Other opportunities for savings.** Evaluate other cost centers with the School that can be streamlined or modified in order to reduce costs, enhance alternative revenue streams, and/or improve services within existing resources, including:
 - a. Transportation services
 - b. In-district/out-of-district placement of students
 - c. School choice policy
 - d. Private fundraising opportunities, including expanded grant-writing, Volunteer Portland, Portland Educational Partnership, and any policies that inhibit private donations.

- Time Frame: By December 15, 2007 a report shall be provided to the Joint Finance Committee with implementation recommendations and plans regarding the Areas of Focus noted above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall work directly with the Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools for the purpose of carrying out the terms of the Plan for Sustainable Educational Quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Chair of Portland School Committee with a request that a companion resolution committing the Portland Public Schools to the Plan for Sustainable Educational Quality, and directing the Superintendent of Schools to work with the City Manager to carry out such Plan, be placed on the agenda for adoption during the Committee's next available meeting.