

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

REVISED FEBRUARY 2011

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20\_\_\_\_  General Election 2012  Special Election \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Measure No.: M 26-144  Argument in Favor  Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:  
Betty Soljaga

Original Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:  
Committee to Restore Education Before Buildings

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)  
Betty Soljaga 2021 SE Main, Portland, 97214

Telephone (home) 503- 823-6383 Telephone (work) NA

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)  
Betty Soljaga, 2012 SE Main, Portland, OR 97239

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument  Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: \_\_\_\_\_)

Note: Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.405 or 251.415 may be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

By signing this document, I hereby state I am responsible for the content of this argument. ORS 251.415 (2)



September 10, 2012  
Date signed

Signature of person furnishing argument (must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee or submit a Statement of Independent Expenditures (PC 10) with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further information.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Staff Initials CS

Argument order number A-1

Cash or Check Number cash

Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number 22912

Word/Number Count Total 377

# Restore Education Before Buildings

Vote **NO** on Portland Public Schools' Capital Construction Bond M-26-144

We are concerned citizens/parents who believe it vital for Portland Public Schools to thoroughly explore the root causes of its poor academic results.

Taxpayers must hold Portland Public Schools (PPS) and its Board **accountable** to focus on essential learning criteria, and deliver a quality education in the most **fiscally responsible manner**.

PPS neglected maintenance of public school properties for years. **We do not believe rebuilding schools is the critical next step to improve students' education outcomes.**

Instead, research consistently highlights **three critical steps necessary for successful academic results.**

- **More teachers** trained and supported to deliver superior student outcomes. Average graduation rate at PPS is only 62%,
- **More instructional classroom days.** In 2012-2013 PPS students have approximately 169.5 days. **According to The Oregonian 8/8/12, the national norm is 180 days.**
- **More parent involvement.** Parents need to demand more from their children, more from schools and from themselves; as Rudy Crew, State of Oregon Education Czar calls for in his book Only Connect.

**PPS must initiate an independent fiscal efficiency audit to:**

- Identify which low-enrollment schools to **consolidate/close** so remaining schools become stronger with more teachers and more electives,
- Identify district management/administrative positions to eliminate; place top priority on **additional teachers**,
- Identify what works at high-achieving schools such as **Benson** and apply to all schools.

**PPS is planning SEVEN more capital bonds over the next 32 years consuming about \$3 billion dollars.**

**Students are not getting academic results they need.**

**\$482 million construction dollars will not significantly improve education outcomes.**

~~Paid for: Committee to Restore Education Before Buildings~~

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

NCTD 011 (Rev. 01/2011)

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20\_\_\_\_  General Election 20<sup>12</sup>  Special Election \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Measure No.: 26-144

Argument in Favor  
 Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:  
 Teresa McGuire

Original Argument

Amended Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)  
 Teresa McGuire 3206 SW Caraway Ct Portland

Telephone (home)  
 503-705-6018

Telephone (work)

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)  
 Teresa McGuire 3206 SW Caraway Ct. Portland OR 97219

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Measure Argument  
 Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: \_\_\_\_\_)

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9/10/12

Signature of person furnishing argument  
 (must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

Date signed

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Staff Initials CS

Argument order number A-2

Cash or Check Number 4990

Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number 22914

Word/Number Count Total 325

# Vote No on Measure 26-144

Parents are often faced with having to say "No".  
This is one of those times.

**Portland Public Schools (PPS) has a costly construction plan but no successful education strategy.** PPS has taken a piecemeal approach on issue after issue.

## **What WORKS is not supported.**

- Benson has one of the highest graduation rates yet PPS restricted enrollment at Benson since 2010.
- PPS has hard choices to make in consolidating and closing campuses; yet refuses to take action.
- PPS must connect vocational programming to core curriculum and it responds by hurting Benson's program that works.

**We must reach a graduation rate of 100%; the current inflated rate of 62% is unacceptable. Teachers must be supported to correct this; new buildings are no guarantee.** Six PPS schools rank in the **BOTTOM 5%** of Title 1 schools. (Portland Tribune 8/2/12) Rosa Parks, at 45,147 sf. is one of these schools. This school was built in 2006 at \$239 a square foot (sf) ---40% above the norm at the time.

- Corvallis HS at 230,000 (total sf), built in 2003 with a total budget of \$46 million for \$200 a sf.
- Philomath HS, new for 2012, with a \$29.5 Million budget for 140,000 tsf or \$210 per sf.
- PPS wants you to open your wallet and pay **\$95 MILLION for Grant**, (274,489 sf) **\$85 Million for Franklin** (218,574 sf) and **\$70 Million for Roosevelt** (228,535).
- **These costs of \$306-389 per square foot are too high. What buildings are we getting while children receive a tarnished education?**

**Do we trust PPS to spend money appropriately? The only oversight is PPS's word some "independent group will be appointed... to review reports and audits".** Who will appoint this group? What criteria qualify them to act in our best interests?

**Please join me in Voting No on Measure 26-144.**

Teresa McGuire  
Parent, two Wilson Grads  
Past Volunteer of the Year, Jackson MS

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MCED 011 (Rev. 01-2011)

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20\_\_\_\_  General Election 20\_\_  Special Election \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Measure No.: M-26-144  Argument in Favor  Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:  
Kelsey Green Grout

Original Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)

Kelsey Green Grout

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)

Kelsey Green Grout, 2591 SW Buckingham Ave., Portland, OR

Telephone (home)

503-224-0057

Telephone (work)

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument

Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Signature of person furnishing argument  
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

Date signed

9/10/12

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Staff Initials CS

Argument order number A-3

Cash or Check Number 6608

Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number 22916

Word/Number Count Total 320

~~Vote NO construction bond M-26-144~~

## Wrong Priorities

### Troubling Facts

**Inadequate 62% high school graduation rate.**  
**50% of graduates lack necessary skills to pass freshman college math,**  
**45% are not reading adequately enough to earn C's (2012 ACT test scores).**

### Troubling Questions

**Does allocating 250 million dollars for only 3 high schools significantly improve student performance?**

On the contrary, research consistently shows learning drastically improves with **more teachers** who receive training and support to assist students, parents and administration in academic **accountability**. **Human relationships guarantee success**, not buildings.

Recently, Alice Ott Middle school, David Douglas District, increased state standards from 50% to 80% with 73% of their students on the free or reduced lunch program. How? **The staff/teachers say consistent, positive, energetic staff produced powerful gains.** (Oregonian 9/1/12)

**Why are we "repaying" a <sup>10.8</sup>\$45 million dollar debt for Rosa Parks school?** How was this school built without sufficient funds? If new buildings are PPS's answer to improved learning, why is our **newest school** rated with "profound problems". (New Ratings, Oregonian 8/4/12)

**Many citizens' resources are limited, what is the most cost effective way to improve safety and disability access?**

No one argues the need to upgrade our science rooms, but with annual million dollar budget shortfalls, **how will these classrooms be staffed with trained science teachers?**

PPS must **lead** in adopting **innovative cost effective business, education and negotiation models**. Instead of the past "victim mentality" of never enough money, PPS needs to **work with all parties** (teachers, administrations, unions, legislators) to **reign in PERS**. Until this "elephant in the room" is resolved, our kids will never achieve an exemplary education. The monies are there. They need to be reallocated to classroom learning, not retirements.

Save money for more teachers, **support an efficiency audit** to consolidate/close more low performing schools, reexamine administration bureaucracy.

**Vote No** Hold our education leaders **accountable** for superior academic results.

Kelsey Green Grout, 15 year PPS parent & volunteer

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MCED 011 (Rev. 01/2011)

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Measure No.: 26-144  
 Argument in Favor  
 Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):  
Name of person:  
Don McIntire

Original Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:  
TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)  
Don McIntire

Telephone (home)

Telephone (work)  
503-603-9009

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)  
TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION OF OREGON,  
P.O. Box 23573 U.S. Post Office, 97281

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9-9-12  
Date signed

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Staff Initials (initials)

Argument order number A4

Cash or Check Number 2269

Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number 22918

Word/Number Count Total 209

## **NO on Measure 26-144**

Apparently, members of the Portland School Board think most voters failed in math.

What else would explain their belief that their breathtakingly huge bond measure would add up for your approval?

How huge?

- If approved, taxpayers will have to pick up the additional cost of principle-and-interest on a whopping \$482 million!
- It will be the **largest local bond measure approved in Oregon history!**
- It is so big that the total request is nearly **greater than the total cost of all the other 15 local tax measures combined** on the entire Oregon ballot.
- Currently, the district is already **spending an incredible rate of \$13,000 per student**, per year, for classrooms that are open approximately two-thirds of a year.

Throughout the state and nation, it is generally agreed that public schools are in need of major overhaul and that more money is not the answer. In fact, this ridiculously extravagant bond measure indicates that the Portland School District desperately needs to be reformed.

Again, approval of this bond measure will only delay meaningful school reform and recklessly piles an even bigger burden on long-suffering taxpayers.

**Vote No, absolutely, on Measure 26-144**

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