

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING)	RESOLUTION NO. 92-1568
A REGIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS)	
TO CONSIDER ISSUES OF CONCERN)	Introduced by Councilor Hansen,
TO METRO AND THE CITIZENS OF)	Councilor McLain and Executive
THE REGION)	Officer Rena Cusma

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Service District supports and participates in activities which involve citizens and student youth in issues of Metropolitan significance; and

WHEREAS, A frame for involvement in regional affairs exists in the State Student Congress format which provides an organized forum for the presentation of a Regional Student Congress; and

WHEREAS, Said Regional Student Congress can enhance the benefits of student education through a public discussion of important regional issues; and


WHEREAS, A small investment of public funds can assure sound planning and execution of a Regional Student Congress and leverage private contributors to sponsor various activities entailed in successful congress presentation; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Metropolitan Service District take the lead in sponsoring a Regional Student Congress; and
2. That a sum not to exceed \$10,000 be budgeted and a workplan prepared that assures the presentation of a well-considered, instructive and successful Regional Student Congress in May of 1992; and
3. That the Executive Officer and Council representatives to

the congress planning process, identify regional issues for debate that reflect the regional agenda confronting Metro and the citizens of the region.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this 27th day of February, 1992.



Jim Gardner, Presiding Officer

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 92-1568, ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO METRO AND THE CITIZENS OF THE REGION

Date: February 21, 1992 Presented by: Councilor McLain

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At its February 20, 1992 meeting the Governmental Affairs Committee voted 3-0 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-1568. Voting were Councilors Collier, DeJardin, and Devlin. Councilors Bauer and Wyers were absent.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ISSUES: Executive Assistant Don Rocks presented the staff report. In addition to the background information in the written staff report, he said that a competitive bidding process had been conducted to hire a consultant to stage the Regional Student Congress. Northwest Strategies submitted the low bid of \$9,950. This money is to be split between the Council budget and the Office of Government Relations budget; the Council department has funds available in the Miscellaneous Professional Services line item, and the money from Government Relations will come from the funds budgeted for the Tri-Met study. The project also requires \$650 for room rental at the Oregon Convention Center. Mr. Rocks also said he has developed a draft set of topics for discussion at the Congress, which he will make available to the Committee.

Chair Collier invited Councilors Hansen and McLain to comment on the resolution. Councilor Hansen said she has supported this project since the Executive Officer first approached her about it in the summer. She said it will be an all-day event on a Saturday, and she encouraged all Councilors to attend the lunch portion of the congress to show their interest and talk with the students. Councilor McLain said she has experience with similar events and said the Congress format was preferable in this situation because it gives more students the chance to participate. They can write bills and resolutions, and prepare three-minute statements in support or opposition of an item. This format gives them experience in extemporaneous speaking, cross-examination, and debate. She said the national and state forensics leagues would not allow discussion of regional issues at one of their forums because they are restricted to state and national issues. She also said she supports this project because it is a good format to interact with schools and students, especially in a time when spending for education is being cut back; this will give students the opportunity to have a positive view of government.

Chair Collier asked about advertising for the Congress. Councilor McLain said a mailing is being prepared, and flyers are being handed out at schools. She encouraged Councilors to talk with school staffs in their sub-districts to make them aware of the Congress and encourage participation.

Councilor Devlin asked if Metro's financial obligation could exceed the total of the Northwest Strategies contract plus room rental. Mr. Rocks said that would be the extent of Metro's financial obligation.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 92-1568 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO METRO AND THE CITIZENS OF THE REGION

Date: February 20, 1992 Presented by: Don Rocks

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

An informal committee met beginning several months ago around the proposition that a student convention to discuss and debate a Home Rule Charter for Metro both would be instructive for the students involved and heighten interest and awareness generally.

Participants included Executive Officer Cusma, Councilors Hansen, McLain, and Collier, Dick Engstrom, Ken Gervais, Len Bergstein, Harold Hart, and Marko Haggard.

After some discussion it was agreed that to sponsor a one-issue student convention around the Metro Charter issue was overly narrow, potentially perceived as self-serving and likely to require the construction of a special format and a present formidable organizational effort.

Councilor McLain's familiarity with the State Student Congress, its format and ready made organizational structure, persuaded the group that using this well established vehicle and enlarging the subject matter to a set of regional issues was a better idea. And thus it came pass.

Early indications place high school student enrollees at over 200 and perhaps as high as 400 from throughout the region. School districts in Eugene and Medford have also expressed their intent to participate.

The Resolution proposes that the council approve the expenditure of some \$9,500. For a personal service contract with Northwest Strategies to produce appropriate materials and orchestrate the necessary logistics associated with a successful Regional Student Congress. Those logistics include the sign-up of sundry Congress co-sponsors to assume the cost of necessary goods and services associated with the event. Such goods and services will have an estimated value of \$40 to \$50,000.

The site of the congress shall be, appropriately, The Oregon Convention Center. The date is set for May 9, 1992.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer and Co-Sponsors Councilor's Hansen and McLain enthusiastically recommend approval of Resolution No. 92-1568