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**REPORT
ON
AREA EDUCATION DISTRICT
(For Special Election June 6, 1968 on Metropolitan Community College)**

Ballot Title: (As this report goes to press, the exact wording of this special election measure's ballot title had not yet been drawn.)

To the Board of Governors,
The City Club of Portland:

I. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

Your Committee was assigned to review and appraise the proposal for an Area Metropolitan Community College District to be voted on at a special election, June 6. All the members of this reconstituted committee served on the Community College Study Committee, which made its report to the City Club in 1967.

II. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

The Committee has confined its current study to the proposal for an Area Metropolitan Community College District, which was submitted by a citizens' committee to the State Board of Education and approved by the State Board. Supplementary information has been received from John J. Mathews, chairman of the citizens' committee. For background on community colleges in Oregon, the Committee refers members to its report of March 31, 1967.⁽¹⁾

III. INTRODUCTION

The ballot proposal would create a new Area Education District for a community college, to include all of Washington County and the public school districts of Portland, Riverdale, Sauvie Island, Lake Oswego, St. Helens, Scappoose, Vernonia and Newberg. In effect, this area would include that part of the Portland metropolitan area not now included in the two existing metropolitan community college districts—Mt. Hood to the east and Clackamas to the south. The proposal will be on the ballot June 6 in all the districts concerned; i.e., in all of Washington and parts of Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, and Columbia counties.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The proposal developed in this manner: On April 22, 1965, Washington County voters rejected a proposal to form a Community College District covering that county. Many interested parties in Washington County favored joining with other parts of the metropolitan area in support of the Portland Community College, whose location on Mt. Sylvania is convenient to suburban areas to the west and

south of Portland. Lake Oswego school officials also favored such cooperation. Subsequently, school authorities in Newberg, Riverdale, Sauvie Island, Vernonia, St. Helens, and Scappoose asked to be included in the plan.

Citizens Committee Chairman Matthews has informed the Committee that the plan is supported by school leadership in all the districts included, and that the initiative came from these districts, and not from the Citizens Committee. The Portland School Board has officially approved the plan by resolution.

If the proposal is approved, the Portland School Board would relinquish control of Portland Community College and arrangements would be made between the Portland district and the new Area Metropolitan Community College District as to its assets. There would be a year of transition, beginning July 1, 1968 with the new Community College District becoming active July 1, 1969.

The sponsoring Citizens Committee has calculated that the proposed district could operate a community college and provide money for construction on a pay-as-you-go basis for no more than a 1-mill local levy; i.e., \$1 per thousand of true cash value. State and federal funds would supplement these local funds.

The college would be administered by a Board of Directors elected from throughout the area covered.

Your Committee is not aware of any organized opposition to the measure.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposal coincides with recommendations made by members of this Committee in 1967:

1. That there be unity of community college administration in the metropolitan area; and
2. That all areas in the state be included in the community college system.

Parts of the metropolitan area have already been organized in the Mt. Hood and Clackamas community college districts, as noted above. The proposed consolidation of these remaining districts into a third metropolitan community college district should help, not hinder, coordination among community college programs in the metropolitan area.

None of the school districts concerned, except Portland, is in a community college district at present. If this proposal is rejected, then all but Portland would be left outside a community college district. These districts outside Portland might band together to organize a new suburban community college district but they would have far fewer resources than would be available with the inclusion of Portland.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

Your Committee therefore recommends that the City Club go on record in favor of an Area Metropolitan Community College District, and urges a "Yes" vote at the special election on June 6, 1968 on this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Raymond Balcomb
John H. Eyer
Lee Irwin
Robert W. McMenamin
James A. Miller
Lloyd B. Williams
Malcolm C. Bauer, *Chairman*

Approved by the Research Board May 14, 1968 and submitted to the Board of Governors.

Received by the Board of Governors May 17, 1968 and ordered printed and submitted to the membership for discussion and action.

(1) "Community College Program in Oregon," Portland City Club Bulletin, March 31, 1967, Vol. 47, No. 44, pp. 247 through 272.