

March 18, 1987
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INTRODUCED BY: SIMS, GRUGER, LAING

PROPOSED NO.: 87-167

MOTION NO. 6767

A MOTION relating to intergovernmental relations; proposing a policy group to review issues regarding the problems of school age youth and the relationship between King County government, the public and private schools, school districts, in King County; proposing the initial members of the policy group.

WHEREAS, King County has a population in excess of 1.3 million persons of which approximately 350,000 are youths under nineteen years of age, and

WHEREAS, there are twenty school districts in King County serving a total enrollment of approximately 198,000 through the K-12 school grade, and

WHEREAS, the Seattle School District is the largest district in King County having a 1986 enrollment level in excess of 43,500 youth, and

WHEREAS, private school enrollment in King County in 1986 totalled in excess of 29,500 youths, 12,700 within the boundaries of the Seattle School District, and

WHEREAS, Educational School District No. 121 serves the school districts of King County, provides cooperative and informational services, assists the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education in the performance of their duties in King County, and

WHEREAS, the King County department of youth services is responsible for the non-judicial management of juvenile court services, including detention, intake investigation, and probation, and

WHEREAS, school officials and staff have a substantial working knowledge of the problems and social issues facing youths and youths-at-risk, and

1 WHEREAS, King County officials and staff are directly
2 involved in the attempted social rehabilitation of troubled
3 youths, and

4 WHEREAS, schools are a public priority in all communities of
5 King County, and

6 WHEREAS, King County's Comprehensive Plan recognizes the need
7 for county government to coordinate our land use policies and
8 plans to insure all public agencies provide adequate facilities
9 and services to the general public, and

10 WHEREAS, given the demographic and social change in the youth
11 population since 1970, total declines in school enrollment, the
12 implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act in 1979, there is
13 merit to school and county officials meeting to discuss issues
14 related to youth and those issues affecting coordination of
15 public services between the institutions, and

16 WHEREAS, the youth population under nineteen in 1986
17 (350,000) represents a forty percent decrease in the population
18 when compared to 1970 levels (521,891), and

19 WHEREAS, current enrollment through K-12 (198,000) as
20 compared to 1970 levels (262,000) represents a thirty percent
21 decline, and

22 WHEREAS, the Seattle School District's enrollment declined
23 the highest of all school districts for the period 1970 (84,500)
24 through 1986 (43,500) or approximately fifty percent, and

25 WHEREAS, aside from the city of Seattle and the Seattle
26 School District, in the balance of King County, between 1970 and
27 1986, youth enrollment declined approximately thirteen percent
28 while the general population increased some forty percent, and

29 WHEREAS, the private schools' enrollment in 1986 (29,500)
30 represents almost a forty percent increase as compared to 1970
31 (21,500), and

1 WHEREAS, although the general youth population and school
2 enrollment in King County has declined since 1970, the number of
3 youth served by the department of youth services has stayed
4 relatively constant or has risen, and

5 WHEREAS, in 1985 there were 4,900 dependency hearings, a
6 sixty percent increase as compared to 1971, a dependency hearing
7 is one in which the Superior Court is asked to take custody of
8 youths who have allegedly been abandoned, abused, neglected or
9 having no apparent guardian, parent or custodian, and

10 WHEREAS, in 1985, 4,089 youth were admitted to detention
11 compared with 4,450 in 1971, a 1985 average daily population of
12 114 compared to 124 in 1971, and

13 WHEREAS, in 1985, 10,059 youth were referred to community
14 diversion programs, and

15 WHEREAS, aside from public services, there is a sizeable
16 population of youths-at-risk, school age youths some
17 characterized as "street kids" or these and other youths
18 evidencing aberrant behavior because of social disadvantages, and

19 WHEREAS, prior to King County's Home Rule Charter, the office
20 of school superintendent representing King County school
21 districts was a current expense agency, headed by an elected
22 official, performing many of the same functions now performed by
23 the Educational Service District #121;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

25 A. A policy group is hereby formed composed of school
26 officials, through K-12, and county officials.

27 B. The purpose of the group is two-fold:

28 1. Discuss the social problems of school age youths and
29 youths-at-risk in King County examining the institutional
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1 relationships between school districts, private schools and
2 county agencies such as the department of youth services; propose
3 policy and strategies to address the educational and social needs
4 of school age youths in King County, and

5 2. Discuss the institutional issues of coordination
6 between King County, the school districts and private schools,
7 issues such as land use planning and public capital improvements.

8 C. The initial membership of the policy group shall be:

9 1. The county executive and/or the director of the
10 department of youth services,

11 2. The chairs of the council's standing committees on
12 housing and human services and administration and justice,

13 3. The superintendent of schools for the Seattle School
14 District or his designee,

15 4. A representative of the private schools in King County,
16 the appointment to be coordinated by the Washington Federation of
17 Independent Schools, and

18 5. At least four additional members appointed by the
19 chair of the council, in consultation with the superintendent of
20 the Educational Service District No. 121, drawn from school
21 districts outside the city of Seattle, representative of:

22 a. An official involved in youth counseling or early
23 intervention and identification of youth problems affecting the
24 educational process,

25 b. A school board member actively involved in district
26 policy-making,

27 c. An official, such as a principal, directly involved
28 in managing a school and the educational process.

29 d. A superintendent of a school district or his designee
30 selected from a school district outside of the City of Seattle.

31 6. A representative of the youth service bureaus, the
32 appointment to be coordinated by the director of the King County
33 department of human resources, and

1 7. The superintendent of Educational Service District #121
2 or his designee.

3 D. The policy group shall initially meet at the call of the
4 council chair at a time and place deemed appropriate.

5 E. The group will initially approve informal rules of
6 organization, propose an agenda of meetings and issues to be
7 discussed. It is understood that to the extent feasible, group
8 members shall coordinate their available resources to provide
9 staffing assistance to the group.

10 F. By October 1, 1987 the group will report to the King
11 County council its recommendations of policies and strategies to
12 address educational and social needs of school age youth and
13 institutional coordination between King County, school districts,
14 and private schools.

15 G. Any continuation of the policy group beyond December 31,
16 1987 shall require subsequent action by the council.

17 PASSED this 23rd day of March, 1987.

18 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
19 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20 Bill Reams
21 VICE Chair

22 ATTEST:

23
24 Dorothy M. Owens
25 Clerk of the Council