

# Roundtable Discussion of School-Based Fundraising in PPS

June 2022



TOGETHER  
WE WILL

# Introductions & Our Approach

Introductions- Please share your name, pronouns, school and how are you active in your school community

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear from you - parent leaders in N/NE Portland schools - to listen to your experiences and ideas on this issue. Thank you for sharing your ideas.



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# Meeting Objective

Objective: The PPS Board of Education Policy Committee is currently examining school-based fundraising with the goal of revising the current policies and practices to be more inclusive and to support more responsible and equitable fundraising.

This will be on the June 22 agenda of the Policy Committee, which is open to the public and you can sign up to testify if you wish. Staff will share what we hear from these meetings at Roosevelt and McDaniel, students (District Student Council), school administrators and parent advocates.



# PPS Budget Context

Public Education has long been underfunded in Oregon. In the last 15 years, important new funds have been secured, including \$100 million annual local option fund, arts tax, two bonds, plus a statewide corporate tax which funds the Student Investment Account. The cost of operating schools continue to outpace these revenues. The needs of students continue to grow.

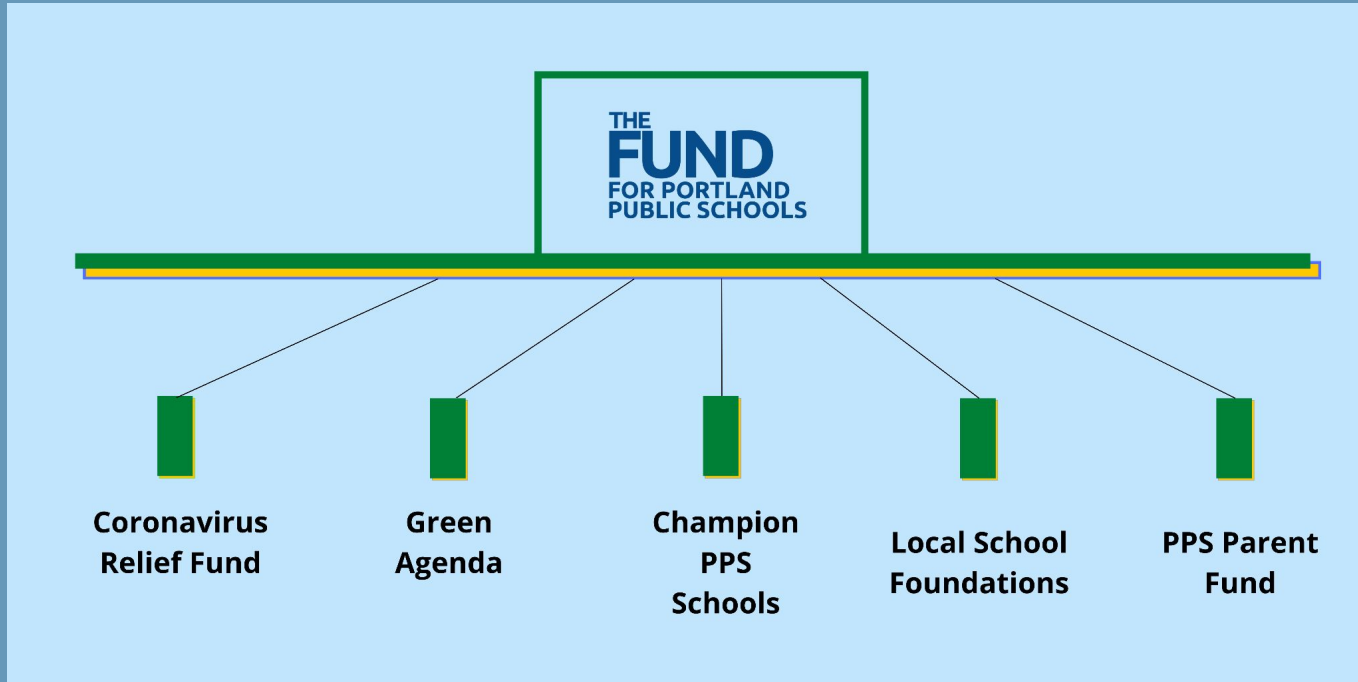
PPS budgets for schools using a differentiated funding model, whereby schools with more students of color, English Language Learners, special education, and low-income students are given more resources.

Some Federal and State dollars target underserved student groups and add to some school budgets, e.g. Title I, special education.

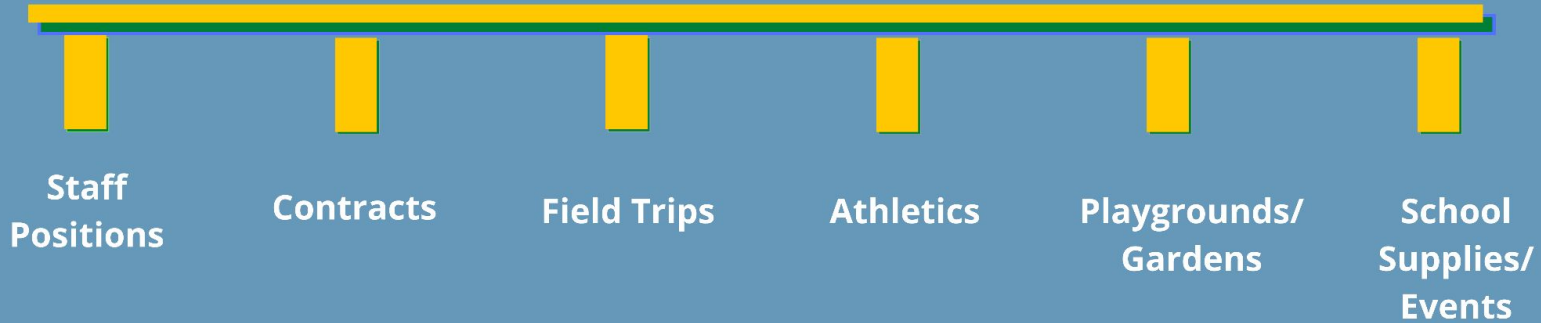
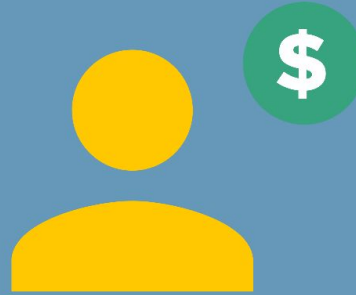
Fundraising in schools is one way that parents supplement school budgets, but it results in some schools having more resources than others.



# The Fund for PPS



# Common Investments by PPS Parent Groups



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## Parent Groups Fundraise for the Following (Foundations, PTAs, PTOs, Nonprofits and Other Parent Groups)

Staff positions	School foundations are the only Parent Group that may contribute to staff positions in PPS, and are the only group that is currently required to share a portion of what they fundraise with other schools- they can keep $\frac{2}{3}$ and they are required to contribute $\frac{1}{3}$ to a general pot that is redistributed to other schools
Contracts with nonprofit educational organizations	Whenever a Parent Group pays for services received by students during the school day, the school district must contract with the nonprofit educational organization. The dollars are donated to the school and then PPS contracts with the provider for the program.
Playground and Facility Improvements	Parent Groups may fundraise and pay for playground and other facility improvements. Because improvements must adhere to the safety standards of the school district, groups are required to secure a Permit for Donated Improvements, <a href="https://pps.net/Page/1397">pps.net/Page/1397</a> and work with a PPS Project Manager, as outlined: <a href="https://pps.net/Page/18701">pps.net/Page/18701</a> . The Parent Group is then allowed to purchase the equipment and hire contractors to install the equipment, with ongoing oversight by the PPS Project Manager.
Field Trips	Some schools rely on Parent Groups to fundraise for field trips. And, sanctioned fundraisers, such as Run for the Arts, (managed by Young Audiences) brings in school-based dollars for field trips to see live performances or other arts enrichment. There are also Parent Groups associated with Dual Language Immersion Programs that fundraise to send students to another country for 1-2 weeks.



## PPS School Foundations

PPS practice requires school foundations to contribute one third (33%) of the money they spend on staff positions to The PPS Parent Fund. Two-thirds of the money they raise is held in a grant account and can be spent by the principal for staff positions.

## PPS Parent Fund Awards

Grants from the PPS Parent Fund are awarded to schools based on a two-criteria eligibility:

- 40% students identified as Underserved
- 15% students eligible for free meals.

[2022-23 PPS Parent Fund Awards](#)

Question: What about schools in the middle- ones that cannot raise enough for a staff position- but also do not qualify for PPS Parent Fund?





# Questions for Discussion

1. What could responsible fundraising look like in PPS?
2. How can fundraising be more inclusive and contribute to a stronger sense of community district wide?
3. What changes would you like to see related to fundraising and to any guidelines for Parent Groups that currently fundraise?



## Potential Policy Changes for Discussion

### Some of the proposed options discussed by the Board Policy Committee

- Eliminate the ability of School Foundations to pay for staff positions because most schools cannot raise enough to buy staff
- Increase the amount shared with other schools through the PPS Parent Fund from one third (33%) to 40% or 50%
- Limit the number of positions one school can purchase and/or the types of positions they can pay for, such as classified/support positions, rather than teachers
- Apply a sharing formula to contracts, playgrounds, other large investments made by Parent Groups that solely benefit one school, although this may exacerbate challenges for schools in the middle bracket
- Require contributions go to a central districtwide fund, rather than allowing funds to stay with the school that raised the funds
- Ask Parent Groups to consider making a voluntary contribution (10%?) to a central districtwide fund that is then redistributed to all schools based on the number of students qualified for free meals



## Potential Unintended Consequences

### Potential unintended consequences of restricting school foundation fundraising

- Elimination of the ability of School Foundations to pay for staff positions may reduce staff positions and the PPS Parent Funds
- Unknown whether other changes would mean that School Foundations would stop or do less fundraising or be willing to contribute to districtwide efforts

### Potential unintended consequences of allowing school foundation fundraising to continue

- May contribute to divisiveness/competition among schools for resources rather than unified, districtwide efforts and shared advocacy efforts at the state or local level
- The current system may perpetuate inequities because so few schools are able to raise enough money for staff
- Schools that can fundraise for staff are less likely to donate funds to support local funding measures or to advocate for greater legislative funding which provides substantial financial support to all our schools

