



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227
Telephone: (971) 421-4447

Date: August 2, 2022
To: School Board
From: Kat Davis, Advisor for Climate Justice
Subject: Climate Crisis Response Committee—Recommended Candidates

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, the PPS Board of Education (the Board) unanimously adopted the Climate Crisis Response, Climate Justice and Sustainable Practices Policy (the Policy). One Policy objective is to establish a Climate Crisis Response Committee (CCR Committee). The CCR Committee will bring together a diverse group of individuals with unique perspectives, insights, expertise and lived experiences to monitor the effective implementation of the District's Climate Action Plan, and to track progress of the Portland Public Schools' (the District) Policy goals. The CCR Committee informs and advises the Board, but does not have decision-making authority.

The Policy mandates that the CCR Committee is composed of no more than nine volunteer members appointed by the Board to initial staggered terms of one and two years with all subsequent terms being two years. At minimum, the majority of members (5 of 9) will identify as people of color. Two members will be current PPS students and each serve one-year terms. All non-student members of the CCR Committee are to be either members of the community or current or former PPS parents. No persons directly employed or in contract with the District may participate on the CCR Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The District created the CCR Committee application and shared this opportunity with the community. The application closed on June 15, 2022, resulting in a total of 71 applicants, 24 of which were students. The applicant pool is a representative group of diverse racial identities, professional and lived experience, geography, and school communities.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

The selection for this committee is to be voted on by the Board on August 9, 2022. Upon approval, an orientation and first meeting will be held with the selected candidates in October 2022, after which the Committee will meet quarterly with annual progress reports to the Board.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the CCR Committee included a three-stage application review. The first stage was completed by the Advisor for Climate Justice, reviewing all 71 applications and assigning them into one of three tiers, Tier 1 - 3, with Tier 1 representing the strongest applicants. Applications were placed into their Tier category based on:

- completeness of applications,
- relevant skills and knowledge - including professional, volunteer, educational, and lived experience,
- expressed enthusiasm, interest, or passion for the role,
- articulated goals, and
- expressed ability to listen to and value differing perspectives.

For stage two review, the candidate applications organized by Tier were then sent to the review panel, consisting of two Board members and one student. The student participated only in the review of the adult applicants and did not have access or input on the student applications or review processes. The reviewers were instructed to review each application and assign a score to their top, second, and third choice candidates, with a restricted number of scores allowed per applicant group (student versus adult). The reviewers each conducted their reviews and placed their scores separately, with the goal of identifying the top candidates as objectively as possible.

The scores were then tallied across all candidates resulting in 11 adult candidates and 3 student candidates scoring in Tier 1. The final stage of review included a discussion primarily of the Tier 1 candidates, a review of those candidates considering the policy criteria and racial equity and social justice lens and consideration of what complementary skills and experiences would best support the CCR Committee’s work, charge and responsibilities.

BOARD OPTIONS WITH ANALYSIS

The review panel and the Advisor for Climate Justice recommend the following individuals for membership on the CCR Committee:

One-year term

- Danny Cage (student)
- Jordan Steele (student)
- Isaac Barrow
- Charity Fain
- Erik Opsahl

Two-year term

- Barbi Alexander
- Jane Commeault
- Angela Long
- Dianne Riley

These nine candidates represent the PPS community with a diversity of backgrounds, interests, knowledge and experiences that will add substantial value to monitoring of the implementation of the Policy. This recommended slate includes a wide variety of professional expertise (including expertise in sustainability, energy, planning, policy, public health, non-profit, business, and lived experience), and geographic diversity; and each candidate is connected to different school communities. In addition, all adult candidates are either parents of current or former PPS students. This group of recommended individuals also meets the Committee representation goals set in the CCR Policy.

CONNECTION TO BOARD GOALS

The approval of the CCR Committee is progress towards the Policy goals, laying the foundation to set milestones and metrics that will continue to move forward the work of meeting our net zero greenhouse gas emission goals and integrating climate change and climate justice into PPS operations, engagement, curriculum, and community engagement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is my recommendation the Board approve these candidates for the CCR Committee.

As a member of the PPS Executive Leadership Team, I have reviewed this staff report.

 JG (Initials)

ATTACHMENTS

A. Resolution