



## PPS Affirms Support for the Albina Vision and Authorizing First Right of Offer Common Questions and Responses

### Additional References:

- [Portland Public Schools reImagined](#)
- [PPS Theory of Action](#)
- ARTICLE: [Bleeding Albina: A History of Community Disinvestment, 1940-2000](#)
- Resolution 6303: [Affirming Support for the Albina Vision and Authorizing First Right of Offer](#)

### Why is the Portland Public Schools Board of Education considering Resolution 6303: Affirming Support for the Albina Vision and Authorizing First Right of Offer?

As a public institution we have a duty to examine the complex, interwoven systems that have resulted in harm to Portland's Black community and to take responsibility and bold decisive action to address this harm. PPS understands and acknowledges that the school district is one of many public institutions that along with private institutions and individuals participated in official policies and unofficial behaviors that actively and intentionally excluded Black, Indigenous and communities of color from full participation in the economy and society, including restricting the ability of members of these groups from owning or maintaining land and property.

The Albina Neighborhood was once a thriving, creative, and affordable neighborhood consisting of Black-owned businesses, homes, and faith institutions. It was the cultural capital of Portland with world class jazz venues, environmental justice initiatives, and education models created for and by Black Portlanders. Decades of disinvestment, urban renewal, and racist public policy disintegrated the neighborhood. The Albina Vision Trust (AVT) is a nonprofit organization created to steward the neighborhood's rebirth through the thoughtful transformation of the 94-acres of lower Albina.

By supporting the mission of the Albina Vision Trust (AVT), PPS Senior Leadership and the School Board is taking action in its continued efforts to repair relationships and actively champion community-led reinvention and transformation of one key local site that figures in an infamous history. The 94 acres of lower Albina upon which the district headquarters is currently situated was a site from which thousands of primarily Black residents were forcibly removed over decades of so-called urban renewal. While undoing the displacement is impossible, AVT offers the opportunity to live into the PPS vision of racial equity and social justice.

**What does it mean to offer AVT a first right of offer and what are the details of the agreement? Why is Multnomah County part of this transaction and why is it relinquishing its first purchase rights to AVT as part of this transaction?**

Offering Albina Vision Trust a first right means that if PPS desires to sell, convey, exchange, grant an option to purchase, lease or otherwise transfer the BESC to another party, it must give notice to AVT and allow AVT first purchasing rights.

In 2000, PPS granted a first right to purchase the BESC to Multnomah County as part of a long term lease agreement. Because Multnomah County shares Albina Vision Trust’s commitment to creating a more equitable future and ensuring that children and families can thrive, it is now relinquishing its first purchase rights to AVT. PPS and its Board of Education are deeply appreciative of Chair Deborah Kafoury, the Board of Commissioners and our County colleagues for agreeing to this and being part of a historic partnership.

**How does this decision align to PPS’ vision, core values, and mission? Will PPS be selling, leasing or taking less money in a future real estate transaction? As a public, taxpayer-funded entity, why not focus only on the financial bottom line and seek the highest bidder?**

Our decision aligns with key elements of the district vision, [PPS reimagined](#). This is a chance for us as leaders to model what our community-created vision states: Educators should strive to be Racial Equity and Social Justice Centered. As our students observe our actions, they can begin to see themselves as the Transformative Racial Equity Leaders described in the vision. Collaborating with AVT is an embodiment of the PPS Core Values of Partnerships and Collaboration, Relationships, RESJ, and, we believe, is Grounded in the Spirit of Portland—at its best and most inclusive.

Part of good stewardship is ensuring that public dollars bring about a collective prosperity, sometimes called “commonwealth.” PPS recognizes in AVT a partner whose values align with our own and who can help to advance a broader set of positive outcomes for children and families.

The agreement states that PPS will expect fair market value from a sale and AVT accepts this position. A partnership between AVT and PPS will help maximize the financial value of any potential redevelopment and advance the wellbeing of our community, first and foremost for people who have been excluded.

**How does this connect with the Center for Black Student Excellence that was approved by Portland voters on the November 2020 PPS Bond?**

PPS is not currently planning to sell the BESC. However, we understand the value of the site *and* recognize the importance of considering what, in the future, might be an inspired and best use of the property. This resolution indicates PPS' commitment to working with AVT on decisions related to the future of this valuable, centrally located and historically important site.

**Is Portland Public Schools (PPS) selling the Blanchard Educational Services Center (BESC)?**

PPS is not currently planning to sell the BESC. However, we understand the value of the site *and* recognize the importance of considering what, in the future, might be an inspired and best use of the property. This resolution indicates PPS' commitment to working with AVT on decisions related to the future of this valuable, centrally located and historically important site.

**Is PPS relocating its central office? If not, why are they even talking about this right now?**

As one of the largest real estate holders in the city, PPS regularly evaluates its holdings and stays informed about Portland's dynamic commercial real estate market. All decisions made regarding property ownership or sale must support the district vision and core values. The district must ensure the responsible management of its real estate assets and provide a safe and functional environment in which PPS can conduct District business and which the community can easily access.

There are no imminent plans to relocate the district's central offices.

###