

Public Comment on Draft Policies

Please provide your comments on policies currently proposed for revisions or rescissions, or new policies. Policies are open for public comment for a minimum of 21 days between the First Reading and the Second Reading, when a adopt the policy.

Email *

[Redacted]

Name *

Callie Barish

Email *

[Redacted]

Your School Community *

Atkinson Elementary and Harrison Park Middle

Do you provide permission to post your comments on the PPS website? *

- Yes, with name
- Yes, without name
- No. Share only with Board and District staff

Policy you are providing comment on *

Revision: Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising 7.10.020-P (Formerly Parent Groups and the Schools) ▼

Please provide your comments below *

To the members of the PPS School Board:

I am a parent of students at Atkinson Elementary School and Harrison Park Middle School writing to support the draft policy to move PPS to a district-wide foundation that allows all schools to work together to raise funds for FTE and align advocacy for increased state funding.

I support this change because it creates a pathway for aligned advocacy for state funding, which is at the heart of the issue and eliminates disparities in the extra funds that schools get for hiring staff. The current system simply isn't equitable and a district-wide foundation respects the needs and dignity of all school communities.

After years of discussion, drafts, and community feedback, I am so glad that the time is finally coming for a district-wide foundation, so that fundraising practices better reflect PPS's stated values of social justice and racial equity. The timing couldn't be better, as we need all PPS community members to come together to send Salem a message about the increased education funding that we ALL need.

Thank you,
Callie Barish
Parent of Atkinson Elementary School and Harrison Park Middle School Parents
Co-President of the Atkinson Elementary PTA



Public Comment <publiccomment@pps.net>

Foundation Reform Policy

1 message

Beth Cavanaugh

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 8:26 AM

To: Public Comment <PublicComment@pps.net>

Hello,

I would like this submitted as public comment for the 21-day comment period on the draft Foundation policy, but it includes an image so I wasn't able to submit using the form. I am fine with my name being shared.

Beth Cavanaugh
Hosford Middle School and Cleveland High School

Yesterday, I saw the attached message that was shared with a school community using Konstella, a school communication tool. I don't know how many schools shared this message. I am a member of the organizing group Reform PPS Funding, and since we don't have access to schoolwide communications such as Konstella, I wanted to address some of the claims in this message publicly.

Claim 1: Passing this policy change will result in the loss of 100 positions in the 25-26 school year.

This year, foundation dollars and Parent Fund grants combined funded a total of **7.17** certified FTE (teachers and specialists), **19.46** classified FTE (EAs, study hall monitors, executive assistants for example), and **.6** non-represented FTE, for a grand total of **27.23** FTE. One FTE = Full Time Employee, and when foundations pay for a portion of a position, that is counted as a part of an FTE. In PPS, Foundations have never funded anywhere near 100 FTE per year. It is misleading to say "100 positions" when the reality is, these dollars pay for small portions (some as small as .01 or .02) of many positions adding up to a total of **27.23 FTE**.

Assuming that any position paid for in any part by Foundation or Parent Fund dollars would be eliminated is misleading. Reducing a position from .8 to .7 FTE is not the same as eliminating it. This also assumes that the district-wide foundation would raise **zero dollars** to replace LSF funds—another misleading statement.

Claim 2: "The policy committee has intentionally advanced this proposal under the radar."

For the last 6 years, the policy committee has held publicly noticed meetings to discuss this potential reform. There have been community meetings, round tables, and administrator surveys. There has been newspaper, magazine, and radio coverage. There have been dozens of public commenters on both sides of the issue and hundreds of emails sent. Nothing about this proposal has ever been "under the radar."

Reasonable people can disagree on this issue. Please encourage board members and school communities to fairly discuss the draft policy regarding foundation fundraising on its merits, considering how the board might mitigate concerns, rather than allowing intentionally misleading information to go unchecked, stirring up fear and dissent.



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Urgent help needed for Foundation


Translate Email



We urgently need your help. The PPS School Board is close to passing a [proposal](#) that will eliminate School Foundation Fundraising by June of 2024 with no replacement funds in place, resulting in the elimination of over 100 student-facing positions in the 25-26 school year on top of the \$30mm in budget cuts. The Policy Committee has intentionally advanced this proposal under the radar of most principals, teachers, and community members, and continues to dismiss the alarms that have been raised by many, including if this policy is even legal.

Please add your name and school(s) to the using attached [petition link](#) demanding that the board not take away more funding *voluntarily* from our students without replacement funds in place.

We support change, but this is not the way to do it. We demand that the board uphold the integrity of their elected office, and create policies that are based on facts, are transparent, and have real, sustainable plans to ensure that no students are left worse-off.

If passed,  will lose even more front facing staff in the '25-26 school year.

Thank you for your help, our students deserve better.

Sincerely,
Your Volunteer Foundation Team

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Email *

[Redacted]

Name *

Edward Garrett

Email *

[Redacted]

Your School Community *

Duniway Elementary School

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Revision: Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising 7.10.020-P (Formerly Parent Groups and the Schools) ▼

Please provide your comments below *

My son is a new student at Duniway Elementary School, in S.E. Portland's Eastmoreland neighborhood. My family arrived in Eastmoreland recently, but I grew up here and attended Duniway myself in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Eastmoreland is a lovely neighborhood, but it is also well-off and not particularly diverse, even by Portland's standards. My impression is that the Duniway Foundation is effective at raising funds for the school - and to a lesser extent, for the district. Parents have the resources to give, and are motivated to do so for the benefit of the school.

Still, I find that the Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising policy proposal has much to recommend it. Allowing schools with greater access to parental funding to disproportionately benefit from that funding is unfair. Schools with the greatest identified needs may well be the least able to raise funds within their local donor communities.

I like some of the specific requirements of the proposal. For example, it says that fundraisers should: "Provide ways for all members from the benefitting school or program who wish to participate in a fundraising event or activity to have an avenue to participate." The Duniway Foundation is organizing an upcoming event called the Duniway Auction on April 26. Tickets to the auction are \$125 per head, so \$250 for a couple - not to mention potential babysitting costs as well as potential winning bids and other expenses on the night. This makes the event seem rather exclusive, whereas I would prefer to think of school fundraising as a rather more grassroots activity - involving bake sales, book sales, summer fares and the like.

The proposal is not, however, without risk. It could alienate potential parental donors, who may be less willing to donate to PPS if they suspect that little of their donation will go to their own children's schools. The trick, one suspects, will be to provide enough payback to entice people to give, but enough equity to maximize the overall impact of the gift for the district as a whole. The proposal's statement that "A formula for the distribution of any funding to individual schools shall be developed in advance of the school year by a Parent Advisory Committee, shared with school administrators for feedback, and a recommendation made to the Board of Education for its approval" does not inspire total confidence that this issue has been thought through clearly. Much more could be said here about the composition of the committee, the distribution formula, and whether and how Local School Foundations will be rewarded for successful campaigns.

This form was created inside of Portland Public Schools.

Google Forms

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Email *

[Redacted]

Name *

Mackenzie Weintraub

Email *

[Redacted]

Your School Community *

Glencoe Elementary School

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Revision: Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising 7.10.020-P (Formerly Parent Groups and the Schools) ▼

Please provide your comments below *

Please vote to reform the Foundation fundraising system to be more equitable and better serve children throughout PPS. I'm a parent of two children at Glencoe Elementary and I currently choose not to support our school's Foundation. It's a decision that was hard to make and I still struggle with. At our school the Foundation pays for a reading specialist and has in some years, depending on how much is saved from previous years or raised, funded additional grade level teachers. Loosing these positions will have a negative impact on many students, one of my own children included, but I can't support a system that brings in disproportionately large amounts of money to wealthy, predominately white schools while schools with children of color receive less funds. Allowing this system to continue goes directly against the PPS Equity Funding Model and isn't what is best for our community. I believe there are more people like myself who would contribute to the Foundation if it was reformed to a more equitable funding model. Thank you for your consideration.

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Email *

[Redacted]

Name *

[Redacted] Student

Email *

[Redacted]

Your School Community *

Roosevelt High School

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I am a student at Roosevelt High School. I strongly support the draft policy 'Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising 7.10.020-P'. I think that a districtwide foundation is a much better idea compared to the current policy because it strives to remove, or at the very least decrease inequity and wealth disparities between schools. To me, it does not seem very fair that certain schools within the same district should have better access to staff just because of their connections with wealthy individuals/organizations. If we want to create a more equitable future, we must strive to create an equitable education system, and this is an excellent step in the right direction. I think that it is also crucial to have student representatives involved on the committees that would be created by this policy, to let the people actually affected by these disparities share their input.

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