



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

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Date: February 18, 2021
To: Board of Education
From: Marina Cresswell, Senior Director OSM
Dan Jung, COO, PPS
Subject: Bond Accountability Committee Co-Chairperson Appointees

BACKGROUND

The 2012 General Obligation Bond ballot measure and explanatory statement language was referred to the Multnomah Elections Division on August 21, 2012. The measure's summary statement identified the requirement for PPS to provide citizen accountability and oversight. With the passage of the 2012 Capital Construction Bond, staff developed a Bond Accountability Committee (BAC) charter with Board input to address this requirement. The BAC charter states the Board will appoint committee members and a chairperson. The charter was most recently updated in September 2019 and a copy is maintained on PPS's website.

On January 23, 2021 PPS staff organized a BAC retreat attended by all current BAC members and School Improvement Bond Committee chairperson Michelle DePass. The retreat included discussion topics including BAC chairperson role and responsibilities. We are happy to report two BAC members have agreed to co-chair the committee:

BAC Co-Chairperson: Kenechi Onyeagusi

Ms. Onyeagusi is a new member to the BAC. She has served as the Executive Director of Professional Business Development Group (PBDG) since February 2020. PBDG is a trade association of certified small, minority and women owned firms in the construction industry statewide. She leads the organization to provide advocacy with public agencies on a regional level, education and training to the construction firms and builds relationships with the community to facilitate work opportunities for small, minority and women owned firms. Ms. Onyeagusi is an established business and finance professional with 13 years of experience working with all types of businesses in a variety of industries. She leverages strong ties with Public Agencies, General Contractors, Business

Leaders, Subcontractors and Workforce to help shape policy and make social impact. Ms. Onyeagusi is a first generation college graduate, immigrant and a black female leader in the Construction Industry.

Ms. Onyeagusi is interested in the BAC because it's at the intersection of work and life. The subcontractors she represents will have an opportunity to work on construction projects and the twin girls she is raising will learn in buildings built with the values of equity and inclusion.

BAC Co-Chairperson: Tom Peterson

Mr. Peterson is our longest tenured BAC member. He is retired from the Port of Portland and brings over 40 year of experience in the industry. Mr. Peterson graduated from Portland State University with a degree in electrical engineering. Early in his career he worked as a consulting electrical engineer and designed electrical systems for a number of schools and commercial buildings. During his 32-year tenure at the Port he was involved in a wide variety of projects, as an engineer, project manager, and 15 years as the Director of Engineering. As a project manager he managed major construction projects at Portland International Airport and as the Engineering Director he was responsible for the Port's multi-disciplined engineering and construction management staff and overall responsibility for management of the Port's capital construction program. During that time the Port Engineering Department managed approximately \$2 billion construction and large equipment procurement contracts. He also was actively involved with promoting the Port's Mentor Program and Small and Minority Business Program; CAWS (Construction Area Workforce Solutions), that promoted diversifying the building trades; the annual BEC (Business Education Compact) program to promote STEM careers that involved working with Students in the classroom; the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program, taught the Project Delivery segment for ten years; and was a contributor to the Oregon Resilience Plan seismic vulnerability assessment.

Mr. Peterson has freely volunteered his time for the betterment of our community that began with leading a group of dads to construct a play structure at his son's preschool. He was a youth sports coach and led youth sports organizations. He led a citizens group promoting development of a parks and recreational district in Clackamas County, managed the campaign to create the district in 1990, and served on a citizen advisory board for the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District for six years. In recent years he has volunteered with his wife

for the Family of Friend Mentor program, and Children's Healing Art Program (CHAP).

He is also involved with a number of professional organizations, American Society of Civil Engineers, contributor to Oregon Infrastructure Report Card, Ports and Inland Waterways Chapters; Professional Engineers of Oregon, Engineer of the Year 2016; and Construction Management Association of America, leading an Owners Group and member of local chapter board.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

The BAC Charter states a committee member shall not hold the title of chairperson for more than 3 years. Staff recommends appointing the co-chairperson to one-year terms and revisiting the role in early 2022.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

Upon approval from the Board of Education, the positions will become immediately effective and the Office of School Modernization will inform the applicants of their appointment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the appointment of Kenechi Onyeagusi and Tom Peterson to BAC co-chairperson positions.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Kenechi Onyeagusi	1 year
Tom Peterson	1 year

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

_____ (Initials)