



Lynda GROW <lynda.grow@multco.us>

Benson Tech Health & Mental Service for 5/14 6 PM County Agenda

2 messages

Rob Johns <robjohns@comcast.net>

Wed, May 14, 2014 at 2:56 PM

To: lynda grow <lynda.grow@multco.us>

Cc: "Anthony, Paul" <paul@shannonpratt.com>, sbuel@comcast.net, Amy Henry <amyhenry@pps.net>

Lynda, attached is the basic form required.. I will not be able to appear but would like to submit for the record that the Benson Tech Alumni Association is fully cognizant of this need and has been advocating for it for months.

As recent Oregonian articles have articulated, Benson Tech does not have a "clinic" for health and mental services. I have met with Amy Henry, Counselor at Benson Tech. Along with the alumni and local community the Career Counseling Center was renovated last summer. This is all that is needed for space, use that location existing space and simply staff the space on alternating days for Health and Mental Practitioners as a first step in providing services where the school population is 2/3 Free Lunch and composes a broad and equalized mix of races.

Other PPS High Schools with exception of Lincoln have a "clinic", and some I would argue could be analyzed for being currently "overstaffed" or "under utilized". I would suggest a review of service delivery be made to consider this question.

We are not focused on having the physical build out of a "clinic", just the services please, now. PPS has made comment publicly that the students can simply go back to their neighborhood High School for these services. That is a short sighted and poorly outlined solution. Approx 83% of the students rely on Tri-met! Getting out of school at Benson and catching buses in the middle of the school day to attend to what are very personal needs, is simply not feasible.

Further, there are schools currently with 2 providers, perhaps one could connect for Benson students.. Simply, we ask the County to provide basic services where they are needed and get creative on how you deliver it and listen to the Counselors at the school, they know the kids best....

Once there is coverage by providers for health and mental services, perhaps a more permanent space could be developed but we do not want to wait for a series of physical plant improvements to make this happen..... it needs to happen now frankly.

I have obtained support for Benson Tech from a wide base of Portland industry - Greenbrier, Daimler, IBEW, AGC, Blount International, PCC Structurals (Precision Castparts), PGE, to name a few- all of whom are supportive of advancing the progress of Career Technical Education in our community. Benson's academic performance is outstanding, it deserves

County services.

Thank you for considering my comment,
Rob Johns, Class of '77
Chair, Benson Tech Alumni Association
President, Benson Tech Foundation

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To: Rob Johns <robjohns@comcast.net>

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certainly. received. will distribute

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