

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET**

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

*****This form is a public record*****

MEETING DATE: May 15, 2014

AGENDA # _B_ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: _____

FOR: X AGAINST: _____

NAME: Paul Anthony

CONTACT INFORMATION (*optional*):

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IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:

1. Fill out this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Non-Agenda items will be called immediately after the vote on the Consent Agenda.
3. Agenda items will be called during that item's presentation, before the vote is taken.
4. Presenters are called to testify in the order forms are received. The Presiding Officer may rearrange the order testimony is given or ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
5. Public testimony is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Chair, who is the Presiding Officer.
6. If submitting handouts to be given to the Board, 7 copies are required. If one copy is provided, it will be received for the file and electronically shared with the Board after the meeting.
7. All meetings are audio and video recorded and can be viewed at: multco.us. Click on Government/Board Meetings, and select meeting of your choice.
8. When your name is called, come forward and be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
9. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
10. The Chair has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so, becomes a trespasser and will be treated accordingly.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD IN LIEU OF GIVING ORAL COMMENTS:

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: lynda.grow@multco.us
2. Written testimony will be entered into and remain a part of the official record.

May 14, 2014

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of County funding for a School-Based Health Clinic (SBHC) at Benson Polytechnic High School.

For a decade, Multnomah County has been reaching hard-to-serve populations with critical services through SBHCs. Multnomah County has made a substantial commitment and an obvious public priority of child health and welfare, including through the expansion of the SUN School program included in the 2014-15 Budget.

Nonetheless, I believe Benson Tech is one of the most underserved high school populations in the County. Benson Tech is one of the most diverse high schools in the State of Oregon (Hispanic 29%, African-American 21.2%, White 28.6%, Asian 15.5%, and Multiple Races 4.2). Sixty five percent of Benson's students are on free/reduced lunch. In addition, Benson's Summer/Evening Scholars program serves an additional 3,500 students (approximately 27.4% of all PPS high school students).

Despite those demographics, Benson Tech is the only PPS school on the east side of the Willamette that does not have a SBHC. Smaller schools and schools that serve much wealthier and less diverse communities all have school-based health clinics. I believe that this is a critical area where the County could do more to meet its mission. I ask that the County fund SBHC staff at Benson at the level of the other PPS schools.

I believe this is a revenue-neutral proposal. The County can obtain the funds to pay for Benson Tech by reallocating the current resources from other PPS schools that are being over-served. Several SBHCs in PPS are significantly under-utilized.

Multnomah County and PPS have a unique opportunity to create a great SBHC at Benson Tech. Benson Tech is the only high school in PPS with a designated healthcare major; many of the graduates from this track go on to become doctors, dentists, nurses, hygienists, and other healthcare professionals. There are significant commitments to dedicate healthcare facilities at Benson Tech, including a complete dental theater with the only working X-ray machine in any high school in America. The Benson community is working to grow its partnerships with the healthcare schools in Portland: Oregon Health Sciences University, the National College of Natural Medicine, the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, and the Western States Chiropractic College. A SBHC at Benson should be a natural fit.

I ask you to make a financial commitment to the health care and future of Benson Tech and the inner-Northeast Portland community. If you have any questions, I can be reached at paul@shannonpratt.com.

Best wishes,

Paul Anthony