

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: _____

AGENDA # _____ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: Benson Polytechnic SBHC

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: Amy Henry

CONTACT INFORMATION (*optional*):

ADDRESS: 546 NE 12th Avenue

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97232

PHONE: 503-916-5100 x77133 EMAIL: amyhenry@pps.net

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.



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

546 NE 12th Avenue / Portland, Oregon 97232
Telephone: (503) 916-5100 • FAX: (503) 916-2690

BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

May 13, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am contacting you regarding County funding for a School Based Health Clinic (SBHC) at Benson Polytechnic High School. As you are aware, the County's mission is to provide critical services for children throughout the whole county, with an emphasis on supporting populations that are underserved. I believe that 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 our students are on free/reduced lunch. This doesn't include our Summer/Evening Scholars program which serves 3500 students (approximately 27.4% of all PPS high school students). Despite these demographics, we are the *only* PPS school on the east side which does not have a SBHC. Schools which are smaller in size than Benson Tech and/or serve a much wealthier and less diverse community all have a SBHC. You might have seen The Oregonian story

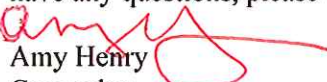
(http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/05/benson_high_students.html) where Benson Tech students talk about having to take three hours out of their academic day to receive mental health services. This does not seem to meet the mission of the County.

For the coming fiscal year, we are asking the County to fund a SBHC staff at the level of the other schools. I understand that money is very tight at the County. However, are you aware that some of the SBHC are under-utilized? Instead of searching for new revenue, this could be simply shifting resources from clinics that are under-utilized to other sites and/or possibly splitting staff between two schools.

I believe that both PPS and the County have a unique opportunity to create a great SBHC at Benson Tech (maybe Benson can be the first PPS SBHC that is open during the summer and at night?). Here are just a few examples of what PPS/County employees and the Benson community have done in the past year to support a SBHC:

- *Applied for a planning grant through the Kaiser Foundation (Multnomah County wrote the letter of support)
- *Created a SBHC steering committee with representatives from MESD, PPS, Multnomah County, community volunteers, Benson Tech parents and students.
- *Four Benson Tech students attended the state-wide SBHC conference and lobbied legislators for support of a clinic at our school.

Now we need the Commissioners to make a financial commitment to Benson Tech community. If you have any questions, please contact me at amyhenry@pps.net.


Amy Henry
Counselor