

**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: 2/20/14

AGENDA # ____ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: VERY PLEASANT

FOR: ____ AGAINST: BLIND PEOPLE

NAME: PAUL, ADOLPH, PHILLIPS

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 1212 S.W. CLAY apt #217

CITY/STATE/ZIP: PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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.

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FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: Portland Lightning Watchdog

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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AGENDA # _____ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: Communication

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: Joe Walsh

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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AGENDA # _____ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: Workforce Training/Economic Equity

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____

NAME: Lainie Block Wilker

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 3823 NE Sanders St

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97232

PHONE: 503-754-9084

EMAIL: lainie.blockwilker@comcast.net

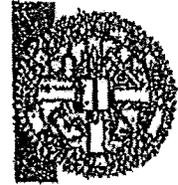
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**Benson Polytechnic High School
Alumni Association**



Benson Polytechnic High School (Benson) has been the subject of many articles in both the Oregonian and Portland Tribune with regard to the Career Technical Education Opportunities the school has historically and continues to provide to the students of Portland. Benson is Portland's School. The entire city is its neighborhood as students apply from all neighborhoods of the city. Benson graduates 81% of its students, the highest graduation rate of any East Portland High School. Its student body is a mix that represents the city very well, approximately 28% each of African American, Hispanic, Asian and White. Benson's capacity is 1800 to 2000 students, currently it is serving 820 due to the restrictive enrollment policy implemented by PPS. Last Fall, 990 students applied and PPS allowed 250 students. This Fall, PPS has increased the allowable enrollment to 280. There is no question more than 280 students will want to attend Benson starting in the Fall of 2013. We simply ask that you sir, as the head of all of Oregon's education system, step up and make it clear to PPS that this restricted enrollment does not serve ours nor the city of Portland's long run economic interests of creating a more qualified young workforce for our present and future manufacturing needs.

It is well documented in the press that our business community needs increasing number of Career Technical oriented and trained employees. This generation and future generations will need industrial grade educations that this school has historically provided. It is also well known that Finland has the best educational system in the world, while the U.S. is lagging severely. In Finland, 48% of Sophomore High School students choose a Career Technical Education track and it is well understood that this reduces the dropout rate dramatically. Benson has proven that as well, as Sophomores make decisions on their major from an array of Career Technical Education choices.

Governor and Education Leaders of Oregon, the persons in charge of all education in Oregon, we as a community of business leaders which have a goal of developing a quality pool of talented workers to draw from for our individual business success ask you firmly to overrule PPS's position on enrollment restriction at Benson for this Fall 2013 and going forward. We need to build a stronger base of skilled labor and provide Portland's students opportunities (and for that matter all of Oregon's students) to excel in proven manufacturing disciplines that allow them to pay their way through further education or seek a trade that can provide a family wage. We are not asking for money, we are asking for opportunity. As PPS Board will be making a decision soon on this issue to formalize their position, we ask for immediate action from you.

Signed Collectively,

Vigor Industrial

Grashier Companies

Tice Industries

Oregon Ironworks

Oregon Metals Industry Council

Submitted Respectfully,

Rob Johns, Chair, Alumni Association
Robjohns@comcast.com, (503) 314-0041

Esco Corporation

PCC Structural, a subsidiary of Precision Castparts

Daimler Trucks North America

Blount International

IBEW LU48

September 10, 2013

Dear Portland Public Schools Board of Education:

As leaders of Oregon's energy industry — an economic driver of Oregon's economy — we urge the Portland Public Schools Board of Education to lift the artificial cap on Benson Polytechnic High School student enrollment to provide a strong technical education to more Portland students.

Between now and 2020, our companies will experience an almost 50 percent workforce turnover due to an aging workforce. Collectively, energy companies in our region employ more than 8,000 workers at an average salary of just under \$80,000 annually. Like other local industries, we rely on a qualified workforce pipeline flowing from our schools to run our companies. We need strong, career technical education to ensure a supply of skilled trades' workers, engineers, and other science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

Despite the economic and employment opportunities our industry provides, we see the student population at Benson reaching historic lows — fewer than 900 — when the historic capacity of the school has been almost 2,000 students. This year and last, 300 students were turned away due to an enrollment cap. The decline in the Benson Polytechnic High School enrollment and programs in recent years is alarming. These students could have been new hires in our companies as our skilled workers retire.

While we understand concerns about impacts to the neighborhood high schools from which the Benson students come and instituting the cap to help other campuses grow, it is time to start moving in the direction of increasing Benson's enrollment and the resultant opportunities offered.

We ask PPS to restore Benson Polytechnic High School to its previous levels of enrollment and its funding for career technical education programs. Our industry is committed to workforce partnerships to keep our economy strong and to the success of Benson and all of Portland Public Schools. We look forward to our continued work with you to strengthen PPS and provide better opportunities for its graduates — our future workforce.

Submitted Respectfully,



Jim Piro
President and CEO
Portland General Electric



Gregg Kantor
President and CEO
NW Natural



Pat Reiten
President and CEO
Pacific Power

cc: Superintendent Carole Smith

February 17, 2014

Dear PPS School Board and Civic Leaders,

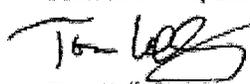
As construction industry leaders, we respectfully request that PPS fully lift the artificial enrollment cap at Benson Polytechnic High School beginning this fall 2014, to allow more students access to relevant career technical education (CTE) and paid apprenticeships to family wage jobs. Only partially lifting the cap by 40 spots is not sufficient to meet the demands of students or employers seeking a skilled workforce. Benson Tech's specialized equipment, established industry partnerships, and BOLI-approved apprenticeships cannot be replicated in time to provide current students hands-on educational opportunities and a career path to middle class jobs.

The construction industry employs approximately 47,000 persons in the Portland Metro area with average wages of approximately \$50,000 annually. Skilled tradespeople earn average wages of \$18-\$39+ per hour, usually well above median wages, often through on-the-job training without incurring debt. Notably, the average age for persons entering the skilled trades is 28 years old, because many students remain underemployed in low-wage jobs without a rewarding career path. Many construction jobs require digital fluency, and Benson Tech offers a broad-base of learning opportunities in electronics, engineering, robotics, construction, advanced manufacturing, and other applied STEM training. The construction industry projects a wave of retirements, and Benson Tech provides a talent pipeline for hands-on learning opportunities and paid apprenticeships to family wage jobs.

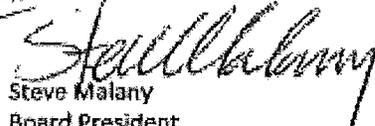
Business leaders who have toured Benson Tech's facility with an impressive 86% graduation rate for a highly diverse student population are concerned that PPS is subleasing valuable instructional space to alternative programs with terrible graduation rates. Benson Tech has capacity to serve to serve 2,000 students, yet PPS has artificially capped enrollment at 850 and turned away hundreds of interested students from relevant CTE and built-in apprenticeships in high demand fields.

We ask PPS to fully lift the enrollment cap beginning this fall 2014, to respect the choice of students and employers and provide more students a career path to family wage jobs.

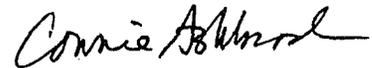
Submitted Respectfully,



Tom Kelly
President
Neil Kelly, Inc.



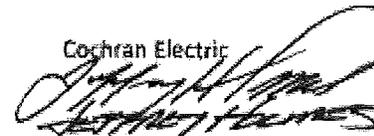
Steve Malany
Board President
Association of General Contractors - Columbia Chapter



Connie Ashbrook
Executive Director
Oregon Tradeswomen



Yasmine Branden
National Association of Women in Construction



Cochran Electric

cc: ODE Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton
OEIB Chair, Nancy Golden
Labor Commissioner, Brad Avakian
Mayor Charlie Hales



October 14, 2013

Dear Portland Public Schools Board of Education:

We are writing to offer comments on enrollment limitations at Benson High School. Cambia Health Solutions is a leading employer in the Portland-metropolitan area. We are committed to attracting a diverse workforce, bringing together individuals with different talents, skills, backgrounds and abilities. Our employees not only contribute to the success of our organization but also work to transform health care from the inside out.

Cambia is a nonprofit, total health solutions company dedicated to transforming the way people experience the health care system. We have approximately 2,500 Oregon employees, about 1,800 of whom are at our Portland headquarters. Our portfolio of companies spans health care information technology and software development; retail health care; health insurance plans that carry the Blue Cross and Blue Shield brands; pharmacy benefit management; life, disability, dental, vision and other lines of protection; alternative solutions to health care access; and free-standing health and wellness solutions.

Our success depends on our ability to recruit top talent with strong technical skills and health care backgrounds. If the talent does not exist locally, then we must recruit for positions out of state. Recognizing the changing workforce demographics, we support high school programs that emphasize STEM subject matter and encourage students to pursue careers in health care and IT.

The technical curriculum and hands-on education offered at Benson High School are impressive, and are unlike any other in the area. While we understand the board's need carefully to deploy resources across the entire Portland school district, we respectfully request that Portland Public Schools Board of Education evaluate the impact of Benson's current enrollment limit on students as well as on employers, restore Benson's computer science program, and, finally, consider expanding Benson's enrollment.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information in support of Benson High School.

Sincerely,

Michelle Schwartz, MPA
Manager, Diversity and University Programs
Human Resources ph.
503-273-4132
michelle.schwartz@cambiahealth.com

C. Underserved Students

Benson High School and its CTE programs are open to all students across the district. As a designated *focus* school, all district students in grades 8-12 are eligible to apply for fall enrollment, although priority is given to students from high schools with >64% low-income students. In each student group noted below, and in every racial and ethnic minority group, Benson students graduate at a *statistically higher rate* than do their peers across the district.

Percent of Underserved Students at Benson and for all PPS District High Schools						
	Low-Income	SPED	ELL	Eth/Racial Minority	Male	Female
Benson	63.9%	12%	4.4%	71.3%	56%	44%
All High Schools	40.7%	12%	4.8%	44.2%	51%	49%

Graduation Rate of Racial/Ethnic Minority Students: Benson & District Schools							
	Native American	Pacific Islander	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Grad Rate
Benson	66.7%	100%	94.9%	76.8%	77.2%	84.1%	82.2%
All High Schools	29.0%	61.2%	74.1%	52.6%	54.2%	67.8%	63.1%

Benson has been extremely successful in recruitment efforts resulting in 450 applications for 250 9th grade positions for the current year. The result is a far higher percentage of minority and low-income students than the district average for high schools.

Franklin, Jefferson 'bright spots' in state grad report

Created on Thursday, 06 February 2014 06:00 | Written by [Jennifer Anderson](#) | 

[0 Comments](#)

Most PPS high schools improve in latest graduation rates

Portland Public Schools as a whole has the same four-year graduation rate as Jefferson High School, according to new state data released this week.

Both the district and Jefferson Middle College for Advanced Studies have a 66.9 percent graduation rate for the cohort (student group) that graduated in 2012, according to data from the Oregon Department of Education.

Both the district and Jefferson show increases from last year. The district jumped nearly 4 percentage points from last year.

Jefferson saw an 8.6 percent gain from last year, and a 12 percentage point gain in the past two years.

Franklin High is also considered a "bright spot" in the statewide data, according to ODE, rising 6.9 points in the past year (to 85.3 percent) and 13.8 in the past two years.

Both schools are part of Oregon's Focus and Priority Schools program, receiving extra funds and assistance to provide culturally responsive instruction, attention to personalized learning, and targeted interventions to re-engage students and keep them on track to graduation.

Roosevelt High is another Priority School that showed improvement. This is the first year data is available for Roosevelt as a full campus, since its three academies merged. In the last year of Roosevelt's academy system, the Spanish-English International School graduated 50 percent of its students, Renaissance Arts Academy graduated 49 percent and Pursuit of Wellness Education at Roosevelt graduated 57.8 percent.

In the 2012 four-year cohort, Roosevelt as a full campus graduated 63 percent.

Bringing down the average were the alternative schools, which serve the district's most challenged students. Many are parenting or struggle with addiction, behavior, incarceration or abuse issues.

District leaders have argued that without its portfolio of flexible and strategic alternative schools to reach these students, they would fall through the cracks.

Also, most of the alternative schools students graduate or earn a General Equivalency Diploma in more than four years, so their data does not appear in the four-year cohort graduation rate statistics.

Not including the alternative schools, the district's high schools have an average 78 percent graduation rate.

Here are the graduation rate results for PPS high schools:

- Benson Polytechnic High rose 3.8 points to 86 percent
- Cleveland High rose 5.4 points to 81 percent
- Grant High rose 2.2 points to 86 percent
- Jefferson rose 8.6 points to 66.9 percent
- Franklin rose 6.9 points to 85.3 percent
- Wilson High dropped 1 point to 83 percent
- Lincoln High dropped 2.6 points to 86 percent
- Madison High dropped 8.6 points to 62 percent
- Roosevelt graduated 63 percent

Here are the results for PPS alternative schools:

- Alliance rose 5 points to 15.8 percent

Why did Mult. Cty direct Youth Connect grant to Alliance (16% grad rate) subleasing space w/in Benson Tech (86% grad rate?)

Benson Tech Action Items – Lift the Cap

Urgent action is needed before the transfer period closes on February 21, where PPS will further restrict transfers to Benson Tech, which will further limit CTE program options:

1) **Please contact the PPS School Board to urge 4 votes for lifting the enrollment cap** and allowing approximately 190 students to get off the wait list and into Benson Tech's proven program:

Superintendent Carole Smith superintendent@pps.net;

Board Member Co-Chair Pam Knowles pknowles@pps.net 503-334-7668

Board Member Co-Chair Greg Belisle gbelisle@pps.net

Board Member Bobbie Regan bobbie.regan@pps.net

Board Member Matt Morton mmorton@pps.net

*Board Member Tom Koehler tkoehler@pps.net

Board Member Steve Buel sbuel@pps.net

2) **Contact Rob Saxton, Deputy Superintendent of Oregon Department of Education**

rob.saxton@state.or.us – oversight authority over PPS due to failure to comply with most educational standards.

ODE could order PPS to fully lift the cap for fall 2014 by relocating (4) alternative programs subleasing space within Benson including: Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center for 18-24 year olds, Reconnections for 5th year and older students, Alliance High School for 16-20 year olds (15% graduation rate), Portland International Academy (\$580k for 6 full-time staff to serve only 8 students) to reclaim instructional space and funding for successful programs. PPS should not be running drug rehab and alternative programs where students want to study engineering, computer science, and health sciences, particularly since it is sitting on \$113.7M worth of closed school properties, according to the Oregonian.

3) **Contact Secretary of State Kate Brown** kate.brown@state.or.us – audit authority over PPS.

WW's "Flunk Factories" details how Superintendent Smith's bias toward costly alternative education programs with 9% graduation rates, makes PPS the region's worst performing district, though it spends 25% more per student. http://www.wweek.com/portland/article-21514-flunk_factories.html. School Board members are directing PPS funding to organizations where they are employed, raising potential violations of state conflict of interest laws.

4) **Industry partnerships for CTE teacher training incubator, apprenticeships.**

Benson Tech is applying for CTE grants and will be more competitive if industry employers are willing to provide apprenticeships and support for relevant CTE teacher training. Please let me know of businesses interested in partnering with Benson Tech.

5) **Tours for industry supporters**

Benson Tech will offer additional tours to broaden the base of business, labor and civic supporters, and I welcome your referrals to other industry leaders who understand the importance of relevant CTE training as a workforce issue. Please think through your contacts at Intel, HP, Tektronics, Boeing, IBM, Providence, Legacy, construction, electronics, software, advanced manufacturing, health sciences.

Rob Johns

Chair, Benson Polytechnic Alumni Association

robjohns@comcast.net