

Intergovernmental Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021 5:00 PM

Virtual

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Public Comment
 - *To sign-up for public comment
email PublicComment@pps.net or
call Kara Bradshaw at 503-916-3906.
- III. Legislative Update
- IV. Bill Discussion
- V. School Reopening Discussion
- VI. Other Items for Discussion
- VII. Municipal Broadband PDX
- VIII. Adjourn



During the 2021 legislative session, Portland Public Schools will center the district vision and accompanying system shifts in all of its advocacy work. Additionally, PPS will work vigorously with our education coalition partners to ensure that education is prioritized in the coming legislative session.

The policies and priorities outlined in the categories below provide examples of policy which may be discussed during the 2021 Legislative Session. They are not intended to be a comprehensive or exclusionary list of bills or budgets PPS may engage in. Rather, these categories, guided by the five educational system shifts, are meant to serve as a filter through which PPS will approach legislation brought forward in the 2021 Legislative Session.

The PPS 2021 Legislative Agenda is aligned with the five educational system shifts as outlined in the PPS strategic plan for the 2020-21 school year:

- A Connected and Transformative School District
- Racial Equity Aligned Systems, Structures, and Culture
- Cultivating System-Wide Learning and a Diverse Workforce
- Transformative Curriculum and Pedagogy
- A Culture of Physical and Emotional Safety

Funding

System shift connection: all

- PPS will advocate for a \$9.5 billion investment for the State School Fund (SSF), an increase of 5.5% over the last biennium.
- PPS will advocate for revision of the method used to determine the Current Service Level (CSL) formula to more accurately reflect districts' actual costs.
- PPS will advocate to build on the progress the legislature made when they passed the Student Success Act by continuing to center racial equity in school funding decisions.
- PPS will support full funding for the fund for High School Success (Measure 98)
- PPS will advocate to reimburse school districts for all expenses incurred in response to COVID-19, such as PPE, sanitation supplies, hot spots and technology devices.
- PPS supports and will continue to advocate for direct state investment in the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program and Seismic Retrofit Grant Program (SRGP).

Racial Equity in Education

PPS supports and will advocate for legislation and funding to promote improved academic outcomes for every student, especially our Black and Native students and students receiving special education services.

System shift connection: Racial Equity Aligned Systems, Structures and Culture

- PPS will support and advocate to change statutory language to add ability to investigate hate speech incidents as bias crimes.
- PPS will support and advocate for the [Reimagine Oregon education policy agenda](#).
- PPS will advocate for programs that support “grow your own” educator recruitment programs, licensure flexibility and increasing educator diversity.
- PPS will advocate for increased funding for specialized educational support through Regional Programs for students with hearing impairments, vision impairments, autism spectrum disorders, orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury.
- PPS will advocate to eliminate the cap on special education services which will result in more robust funding for these services.
- PPS will advocate for increased funding for ODE’s Long Term Care and Treatment program, which supports students receiving services while in day and residential treatment through PPS’s DART program.

Warm, welcoming, safe learning environments

System shift connection: A Culture of Physical and Emotional Safety

- PPS will advocate for continued refinements to sexual misconduct statutes, including advocating for alignment with Title IV requirements to streamline investigations and prioritize student safety.
- PPS will advocate for resources and policies which support the mental health needs of all students, including investments in counseling, social workers, and a community schools approach to directly addressing student needs.
- PPS will advocate for revisions to ODOT’s I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project plans to protect student safety, including improved air quality, and respond to the Albina community’s restorative vision.
- PPS will support and advocate for policy proposals that address the climate crisis and promote climate justice, especially when directly relevant to school districts.

School Reopening/Comprehensive Distance Learning

System shift connection: A Connected and Transformative School District

- PPS supports and will advocate for legislative measures that help get students back into the classroom as soon as it is safe to do so.
- PPS supports and will advocate for COVID-19 limited liability protections for school districts.
- PPS supports and will advocate for increased broadband access to ensure that all students have the tools needed to participate in comprehensive distance learning.
- PPS supports measures that alleviate the child care burden on low-income families.

Curriculum Development

System shift connection: Transformative Curriculum and Pedagogy

- PPS will support efforts which seek to enhance civics education, develop antiracist curriculum, and update outdated curriculum.

Operational improvements

System shift connection: A Connected and Transformative School District

- PPS will advocate to eliminate the Custodial Civil Service Board (CCSB), an antiquated statute that singles out PPS and creates barriers to streamlined hiring in our maintenance ranks.

January 21, 2021

DRAFT

From: Russell Senior, Municipal Broadband PDX
To: Portland Public Schools Leadership
Subject: Request for Endorsement of a Multnomah County budget item

Telecommunications is fundamental to our modern society. This has been shown undeniably during our current pandemic. For decades, in Portland and most places in the United States, the infrastructure that enables access to telecommunication has been in the hands of a few for-profit corporations. Telecommunications policy, which is set primarily at the federal level by the US Congress and the Federal Communications Commission, has left control of that infrastructure at the discretion of the investors and owners of that infrastructure. Since the owners have an interest in maximizing their economic returns, and because of the substantial capital costs of building competing infrastructure, choices remain extremely limited and prices and terms on provision of service are not disciplined by viable alternatives.

The expense of for-profit internet access has been a significant barrier to many families with children in schools. Before the pandemic, there was a kind of safety net through access at school and public libraries. We have seen acutely during the pandemic what happens when those safety nets are abruptly unavailable. The programs that for-profit providers have offered are quite limited and only partially solve a problem the providers have themselves created.

Through two decades of bipartisan federal neglect of the public interest, it has become clear that the most effective way to solve this problem is by direct public ownership of telecommunications infrastructure so that policy and prices can center users. Hundreds of communities around the country have done this successfully¹, including several here in Oregon².

In 2018, our campaign known as Municipal Broadband PDX asked local jurisdictions to fund an economic feasibility study of a publicly-owned optical fiber network. Multnomah County led off, budgeting \$150,000, contingent on funding partners. By October 2019, a consortium of five cities (Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale, and Wood Village) had joined an intergovernmental agreement led by Multnomah County and kicked off the feasibility study. In October 2020, the feasibility study was released to the public³.

The next step is to convene local stakeholders, including schools, small businesses and residents, to formulate one or more coherent concrete proposals to put in front of elected representatives and, potentially, voters. Municipal Broadband PDX has begun discussions with Multnomah County to support funding for a project manager position in the upcoming budget year to manage that process.

We are asking Portland Public Schools board members, individually and/or in concert, to communicate with the Multnomah County Chair's office to endorse the budget allocation for the project manager. As the Chair's budget is being developed now, such an endorsement as soon as possible will have the most efficacy.

1 <https://muninetworks.org/communitymap>

2 <https://www.ci.sandy.or.us/sandynet>, <https://www.minetfiber.com/about>, and rolling out now: <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/services/hilight>

3 <https://multco.us/file/92615/download>