September 22, 2008

Board Member Report

PARKROSE

 Along with Superintendent Gray, Finance and Facilities Managers Larson and Wood, I participated in a pre-Opening Day Tour of Parkrose schools. The hard work of staff was evident, especially at the elementary schools, whose brightly decorated rooms and bulletin board were prepared for students. Shaver Principal Bartman and her staff were having to work around window installation-not an easy task.

Please congratulate your building staff on their remarkable efforts.

- Information on graduation requirement changes is important for all parents, not just middle school and freshmen. The Board continues to monitor state requirements and examines the Parkrose course system to maintain our traditional lead in competitive and rigorous curriculum.
- The District welcomed new members to the Parkrose family on August 25th and the luncheon demonstrated the high caliber of educators and staff this district supports. Many new members bring life experiences unique to Parkrose.

Please welcome new individuals to the Parkrose District family.

- Parkrose District Newsletter has been distributed electronically. Those
 without internet access can view the newsletter and all other district
 information at their Parkrose school's computer labs. School Parent groups
 have been formed or continue to gather and this may be a great way to
 introduce new parents to the district. Parkrose is refining its
 communication plan to increase dialogue with its staff and the community.
- Parkrose board members will participate in the November Oregon School Boards Association Convention, our second year in a row. We will present a workshop on Board Subcommittee. The honor belongs to the Parkrose Debs who will provide opening day music entertainment to the school district representatives from throughout Oregon.
- The Board moves its monthly meeting to the newly painted meeting room at the District Office. This move was made for several reasons- the 'community rooms' at the high school were more frequently used for classroom space, having to be reconfigured for each board meeting; the costs with having staff support the board in the high school; the staff time

spent preparing to move materials back and forth from the District Office to the High school and the more central district location of the District meeting room. Modernizations to the District Meeting Room are directed to providing a professional training space for district and regional educators.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Colwood Golf Course, a privately owned course adjacent to Portland International Airport, has been in the news lately for its zoning and development opportunities. East Portland Parks Coalition and neighborhood associations support the continued use of Colwood as Open Space. City Council has voted to maintain the site as Open Space.
- Gateway Green, 35 acres situated between highways 84 and 205 hopefully will have further study as the Metro Green spaces program awards its grants. The project recognizes Rocky Butte as only one of two state parks in the metropolitan area.
- Beech Park Master Planning continues with neighborhood input at its Open House held on September 17th. Neighbors are encouraged to participate in the process, especially those who desire an off-leash dog park. The community may consider the traffic challenges for Parkrose residents accessing the park across 122nd Avenue.
- Sullivan's Gulch Trail continues to garner support for its innovative path-a
 pedestrian and bike path from the Willamette River to the Gateway Transit
 Center without crossing any streets or tracks.

GATEWAY URBAN RENEWAL

- Those of us driving south on 102nd Avenue will notice the new street lights, expanded sidewalks and bike lane additions.
- As the Clackamas Light Rail construction continues, the Parkrose School District finds itself uniquely situated. As a smaller district with direct student contact, parents can more easily access transit options, reducing their fuel costs and continue supporting neighborhood schools.

AIRPORT FUTURES

• Port of Portland recently announced the Airport will not require a 3rd runway in the near future. The discussion and analysis of that decision continues. Parkrose, gateway to the Airport and is a regional asset to commerce. With the Academy of Construction and Engineering

partnership, Parkrose is posed to provide outstanding training and education to those residents who want to work and live in Parkrose.

NEIGHBORHOODS

• As chair of the Woodland Park neighborhood, I appreciate the time constraints on families, but I do encourage everyone to become involved with their own neighborhoods. Parkrose is home to seven associations:

Sumner home to Helensview School home to Parkrose High School

Parkrose Middle school Prescott Elementary District Administration

Parkrose Heights home to Sacramento Elementary

Russell home to Russell Academy of Excellence

home to Shaver Elementary

Argay Woodland Park Hazelwood

East Portland Neighborhood Associations is providing it annual Small
Grants to those neighbors needing funds to pursue projects which support
resident involvement and participation. The program has supported the
Parkrose Ride for Education, Parkrose Famer's Market, Senn's Dairy Park
and a host of other projects and programs. Contact the EPNO Office for
an application-503.823.4550 or visit their website EPNO.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MHCC Mt Hood Community College is having a "Listening"

Tour' to engage East County residents.

Parkrose High School, September 23rd at 3:30 PM

OSBA Dinner Opportunity to connect with school board members

across the region. September 30th.

OSBA Convention State wide meeting of school board members where

Parkrose leads a discussion on board subcommittees.

November 11-13th.

Please register to vote. VOTE.

Respectfully submitted, Alesia J. Reese