



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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## Staff Report

**Date:** August 29, 2022  
**To:** School Board  
**From:** Dani Ledezma, Senior Advisor, RESJ  
**CC:** Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero  
**Subject:** Phase I: Membership Recommendation - Racial Equity and Social Justice Community Advisory Committee.

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This memo will provide the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the first three members of the PPS RESJ Community Advisory Committee. (See Attached Applications)

1. Adriel Person
2. Ernie Guerrero
3. Kolini Fusitua

All three applicants work for culturally specific RESJ partner organizations and have extensive experience and expertise in working with and advocating for students of color in PPS. These applicants also represent the diversity of our Portland community and have deep and authentic ties to communities of color locally. What stands out about these partners is their commitment to the mutual success of PPS in the community. All three are committed to ensuring that PPS meets its mission so that our students realize the vision of the graduate portrait. In working with each of them, they have both systems understanding and frontline perspective and are delightful to work with. It is our opinion that they will make excellent members of the inaugural PPS RESJ Community Advisory Committee and contribute greatly to our shared success.

### **Background:**

As part of the district's implementation of the recently passed SB 732 to establish a RESJ Community Advisory Committee, the Superintendent and staff are charged with making recommendations for committee membership for Board of Education Approval. This committee is to advise the school board and administration about potential impacts of policy decisions on traditionally underrepresented students in the district. This work is highlighted as a key goal and outcome in PPS' [STRATEGIC PLAN](#), Theme 1: Racial Equity and Social Justice - Transform Systems for Racial Equity Goal 3: In service of board goals, the RESJ Community Advisory Council supports the implementation of the RESJ Framework and Plan to ensure that the district measures, monitors, evaluates, and tracks progress toward equitable student outcomes.

The language of the bill stipulates that district's with over 10,000 student populations must hold their first meeting by September 15, 2022. In order to meet this deadline, staff proposed and the board approved a phased outreach and membership plan which is outlined in the charter:

1st Round Membership Application Outreach: July - August 2022  
1st Round Membership Application Due RESJ Partners: August 15, 2022  
Superintendent Recommendation to School Board: August 31, 2022  
School Board Meeting and 1st Round Approval: September 6, 2022  
First Meeting: September 15, 2022

Upon approval of the charter, the PPS staff team released the membership application and did general and specific outreach to our RESJ partners. During the PPS August Leadership Institute, the Superintendent and staff also invited and encouraged partners to apply. Staff also made phone calls to partners to encourage them to apply. As part of the collaboration with the school board, two board members were identified to be part of the application process: Michelle DePass and Julia Brim-Edwards. Since we received the same number of applications as positions available and the high caliber of the applicants we received, after staff reviewed we made recommendation to both the board and Superintendent to propose all three for consideration for membership.

Upon approval, the staff will convene a first meeting with members either prior to or on September 15th. At that first orientation meeting, we will continue to gather input and feedback about the committee as well as review the outreach and engagement plans for Phase 2 of membership recruitment.

### **Senate Bill 732 Background**

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 732.

- SB 732 requires each school district to convene an educational equity advisory committee, and specifies certain committee responsibilities, membership selection requirements, and an optional annual report that committees are allowed to produce.
- The bill allows the State Board of Education to adopt rules in a number of places.

The bill stipulates that the committee will:

- (a) Advise the school district board about the educational equity impacts of policy decisions
- (b) Advise the school district superintendent about the educational equity impacts of policy decisions
- (c) Inform the school district board and school district superintendent when a situation arises in a school of the district that negatively impacts underrepresented students and advising the board and superintendent on how best to handle that situation.

The school district superintendent is responsible for coordinating the member nomination process and proposing approved finalists to the school district board.

The school district board is responsible for appointing members proposed by the superintendent, and ensuring that membership is primarily representative of underserved student groups.

The Educational Equity Advisory Committee is not a Board committee. It was specifically established by the Oregon legislature and school districts are mandated to have such a committee. No board member may serve on the committee.

PPS Board Committees are governed by Policy 1.20.014-P.

<https://www.pps.net/cms/lib/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/4814/1.20.014-P.pdf>. Many of the PPS policy dictates are in contrast to SB 732 requirements. For example, in 1.20.014-P, the

Board chair shall be ex-officio members of any Board committee. Proposed ODE rules exclude board members and the superintendent from serving on the Educational Equity Advisory Committee. PPS Board committees are to advise the Board and serve in an advisory role to the Board.

The Educational Equity Advisory Committee duties are to advise the school board and the superintendent. The EEAC includes action by and reporting to both the board and the superintendent.

### **PPS Implementation**

An internal staff team has worked with other districts and the Oregon Department of Education to implement the attached PPS RESJ Community Advisory Committee Charter. The team's approach was to develop a meaningful committee and authentically engage its members in thought partnership and progress monitoring activities in order to fully inform and advise the superintendent, the school board and the larger district community about ways to make a deeper impact in racial equity and social justice.

#### *Committee*

PPS is seeking 15 Total Members with the following specific representation:

- Up to 5 Current PPS Students (e.g. middle and/or high school students)
- Up to 5 Family and Community Representatives (e.g parent, RESJ partner)
- Up to 5 PPS Staff (e.g. classified employee, educator, school principal)

Students will be asked to serve 1 year terms and adults will be asked to serve 2 year terms with the option to renew for additional terms.

#### *Representation*

In alignment with SB 732 and PPS' vision and Strategic Plan, the composition of the PPS RESJ Community Advisory Committee's membership shall be focused on ensuring that it is primarily representative of underserved student groups and may not exclude members based on immigration status. Therefore PPS will solicit members from the community that are reflective of our communities of color, and represent the diversity and intersectionality of identities throughout our community.

#### *Student centered*

Membership will be student centered and members are interested in Racial Equity and Social Justice work, personal and professional growth, and integrating these interests to fulfill PPS mission. Members are good communicators and have the ability to influence and lead. Strong community connection, accountability to community.

#### *Role for accountability and mutual responsibility*

- Provide space and time to support student voice and leadership in discussions and forums around Racial Equity and Social Justice in education.
- Monitor progress of the PPS RESJ Plan and Framework
- Develop into a community of critical friends who provide support and feedback to PPS leadership, staff and community.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful feedback and suggestions from all departments and school sites at PPS.
- Collaborate with district staff

### *Timeline*

#### Charter Development and Feedback - June/July 2022

- PPS Work Group
- OR Equity Directors Work Group
- ODE Listening Sessions
- Intergovernmental Board Committee June 22
- RESJ Partners - July
- SLT and OSP - July

1st Round Membership Application Outreach: July - August 2022

1st Round Membership Application Due RESJ Partners: August 15, 2022

Superintendent Recommendation to School Board: August 31, 2022

School Board Meeting and 1st Round Approval: September 6, 2022

First Meeting: September 15, 2022

2nd Round Membership Application Outreach - August - September 2022

2nd Round Membership Application Due (Students, Parents, Staff) October 7, 2022

Superintendent Recommendation to School Board: October 18, 2022

School Board Meeting and 2nd Round Approval: October 25, 2022

PPS Staff and the Superintendent will make recommendations to the school board for final member approval. In order to ensure a fully collaborative process between the board and staff, staff will invite interested board members to participate in the application and recommendation process.