



Portland Schools Foundation

## **Portland Schools Foundation Board of Directors Endorsement Statement Regarding the PPS Bond and Levy and the Parkrose Bond**

### **Endorsement**

The Portland Schools Foundation (PSF) Board of Directors endorsed the renewal of the levy of Portland Public Schools and the Bond Measures of the Parkrose School District and Portland Public Schools at its February 14, 2011 meeting.

### **Introduction**

Critical to understanding the endorsement of PSF is to acknowledge its deeply rooted history with PPS and the evolution of the organization to partner with six major public school districts in Multnomah County. PSF is the newly appointed backbone organization mandated to execute a “cradle to career” initiative for Portland and Multnomah County. In this new role, PSF has undertaken a comprehensive organizational review and planning process, which will include the re-examination of the ballot measure endorsement policy.

### **Process**

The Parkrose School District and Portland Public Schools each requested our endorsement and support of their respective measures that will be on the May 2011 ballot. PSF facilitated formal presentations to the Board of Directors by representatives of the two school boards, as well as a specific presentation to leaders from the PPS local school foundations. Numerous informal discussions were held including with board members, superintendents, partner organizations, and others from the public.

### **Points of Support**

- The Portland Schools Foundation is committed to “a world-class education for every child, in every public school, in every Portland neighborhood.” Although building leadership and teacher quality will always be the most important investment for our kids, strategic bond investments greatly influence academic achievement.
- The Portland Schools Foundation acknowledges the current economic conditions and the existing and multiple taxation obligations. These requests place an additional taxpayer burden in support of the education of our children and youth. The Portland Schools Foundation is committed to working with the Governor on his education reform plan for the entire state.
- The campaigns for these measures offer an opportunity to inspire all Portlanders to come together for our kids. The Portland Schools Foundation encourages campaign messages that avoid polarization.
- The Portland Schools Foundation encourages districts to continue to engage parent communities as plans are developed and executed, especially acknowledging that Portland’s parents choose to send their children to public schools at higher rates than other urban districts in the nation.
- The Portland Schools Foundation is committed to equity, both in terms of resource distribution and access. We encourage districts to closely track measurable progress for all of its students, especially for communities of color that continue to experience a significant achievement gap.
- The Portland Schools Foundation supports teachers and students reporting to schools that are safe, modern, energy efficient, and encourage learning.