



Andrea Stevenson &lt;steveand@parkrose.k12.or.us&gt;

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## Sonleitner Request re.: OSBA Board

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**Michael Sonleitner** <sonleitnerforzone3pcc@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 17, 2020 at 11:42 AM

To: sonja\_mckenzie@parkrose.k12.or.us

Cc: ashley\_brasssea@parkrose.k12.or.us, andrea\_stevenson@parkrose.k12.or.us

Dear Chair McKenzie,

Attached here is information related to my candidacy for election to the OSBA Multnomah Region (Position 17) Board seat. Included is a "Letter of Introduction" (which I hope you read with care) and two documents ("Candidate Questionnaire" and "Personal & Professional Resume") that can also be down-loaded from the OSBA when they send a link to your Board through which to cast your Board VOTE. Please distribute this information to all Parkrose School Board members for their consideration. A vote helping elect me to the OSBA Board would be much appreciated.

It is my understanding that the Parkrose School Board would be likely to vote in the OSBA election during your business meeting on November 23rd. Might it be helpful for me to make a brief statement (and be open to your questions) during the "public commentary" portion of your October 26th or November 23rd meeting? If elected to OSBA Position #17, it would be my intention to maintain consistent communications with the Parkrose School Board throughout the two-year term of office.

Please feel free to contact any of my References (whose contact information is provided at the end of the "Personal & Professional Resume" document). You may note that Eric Flores is among those listed there.

Sincerely,

Michael Sonleitner, PCC Trustee (Zone 3)  
(cell phone or text): 971-998-2427.

P.S. Acknowledging receipt of this email would be very nice.

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### 3 attachments

**Sonleitner Letter of Introduction 10-16-2020..pdf**

722K

**Sonleitner's OSBA Board Candidate Questionnaire 9-25-2020..pdf**

1058K

**Sonleitner's OSBA Board Personal & Professional Resume 9-25-2020..pdf**

3164K

MICHAEL SONNLEITNER

## Letter of Introduction

Having been elected twice a Portland Community College Trustee, this year I represent the PCC Board on the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Board. Due to many years of involvement in K-12 education in Oregon and a shared desire to improve collaboration among educators serving students from pre-k thru beyond high school, I have also been nominated to serve on the Board of the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA). Your supportive OSBA VOTE (for position #17) would be appreciated.

As you see from my OSBA Board "Candidate Questionnaire" & "Personal and Professional Resume", EDUCATION IS MY VOCATION. While full-time teaching Political Science as well as Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at PCC (1988-2015) over 15,000 students attended my classes, with at least 1,000 of these enrolled in different high school completion programs. (NOTE: More than 6,500 pre-college students are among the over 65,000 people currently enrolled at PCC). Beyond PCC, all four of our grown children attended Portland Public Schools where I helped other parents create Leonardo DaVinci Middle School (as an arts magnet program) and testified at PPS School Board Meetings on issues ranging from setting specific school boundaries to military recruiter access to student records. Through our foster daughter, our family was made painfully aware of challenges faced by undocumented non-white students for whom English is a second language -- even as we are blessed by 3 grand-children she has given us (now students Centennial School District attending High School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, & Kindergarten).

Currently there is no person serving as a voting OSBA Board member who is also an elected Trustee from any of Oregon's 17 community colleges. NOT ONE. This is partly due to most OSBA regions being represented by a single representative, with a K-12 person logically selected instead of someone from a community college. The OSBA, however, says it represents ALL school boards in Oregon, including K-12, ESDs, and Community Colleges. In Multnomah Region, three OSBA Board positions include one filled by a Multnomah Educational Service District Board member, the Chair of the Parkrose School Board, and could include me (in Position #17) beginning January 1, 2021. My selection could improve collaboration relating to dual credit courses offerings, foster care services, DEI programs for employees and students, as well as promote a more united front with regards to stable funding from the Oregon Legislature.

**Your Board can cast its ONE VOTE for Position #17 between November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>.** It may be good to discuss my candidacy during public testimony at a Board meeting or otherwise (even in October) before the OSBA Annual Conference "virtually" set for November 14<sup>th</sup>, or at least prior to your Board casting its vote before the December 18<sup>th</sup> voting deadline. When it would be convenient for me to visit with you, listen to your concerns, and respond to such questions as you may have?

With Warm Regards, 

Michael Sonnleitner, PCC Board of Directors (Trustee from SE Portland)

10/16/2020. (cell phone/text): 971-998-2427; (campaign email): [sonnleitnerforzone3pcc@gmail.com](mailto:sonnleitnerforzone3pcc@gmail.com)

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Michael Sonnleitner Trustee, PCC Board of Directors (Zone 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Region: Multnomah \_\_\_\_\_

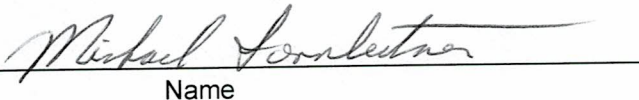
District/ESD/CC: Portland Community College \_\_\_\_\_ Position #: 17 \_\_\_\_\_

**Portland Community College** is the largest institution of post-secondary education in Oregon, with a district including 4 campuses & 8 centers covering most of Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, & Columbia Counties, with a general fund budget of \$440 million/year (employing over 3,000 faculty & staff), and now serving over 8,000 pre-college students (included in a total enrollment of 65,000). PCC accounts for about 1/3 of Oregon's community college attendees.

About 40% of Oregon's high school graduates who continue their education go to community colleges in Oregon, with over 80% of employers surveyed giving strong preference to persons with post-secondary degrees or certificates.

**NOTE:** Of 22 persons now serving on the OSBA Board & 24 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee members, (46 total people), 43 are PreK-12 Board members, 3 come from Oregon's 20 Educational Service Districts, and ZERO represent any of Oregon's 17 Community College Districts.

I certify that if elected I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA Board of Directors.

  
Name

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Date

***Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.***

### 1. Describe in your own words the mission and goals of OSBA.

To serve all Oregon public school students with comprehensive stable funding and effective operations committed to improving retention & completion, encouraging educational equity with data-informed decisions, and fostering a collaborative lifelong learning environment in which local school board members are better equipped to serve their communities with integrity.

### 2. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the OSBA board of directors?

Significantly improve student success via 1) improved collaboration between the OSBA and OCCA, 2) sharing student retention & completion insights gleaned from experiences at PCC & elsewhere, and 3) focus more attention on issues relating to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI), including approaches to employee recruitment, hiring, and empowerment).

**3. What leadership skills do you believe you bring to the board of directors? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.**

Active Listening, Political Strategizing, & Conflict Resolution. In 2019, I took these skills to Salem 10 times while lobbying for the "Student Success Act" (though it excluded funding for community colleges) and helped increase support for OCCA institutions to \$640.9 million while participating in Legislative Town Halls & other actions.

**4. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by OSBA?**

"Student Success Act" implementation challenges the OSBA to help local Boards & Administrators to 1) better understand and comply with changing COVID-era state & federal requirements and 2) address diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI) issues via K-12 administrator collaboration with school employees & community partners (including Oregon's 17 community colleges).

**5. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by your region?**

We are challenged to 1) examine patterns of privilege relating to DEI as these become more pronounced in COVID-era educational outcome gaps and 2) systematically foster patterns of increased Horizontal & Vertical Collaboration among all Multnomah County Districts (including PCC and MHCC) thereby encouraging sharing of experiences and problem-solving.

**6. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region?**

Beyond attending OSBA events, I intend to 1) periodically communicate electronically with board members in this area, 2) promote interaction between PreK-12 boards and the PCC Board of Directors (building on a 2018-19 regional summit organized by PCC) and 3) foster personal relationships by occasionally going to local school board meetings.

**Deadline: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.**

*Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.*

# CANDIDATE PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RESUME

## OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Michael W. Sonnleitner Date: 9/25/2020

Address: 1937 S.E. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave.

City / ZIP: Portland, OR 97215

Business phone: 971-722-4365 (PCC Board Secretary) \_\_\_\_\_

Residence phone: 503-285-5827 (landline) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: 971-998-2427 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: msonnlei@pcc.edu \_\_\_\_\_

District/ESD/CC: Portland Community College District (Zone 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Term expires: July 1st, 2013. Years on board: 4-plus. \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: October 2, 2020, 5 p.m.**

E-mail completed Resume and Questionnaire forms to [ileonhardt@osba.org](mailto:ileonhardt@osba.org), or mail to: Oregon School Boards Association, 1201 Court St NE, #400, Salem, OR 97301

**Work or service performed for OSBA or local district** (include committee name and if you were chair):

**Portland Community College Board of Directors** (Trustee representing 120,564 registered voters in Zone 3).

Elected in May of 2015 (4 year term); re-elected in May of 2019 (**term expires July 1, 2023**).

SERVING AS:

**Co-Chair, PCC Board Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** 2018-present.

**Vice-Chair, PCC Board Audit Committee:** 2018-present.

**Other education board positions held/dates:** President, Peace & Conflict Studies Consortium (2007-2010);  
PCC representative serving on the OCCA (Oregon Community College Association) Board (2020-21).

**Occupation** (Include at least the past five years): **EDUCATOR**

Employers:

Portland Community College (Full-Time Political Science Instructor).  
U.S. State Department/Fulbright Scholar @ St. Thomas College (India).  
Portland State University (Part-Time Political Science & Conflict Resolution).  
University of Northern Iowa (Full-Time Assistant Professor, Political Science).  
Loyola University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern  
Illinois University (Part-Time teaching Political Science Courses).  
Illinois Wesleyan University (Full-Time Assistant Professor, Political Science).  
University of Minnesota – Minneapolis (Part-Time Political Science Instructor).

Dates:

1988-2015 (27 years); now "retired".  
2010.  
2007-2009.  
1985-1987.  
1984-1985.  
1979-1983.  
1973-1979.

**Schools attended** (Include official name of school, where and when):

High school: Highline High School (Burien, WA): 1964-1967; Diploma 1967.

College(s): Fisk University (Nashville, TN): exchange program 1969.

**Whitman College** (Walla Walla, WA): 1967-1971; BA 1971.

University of Washington (Seattle, WA): Asian studies courses, Summer 1973.

**University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN): MA 1976; Ph.D. 1979 (Dissertation Title: "Soul Force & Social Change According to Mohandas K. Gandhi & Martin Luther King Jr.")

**Degrees earned:** Political Science **BA (1971)**; Political Science **MA (1976)**; Political Science **Ph.D. (1979)**.

**Education honors and/or awards:**

2013: Title VII Grant participant @ China Seminar, East-West Center (University of Hawaii-Manoa).

2010: Fulbright Scholar to India (teaching U.S. Government, International Relations, & Gandhian Philosophy).

2006: Outstanding Faculty Person of the Year Award (Portland Community College Rick Creek ASPCC).

2003, 1998, 1992: Nominee for Portland Community College Faculty Excellence Award.

1987: Invited Scholar to the International Association of Gandhian Studies Conference in New Delhi.

1982: Excellence in Teaching Award, Illinois Wesleyan University.

1977: Delegate to the UNICEF International Seminar on Training for Nonviolent Action In Mexico.

1972-75: Ford Foundation Graduate School Fellowship @ the University of Minnesota.

1974: Summer Peace Internship in Londonderry (Derry), Northern Ireland.

1971-72: Thomas J. Watson Fellowship studying "Experiments in Nonviolent Action" in India (6 months) & 1-4 weeks each in Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Republic of S. Africa, Italy/Sicily, U.K.

1971: Graduated from Whitman College with Honors, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa.

1968-71: Sloan Foundation Scholarship recipient at Whitman College

1969: U.S. Senate Summer Internship (Office of Sen. Henry M. Jackson) in Washington, D.C.

**Other applicable training or education:** (see above).

**Activities, other state and local community services: (IN OREGON)**

**PCC Board Political Activities** (May of 2015-present): attending all PCC Board Meetings, participating in ongoing lobbying efforts in Salem and in relation to numerous legislative Town Halls (supporting OSBA, OCCA, OEA, & AFT efforts to secure more adequate early childhood, K-12, and community college funding).

**82nd Ave. Improvement Coalition** (June of 2014-present): regularly attending meetings; serving as a Coordinating Committee member; helping secure \$200,000 to study \$200,000 this 7.3 mile state highway; lobbying Oregon legislators & Portland City Hall to support jurisdictional transfer from ODOT to PBOT.

**Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice** (2007-present): formerly called the "New Sanctuary Movement"; developing support networks for undocumented persons while seeking meaningful immigration reform via educational events; lobbying, and direct nonviolent action.

**Ascension Catholic Church** (2004-present): assisting my wife in providing occasional educational programs as well as participating in various fundraising efforts (like the annual Spaghetti Dinner), and service activities associated with the Daybreak Homeless Shelter Network, as well as immigration issues.

**Montavilla Neighborhood Association** (January of 2014-2017): regularly attending meetings, Chair of the Board (2015-16), otherwise Vice Chair. Became more involved in the neighborhood where my family lives, on issues ranging from land use to transportation, affordable housing and crime issues.

**Daybreak Homeless Shelter Network** (2004-2017): assisting homeless families in S.E. Portland in according to need; moving beds, serving meals, sleeping overnight, playing with kids, providing transportation between the day shelter and Ascension Church as part of the rotating evening host institution.

**S.E. UPLIFT** (March of 2014-2016): attending meetings, serving as an active Board member (at large), having also attended meetings of most of the 20 neighborhood associations with members elected to the S.E. Uplift Board as a means of facilitating communications and action among groups with common community concerns.

**PCC PACS Program** (1990-2015): facilitated establishment of Portland Community College (PCC) Peace & Conflict Studies (PACS) Program (1988-90), the first at any community college in the U.S.; periodically serving as Chairperson or Co-Chairperson (1990-2015); NEWSPEAK coordinator, fostering a "free speech" tradition at the Sylvania Campus by hosting weekly lunchtime events featuring controversial viewpoints and respectful dialogue (1998-2003), setting similar traditions Rock Creek (2004-2011), and at Cascade (2004-2005 & 2011-2015).

**PCSC** (1988-2017): Peace & Conflict Studies Consortium (previously the Oregon Peace Studies Consortium, with a Network of 10 educational institutions in Oregon): Board member representing the PCC PACS Program, helping organize annual regional gatherings & two national conferences; serving as President (2007-2010).

**DaVinci Middle School** (1998-2002): was among the 20 founding families who created, organized, and functionally serving as the staff for this Arts Magnet Charter School within the Portland Public School (PPS) District; also served on a PPS Committee to set up criteria to review applications to such all schools.

**Foster Parent Program** (1998-2000): my wife & I were trained as foster parents under emergency conditions, providing a home to an undocumented teenager, who we later supported to complete her high school and community college degrees, gain dual U.S./Mexican citizenship, and who became a daughter to us.

**Hobbies/special interests:** community activism & organizing; gardening; vegetarian (as well as pastry) cooking; photography; bicycling; traveling abroad; road-trips within the U.S. (esp. Oregon); enjoying time with grandkids.

**(Other) Business/professional/civic group memberships; offices held and dates:**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses Business Association** (2015-present): actively participating in the initial parade of each Rose Festival season (along a 3-mile stretch of S.E. 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave.); recently consenting to serve on the Board as a liaison to with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Improvement Coalition.

**Portland Community College Small Business Development Center** (2018-present): serving on the SBDC Advisory Council from the Montavilla Neighborhood and serving as an informal liaison to the Portland Community College Board of Directors.

**American Federation of Teachers** (1988-2015): member of the PCCFFAP (Portland Community College Federation of Faculty & Academic Professionals until retirement in 2015 – affiliated with the Oregon AFT whose office & staff I am familiar with (including current Pres. Jaime Rodriguez).

**Additional comments:**

During my 27 years of full-time teaching employment at Portland Community College (1988-2015), it may be helpful to note that I served a total of 15 years on the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) which is the primary manifestation of “shared governance” at PCC (a kind of Faculty Senate with its 45 members including academic professionals, administrators, and a student representative from each of the four PCC campuses). EAC Committees I was most active with included the EAC Membership Committee (20 years, Chair for 4), and the Academic Policy Committee (where I was quite involved for a total of 24 years). Over the years, the following issues were among the policies I was heavily involved in helping to create at Portland Community College:

- **Student Codes of Conduct** (as well as Faculty & other Employee Codes of Conduct).
- **Textbook Costs** (where I Co-Chaired an EAC taskforce to suggest strategies to reduce expenses).
- **Dual Credit Relationships** (with regards to PCC District area High Schools' students).
- **Facilitating Credit Transfers** (High Schools to PCC & to 4 year institutions): Changing courses 3 to 4 credits.
- **Expanding Experiential Learning** via Cooperative Education (Internships for credit) & Service Learning.
- **Improving Retention & Completion** with respect to High School graduates transferring to PCC (to reduce “Summer Melt”), as well as those enrolled in Gateway to College & other High School Completion Programs at PCC.

**Deadline: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, 5 p.m.**

*Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.*



## References:

- Mohamed Alyajouri:** 641-602-2815; [mohamed.alyajouri@pcc.edu](mailto:mohamed.alyajouri@pcc.edu) Chair, Portland Community College PCC) Board of Directors; with whom I have worked most closely (2017-present) where we served as Co-Chairs for the PCC Board Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (BCDEI).
- Greg Burrill:** 503-784-6543; [gmb5@georgetown.edu](mailto:gmb5@georgetown.edu) Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) full-time substitute teacher and union representative; with whom I have frequent conversations on many political & educational issues during our early morning walks three days a week.
- Denyse Peterson:** 503-888-1373; [denisepeteron@yahoo.com](mailto:denisepeteron@yahoo.com) Multnomah Education Service District (position 5, Zone 1) Board member & Portland Community College classified staff employee with whom I worked closely during my many teaching years at the PCC Cascade Campus.
- Eric Flores:** 503-686-1566; [eric\\_flores@parkrose.k12.or.us](mailto:eric_flores@parkrose.k12.or.us) David Douglas High School Teacher & former Chair, Parkrose School District Board (position 5); endorsed my PCC election campaigns in 2015 & 2019 and who I consult re.: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, & other educational issues.
- Annette Mattson:** 503-701-5355, [annette4mhcc@gmail.com](mailto:annette4mhcc@gmail.com) (2019-20) President, Oregon Community College Association) & Mt. Hood Community College Board Vice Chair with whom I lobbied the 2019 Oregon Legislature regarding additional funding for Oregon's 17 community colleges.
- Jaime Rodriguez:** 503-382-9001; [rodriguez3434@comcast.net](mailto:rodriguez3434@comcast.net) American Federation of Teachers (Oregon) President, formerly Vice President of Political Action for the Portland Community College FFAP (Federation of Faculty & Academic Professionals) with whom I frequently converse.
- Alissa Keny-Guyer:** 503-539-5055; [alissakg@comcast.net](mailto:alissakg@comcast.net) My Oregon State Representative (House District 46); who endorsed my 2019 election campaign and with whom I converse about a wide range of issues affecting students & families (including housing, healthcare & social services).
- Michael Dembrow:** 503-914-9723; [michaeldembrow@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldembrow@gmail.com) My Oregon State Senator (Senate District 23); former PCC FFAP President & faculty colleague (during my 27 PCC teaching years: 1988-2015); who endorsed my 2019 election campaign & whose Constituent Coffees I attend.
- Chris Gorsick:** 503-473-5633; [chrisgorsek@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgorsek@gmail.com) Currently Oregon State Representative (House District 49), running for Oregon State Senate; part-time Criminal Justice Instructor at Mt. Hood CC; who endorsed my campaigns in 2015 & 2019 for the PCC Board of Directors.
- Rob Wagner:** 503-705-4158; [robawagner@yahoo.com](mailto:robawagner@yahoo.com) Currently Oregon Senate Majority Leader; Chair, Lake Oswego School Board; helped me create a highly successful Legislative Internship Program at PCC; who endorsed my campaigns in 2015 & 2019 for the PCC Board of Directors.