

Parkrose Advocacy Day Talking Points

Federal

- Reopening safely is contingent upon having adequate vaccine access in our communities. The sooner that state and local public health authorities know how many vaccines Oregon will receive and when, the earlier and better we can plan and help ensure that our staff have access to those vaccines.
- Ongoing funding support: At the state level, there is already discrepancy in the funding needed to maintain current service level this coming biennium, with districts calculating we need \$500 million more than what was proposed in the Governor's budget (\$9.1 billion), just to maintain CSL. This doesn't take into consideration any additional expenses related to getting students back on track after the pandemic, but we know there will be extra costs associated with extended learning opportunities, additional social-emotional supports, etc. Any additional support coming from the feds will help ensure that that extra work in response to COVID doesn't come at the expense of our standard services to students.
- Expanding broadband and closing the "homework gap:" while folks may be inclined to assume that the digital divide mirrors the urban/rural divide, that is simply not true. There are many families and households within Parkrose who do not have adequate internet access. This was an issue prior to the pandemic, impacting students' abilities to do homework, etc. but the pandemic has brought it to the forefront, and we shouldn't go back to ignoring this gap once we resume in-person instruction.

State

- The Governor's recommended budget included \$9.1 billion for the State School Fund (SSF), which the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) considers current service level. From the school business officials' math, current service level is closer to \$9.6 billion, meaning that anything less than that would result in local districts making cuts in their 21-22 budget.
- Additionally, from the district budgeting perspective, it is necessary to receive the biennial SSF allocation on a 49-51 split, to prevent cuts in the second year of the biennium.
- We also want to be clear that \$9.6 billion represents CSL, but we also anticipate additional expenses related to COVID upon resuming in-person instruction. We anticipate needing to offer additional extended learning opportunities, which have associated staff expenses, and we also anticipate needing to provide greater social-emotional supports to students in light of the trauma of the past year.

Metro

- We want to express appreciation for the partnership between Metro and the local public health authorities in the region to set up vaccine clinics. This is a critical step in making sure we can safely consider getting students and staff back in our buildings.

- It was disappointing to see the transportation measure fail at the ballot, as there was a lot that would have benefitted Parkrose students and families. How can we continue to make progress on pedestrian safety/walkability in East Portland and ensuring low- or no-cost access to transit for area youth moving forward?

County

- We appreciate all of the work the county has been doing around COVID and working to ensure that vaccines are available in our communities. We're all in this together and we know that access to vaccines is a huge part of being able to consider having staff back in our buildings.
- We also appreciate the county's continued support of school-based health centers, which have continued to be a vital resource for our families, particularly as students aren't in school buildings where they can talk to a school nurse.
- As we start to think about returning to in-person instruction, we anticipate students having even greater need for behavioral health support than we say before the pandemic, and we welcome partnership from the county in ensuring our students have access to the resources they need.
- We are also looking ahead to Preschool for All and want to make sure that we're setting ourselves up to be a good partner. What do you think it's most important for us to be focusing on in that regard?
- While we know this hasn't historically been the purview of the county, we did want to share our disappointment at Metro's transportation measure failing, as the TriMet Youth Pass has been and continues to be a priority issue for our students and families. If there is anything the county can do to help ensure youth access to transit, it is much appreciated.

City

- We had a good conversations last year with City offices about student safety, and that is even more of a priority this year. We'd love to talk about how we continue to partner on student safety in light of evolving relationships with law enforcement as well as the increase in gun violence seen in the city over the past year.