

## **NO CUTS TO CITY PASS-THROUGH FUNDING TO SUN, PARTICULARLY BUCKMAN**

Mr Mayor. Commissioners. I appreciate your time.

My name is Matt Callanan. I am proudly a parent of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and a kindergartner at Buckman Elementary School.

I am here to urge that there be no cuts to city pass-through funds to SUN, particularly for Buckman Elementary.

Buckman is a modest school. It has many families in deep need, other families who struggle, and still other families of modest means. SUN does just what it says it does. It uses the medium of school to unite neighborhoods by establishing relationships with all families as well as community business members to draw on the strengths of some to serve the needs of others.

So the support that is provided by you Commissioners is not only appreciated by those families in need but matched by those families and partners that have something to give. This is provided in the form of donated goods, services, and thousands of volunteer hours. What I want to underscore is that those families in need are not in a position to accept that support directly from other families. Due to either logistics or pride that is not a reality. And those families that appreciate SUN services such as the after school enrichment programs and want to support SUN beyond merely paying the fees for these programs by also supporting families in need, can NOT do so without the coordination of SUN. SUN brings together families suffering bouts of need with those families that are blessed with a momentary ability to assist. SUN lives to its charter. It unites neighborhoods and it unites families. These families can not unite themselves. SUN is a trusted facilitator that establishes the confidence required to enable a family to accept support while it also empowers and enables families to assist beyond SUN's own capacity to assist.

IF it is important to understand the programs and services that SUN directly provides or develops then you will see them listed here:

- tutoring,
- mentoring,
- social services coordination,
- outreach and inclusion of English language learning families,
- holiday gift-giving (which is predominantly winter clothing),
- over 40 community partnerships each bringing additional resources to the school,
- 60 weekly enrichment classes, and
- extensive academic support initiatives and programs that are tied to specific academic benchmarks identified by the school.

The programs and services that SUN provides that have been established by SUN and have demonstrated proven success. The value of these services is felt beyond their direct benefit. Through these programs, the SUN staff is exposed to families then they establish relationships and a trust to understand those families that have more extensive needs. When crisis arrives for a family, this relationship places the SUN staff in a ready position to help families as a first point of contact to provide immediate support before that crisis spirals into additional unrecoverable difficulties.

But what seems to be unappreciated here is the consequence of these services. This support translates into the pride and comfort that ALL families need to stand on their own.

Some time ago, I personally had established and administered a program such as SUN. And, while delivering similar services as these cited was meaningful to those families, what was more impactful was what followed. Receiving this support provides a security to families and that security has a direct correlation to a family's ability to provide for themselves. It is a real and inarguable fact that concern for a child's underserved well-being perpetuates a family's poverty status. Parents who are concerned for the well-being of their child will concede their own income earning potential to address those family concerns themselves. On the other hand, when parents feel their child's well-being is being addressed then they can focus on their employment obligations. That impacts the very poverty statistics that you are using to weigh this decision. SUN indeed has tipped the scales for these families. But without their thumb, the scales will tip back in a matter of a few short months and the statistics will reveal such a few short years later. The statistics that you see today will not be sustained without the continued involvement of SUN.

Please do not mistake this as a house where SUN rallied the community to provide shelter for a needy family. In that scenario SUN could move on and the house will still stand. This is not a house. This is a living coordination effort that took considerable time and resources to establish and nurture. While the school is a very effective medium to access families who both need and provide support, school is also an organic community of families that change every year so these services are not sustainable without the ongoing coordination and direction from SUN. What took years to build would cease to exist within a semester and would take years and considerable cost to re-establish when the need for its return becomes again inarguable.

Once the support and coordination is gone, so goes the well-being of the child, then the income of the parent, then you've got the poverty statistics right back to their starting point they were years ago for Buckman not to mention the lost pride and integrity of the affected families. I truly believe each of you is noble in your intentions but do know that is the decision you are truly contemplating - by halting funding to SUN at Buckman each of you would personally assign Buckman the very consequences and eventual statistics that leaves you believing Buckman is not presently in need of SUN. This is in an elementary school that already is only a half percentage point shy of being a Title 1 school and where over a third of the students are identified as "at risk". If these statistics do not justify the need for SUN then, if you make the decision to not fund SUN at Buckman, you will see that the consequential statistics certainly will.

SUN saw hundreds of blocks on a table - some standing and some toppled. They used the standing blocks to support the toppled blocks. All the blocks are leaning on SUN to support each other. Do not pull SUN away. Please.

Thank you,  
Matt Callanan  
4/11/2012

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Frances Kappes [frances.kappes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Matt Callanan  
**Subject:** Agenda request for April 11 City Council meeting

Hello Karla-

Per our phone conversation, I would like to request a space on the April 11th agenda (under the Communications section) to address Council regarding the SUN program at Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School. Following are the two names that I would like included on the agenda in regard to this topic:

Matt Callanan  
Frances Kappes

Thank you very much,  
Frances  
503.341.3726

Request of Frances Kappes and Matt Callanan to address Council regarding SUN program at Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School (Communication)

APR 11 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 06 2012

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		