

Portland Council City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers.

Weds. April 18, 2012

Mary Davis, Oregon Brand Management and Buckman SUN client

I am a business owner in SE Portland. I too am here to speak on behalf of Buckman SUN run by NW Impact and the director Diane Miesenthaler.

I am speaking because I don't believe that the Buckman SUN program should be cut primarily on the financial status of its participating families. I believe that it deserves a focused review to see the efficiency of the use of dollars and the merits of the individual program. NW Impact and the Director Diane is leveraging the dollars two to one and running a dynamic, creative organization that is reaching nearly 200 students week plus with programs that reach all of the school population and extends to even more individuals in the community.

While Buckman is not the most poverty stricken of the SUN schools, the community needs help, and is on the fringe of title 1, just a half of a percentage away. My husband and I are working class people. Together, we have a kindergartener and own a company that employs 15 people. All of whom we are trying to support to have living wage jobs, who have goals of owning their own homes and help the tax base. We rely on SUN, because we have to work to keep our business going strong. . All working families need help. For all of the families with students participating in the afterschool classes, Buckman SUN has been priceless.

As an industrial engineer my background is in analyzing business efficiencies. I see a happy, dynamic SUN program that is leveraging its resources consistently, utilizing partnerships that help the organization to bring other private resources to support public need. As parents we pay participation fees. The Buckman SUN program is a focused and efficient use of all of our dollars; It's a well-run business.

It provides a safe environment and innovative group of classes that promote many levels of skill development. This program is an acting community center for inner SE. Days are being cut out of the school budget and families have to work. Sun hosted a camp last Friday- when the schools were closed. They offered a solution for Spring Break and this summer they offer camps, not just for the at risk kids, but because working families have to work-- to pay their rent, their mortgage, their property taxes. '

The classes integrate math, science, physics, music lessons, art, some are kinetic movement learning that include motion, dance, tae kwon do, yoga, self-defense for girls. Much of this program is recreation-based learning—a natural fit for the parks dept. There is even a class this quarter for measuring eco-footprints, and another working in the school garden.

I was inspired to speak today because participation has propelled our late summer, young kindergartener who is an average student in the class room to be able to thrive in small-class size, mixed age-group environment. It's impacted my boy who would be inclined to channel only through sports, and helped him to develop many ways to outlet his skills and creativity. Like so many of the families involved, we aren't able to stop our day at 3pm and tote our little one from dance, to piano, to Spanish class. Buckman SUN offers these thoughtful and dynamic options run by energetic teachers that want to share their passion, and teach kids.

Additionally, SUN creates events for the entire school that help parents learn to support the PPS curriculum such as Math night-- which is a chance for the SUN teachers to help parents to learn and understand the new math curriculum so we can support it at home.

SUN offers support during school fundraising events so parents can volunteer to help build foundation dollars and build resources for the school and community. Plus, at the holidays they reach out to the community and provide basics to 40 needy families (coats, shoes, basics) reaching 60 children.

Does this program sound too good to be true? Well, it exists every afternoon at Buckman and with your continued support the SUN program there can provide these basic and extraordinary learning options. But If you cut the dollars to Buckman SUN it sounds like the county will disburse their funds elsewhere. And I am sure that if you look closer at Buckman SUN you will see that it is too well run from a fiscal as well as a community impact level to eliminate. Please join us and visit the site, see the program in action!

Thank you. I appreciate the magnanimity of the decisions that you have to make in regards to your budget, and I appreciate your time and attention.

Best regards,



Mary Davis
President
Oregon Brand Management

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mary Davis [mary@oregonbrandmanagement.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 7:19 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: April 18th Council agenda request

I would like to reserve a spot on the April 18th agenda to discuss: --"no cuts to SUN passthrough monies including Buckman"

Please confirm.
Thank you,
M.

Mary Davis

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Request of Mary Davis to address Council regarding no cuts to SUN pass through monies including Buckman (Communication)

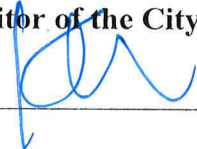
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PLACED ON FILE

APR 13 2012

Filed _____

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		