

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nicole Ruffine [neruffine@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: No cuts to City Pass-Through Funds to SUN, including Buckman at City Council April 25th
Attachments: Buckman SUN.doc

Dear Ms. Moore-Love,

I would like to be on the City Council agenda for Wednesday, April 25th, to speak in support of Buckman SUN. I have attached my letter to the mayor and city commissioners.

Thanks,
Nicole Ruffine
2128 SE Ladd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214

503-245-8251

Nicole Ruffine
Steven Ungar
2128 SE Ladd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214
503-245-8251

19 April 2012

Mayor Sam Adams
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 340
Portland, Oregon 97204

Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Mayor Adams and Members of the City Council:

We are writing in support of keeping the SUN Program at Buckman School.

We have two children in elementary school, one at Abernethy, the other in the FCC classroom at Buckman. Though these two wonderful schools are only a mile apart, the contrast between them could not be greater. The Abernethy community is largely white and middle class. The Buckman community is a mosaic of races, social classes and cultures. You don't need statistics to show you the difference: walk through the halls of each school at pick-up time and you can see it with your own eyes. Yet Buckman has the same Outstanding rating as Abernethy. Why?

Both have dedicated teachers and staff who honor their students and are committed to teaching each one according to their needs. Up 'til now, Buckman has also had three resources that solidified the community, inspired the students, and supported the families: the Arts Magnet Program; the pool; and Buckman SUN. It is apparent that the Arts Program will not withstand this round of budget cuts, and we understand that the pool is already set for closure. We are begging you to reconsider closing SUN.

Buckman SUN is the only SUN Community School in Inner Southeast Portland. It serves not only the Buckman community but also students from nearby elementary schools. Despite popular perception that Inner Southeast is largely affluent and well furnished with city resources, the neighborhoods have no community center, and no indoor swimming pool, other than the Buckman Pool. The houses near the school are modest: there are many rentals and apartments, and not all are filled with "young creatives." Buckman School is one-half a percentage point away from being a Title I School -- just a few students away. SUN at Buckman not only provides the before and

after-care many families need to keep both parents working: its programs are focused on giving all children academic support, and this support is proven to work. SUN staff also help families in need directly, providing financial counseling, support in crises, tutoring, and even access to dental care. It also unifies the school socially: all children can participate equally. Our son, whose father is a lawyer, met his best friend, whose father is a baker, at a SUN after-school program. This is what public schooling is about.

SUN's "Season of Sharing" epitomizes what the program does for the school community. Each December the bulletin board in the entrance is filled with requests for holiday gifts for kids in need. About half these requests are for toys, but the other half are for necessities: coats, pants, shoes. Yes – two miles, or one short bike ride from City Hall there are many families that can't afford to clothe their children. SUN steps in, asking not just Buckman families, but also its community partners to help take care of these kids.

Our son, Serge, says that grown-ups always cut the things kids like about school, and leave the things that make school hard. Buckman is an outstanding school because of the programs it has offered and the resources it has attracted and developed. Stripping the school in one year of three of the things that have made it succeed surely will endanger that standing. The children and families at Buckman and the neighborhoods nearby who need SUN, need it just as badly as the children in East County. It makes no sense to deny these families and the school as a whole this program. Keep what works at Buckman at Buckman.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ruffine

Request of Nicole Ruffine to address Council regarding support of Buckman SUN
(Communication)

MAY 16 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 11 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		