

#579

Stella

Dear Mr. Mayor,

My name is Stella and I am a 5th grader at Roseway Heights. I am here to thank you for putting Sun School classes back in the budget for next year. I have participated in Sun classes since second grade + It has helped me have experiences like learning to unicycle, play chess and run track + field not all at the same time. I have gained confidence and made lots of new friends. Sun classes are important to me and a lot of kids around Portland! Thank-You

#579
GRACE GROOM

Thank you, Mayor Adams, Commissioners for hearing my testimony today. I am testifying again in support of SUN Schools. First off, I want to thank you, Mayor Adams, for preserving funding for SUN Schools in your proposed budget. Thank you, Commissioner Fritz, for your steadfast support of SUN programming. I want you all to know how much we at Roseway Heights School appreciate your vote to preserve funding for SUN for next year. I know sacrifices were made to save SUN. I appreciate the tough decisions you all had to make and the compromises that were made in the process. I want you to know that those sacrifices were made for a very important reason. SUN means so much to our families and students. It is a vital part of the fabric that holds our neighborhood school together and keeps kids succeeding at Roseway Heights. With me today is 5th grader, Stella Feuerborn, here to speak about her experiences with SUN at Roseway Heights over the past 5 years.

Before I close my comments, I'd like to look ahead to the future of SUN. Every year SUN is put on the chopping block in part due to it's placement on the lower half of PP&R's priorities. I've reviewed the Portland Plan as well as the PP&R's 2020 Vision Plan and I submit that both of these forward-thinking plans call for putting SUN higher in the priorities of PP&R or whichever bureau manages SUN in the future. Specifically, the Portland Plan calls for EVERY school to be a SUN school. In the 2020 Vision Plan two key goals call for the preservation and expansion of SUN Schools. The first goal is to **PROVIDE RECREATION SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**. This goal puts specific emphasis on increasing recreation services for young people across the city. SUN does just that. The second goal to which SUN is key is to **PROMOTE COMMUNITY**. SUN does this in spades by bringing in neighbors to take and teach classes, providing summer camps for all children in the neighborhood, evening events for families, and more. An objective under this goal is to **"Partner with schools and others to provide maximum public benefit"**. The partnership of multiple stakeholders, County, City, schools, neighborhoods, users – all of us make SUN the tremendous asset it is. I strongly encourage the city to continue to support SUN in the future and for PP&R to consider realigning the list of funding priorities to place SUN higher on the list to match the goals stated in their 2020 Vision Plan.

May 2012

Dear State Senator Dingfelder,

We are the Parent Teacher Association of Roseway Heights K-8 School in Portland, Oregon. We are writing to inform you of the crisis schools across the state, including our own, are dealing with due to budget cuts. We urge you to do what you can NOW to work for stable and adequate funding of K-12 education.

Our schools are underfunded, overcrowded, and understaffed. Over the past three years Oregon's school class sizes have jumped nearly 20% (28.6% in high schools) as we have lost nearly %16 of our teachers plus thousands of support and administrative staff. In Portland, older school buildings are literally crumbling as we are bursting at the seams and serving more and more students. Our children are expected to succeed at higher levels than ever before while being provided with fewer and fewer supports to meet these higher standards.

At Roseway Heights we recently lost our Title I status as Portland Public Schools raised the level of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch (from 40% school wide to 60% school wide. This means that our free Kindergarten will be offered for a half-day program only. In addition to losing free all-day Kindergarten we have already lost funding for our Music and Drama programs are only able to provide these programs for our students through fundraising. Due to the drastic budget cuts we are also being asked to fundraise to pay for our one Art teacher for next year. PE programs are also threatened by budget cuts each year. Next school year we will be losing *all* general education assistants. We have reduced to a part time ESL teacher, are losing our Qualified Mental Health Provider who provides for our large special education department, and are also losing our technology electives for students.

Every year our administrator, along with thousands of administrators of schools across the state, is faced with impossible budget decisions in staff program reductions. We are an active parent community in a lower to middle working class neighborhood. We are proud of our robust PTA and support our school with passion and tenacity. However, we should not be asked to fundraise for essential teaching staff. Not only is such fundraising unsustainable, it is inequitable. Oregon can do so much better! Enough is enough! Schools around our state are closing and consolidating, jobs are being slashed and students are losing out. We need you to do something about the education crisis, and we need it done NOW!

We need you to make stable and adequate funding for K-12 schools your top priority NOW. We are counting on you and will support your efforts for all our schools. We invite you to come to our PTA meetings whenever you are able to discuss this issue further. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the library (7334 NE Siskiyou Street, Portland, OR 97213). We would love to hear from you about what you are doing to solve the funding crisis and what we can do to support a solution for all of our schools.

Respectfully,

The Roseway Heights PTA

Jennings, Gayla

From: Grace Groom [ggroom@hevanet.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 9:09 AM
To: Jennings, Gayla
Subject: may 30th testimony

Hello Gayla,

Thank you for putting me on the agenda for the City Council meeting on Weds. May 30th. I will be speaking in support of continued funding for S.U.N. Schools and hope to have a student from Roseway Heights with me (sharing the 3 minutes of time).

Thanks so much,
Grace Groom
503-493-0028

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Request of Grace Groom to address Council regarding support for continued funding of S.U.N. Schools (Communication)

MAY 30 2012

PLACED ON FILE

MAY 24 2012

Filed _____

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*

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