

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 351/341

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	341	Mark Darienzo, Climate Jobs PDX/Jobs with Justice	Support	I support the IGA between PPS and PCEF. The projects that PPS wants to do fits well within PCEF's criteria.	No	04/23/24 2:16 PM
2	341	Jorge Sanchez Bautista	Support		Yes	04/24/24 2:59 PM
3	341	Portland Youth Climate Strike	Support	<p>Dear Portland City Commissioners,</p> <p>My name is Chloe Gilmore. I came here on behalf of Portland Youth Climate Strike, and I am a senior at Lincoln High School in PPS located downtown. Portland Youth Climate Strike is a group of students from across Portland working to make climate justice action a priority in city and statewide politics. We have mobilized thousands of students to walk out of class and fight for their futures.</p> <p>First, I want to thank you for the Portland Clean Energy Fund's contributions to grassroots community driven projects that I hope will continue to grow in the future. Climate emergencies are becoming more rampant, frequent, and unavoidable in our city, and the effects of the climate crisis are visible within classrooms already. We need to prioritize equitable, clean, and safe schools in PPS. Because no student should have to worry about their health and safety when attending school each day.</p> <p>There are still many schools and thousands of students that have to go to class while exposed to pollution, temperatures that are too hot or too cold, and dangerous building infrastructure, which disproportionately impacts poor, working class, and Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. For example, right now the company ProLogis plans to build a distribution center next to Parkrose High School, which would exacerbate a pre-existing public health crisis due to air pollution.</p> <p>It is unjust that students are subjected to these hazardous conditions and that teachers are tasked with raising the next generation in them. How are students expected to focus if they are dripping in sweat in 90 degree classrooms? How are students expected to succeed in polluted air and extreme temperatures? Before my school got rebuilt, I remember dropping in sweat because of increasingly hot temperatures during a heatwave. It was impossible to learn, and many of my peers struggled with test performance on these days.</p> <p>These conditions will only worsen in the face of the climate crisis. As a leader of my high school's Environmental Justice Club, we have implemented multiple community based initiatives like Earth day events, presenting to elementary schools, educating peers about environmental justice, and mobilizing them to take action and protest. With more funding for student-led projects, we could implement community gardens, composting, tree planting, and local projects to connect with the land. I hope you listen to community members and continue to fund PCEF programs that align with the mission of PCEF to build climate community resiliency hubs. Students are relying on you to invest in our futures.</p>	No	04/27/24 12:57 AM

Hello Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners. My name is Jorge Sanchez Bautista. I am a climate advocate and a PPS student. I am the only high school student signed up here today to testify, and I speak for the thousands of students when I say that we are scared for our future. As I mentioned earlier, we have seen many incidents.

As the ordinance says, over 50 million dollars will be given from the PCEF to school districts within the City of Portland. With school districts having budget cuts and not funding enough climate projects to combat the climate crisis, this will support these school districts. The best part that me and other youth are grateful for is the student-led initiatives as youth always have creative ideas and are very energetic.

At this moment, I would like to highlight Parkrose high school students who are speaking up about the pollution and many other climate issues that are occurring in their neighborhood. As well as other students like myself that are speaking up and advocating for change. One example is Portland Youth Climate Strike that encourages hundreds of students each year to march in the streets of Portland to call on both the state and city governments to take action.

I would like to thank Commissioner Rubio and City staff for bringing this ordinance forward.
Thank you very much!

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351	Anonymous	Support with changes	<p>“ 1) fund up to \$46,175,000 in physical improvements in qualifying public schools in the city of Portland”</p> <p>This doesn't set clear criteria that physical improvements must be related to the purposes that taxpayers approved for these funds. Also this proposed resolution lacks any requirements for reporting back by schools receiving funds or any oversight.</p>	No	05/06/24 1:32 AM

April 25, 2024

Mayor Wheeler and Council Members,

My name is Noelle Studer-Spevak, from the Cully Neighborhood, and a volunteer organizer with Families for Climate.

As a PPS parent, I've witnessed, first hand, the disparities and challenges of swimming upstream to retrofit school buildings and grounds. While school communities with well-resourced families and stable leadership are able to pull off climate retrofits like adding trees and reducing blacktop; Title 1 schools – with principal churn faster than a DQ drive-thru,-- usually can't shade their play areas and update their classrooms without significant outside support.

PCEF's investment is exciting because it will make it possible for District staff and community partners to help lead critical cooling retrofits, so that kids at every single school can learn in comfort, inside and out. And our dedicated education professionals can do what they do best.

Schools are second homes, the magical places where our youngest citizens grow their wings and learn to fly. Kids don't care about funding streams,---- or that schools are administered separately from the City. But they do want,-- and deserve shade, engaging play space, and a reasonable temperature range that supports learning so they get a great start on a bright future.

To me, this partnership illustrates the power of PCEF - to reach across lines and reverse historic inequities rooted in redlining and underinvestment. \$20 million over five years may not be enough to retrofit the whole district, but it's a great start. And – these schools will serve as resilience hubs for the whole community in times of emergency.

Families for Climate applauds the City's bold climate justice agenda and challenges leaders to commit to continuing the Climate-friendly Public Schools program — at least until today's kindergarteners graduate from college.

Images are available in my written testimony.

Thank you



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Mayor Wheeler and Council Members,

Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Verbal Testimony

Agenda Item	Name
341	Candace Avalos
341	Cherice Bock
341	Noelle Studer-Spevak
341	Micah Meskel
341	Linh Doan
341	Lynda Martin-McCormick
341	Jacob Apenes
341	Chloe Gilmore
341	Mark Darienzo