

Portland Board of Public Education

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CULTURE CLUB-PORTLAND AD HOC COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Portland Board of Public Education recognizes the value, and importance of retaining and expanding Culture Club-Portland for the Portland Public Schools community;

WHEREAS, the Portland Board of Public Education works with the Superintendent of Schools to ensure excellence within Portland Public Schools;

WHEREAS, funding for the arts within the Portland Public Schools operating budget has been reduced;

WHEREAS, there is recognition that community organizations can deliver high quality educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, Culture Club-Portland was created in response to growing concerns about the dwindling presence of cultural experiences for students in public schools;

WHEREAS, Culture Club-Portland is a consortium of arts providers including the Portland Museum of Art, Portland Ovations, Portland Stage Company, and the Portland Symphony Orchestra;

WHEREAS, Culture Club-Portland has come together to deliver accessible, consistent, diverse, high quality arts experiences to students in Portland Public Schools (K-12);

WHEREAS, Portland Public Schools has benefited from four years of private philanthropic funding totaling \$650,000;

WHEREAS, in its fourth year, the participating arts organizations show a deep commitment to Culture Club-Portland's mission to provide arts experiences for each student in Portland Public Schools (K-12) in at least one program per year offered by each of the four arts organizations, "Four events for every student, every year", but recognize that access has not been gained sufficiently across all school levels and at each school;

WHEREAS, review of and response to three years of external program evaluations provide an opportunity to understand what works and what needs improvement, including improved communications between the Culture Club-Portland consortium and Portland Public Schools, plans to increase attendance, work to better integrate arts programming and school-based curriculum, and plans for program growth and sustainability;

WHEREAS, Portland Education Foundation (PEF) supports Culture Club-Portland by serving as both a fiscal agent and partner;

WHEREAS, PEF is established and aligned with Portland Public Schools in order to raise, and

retain, philanthropic support to enhance educational opportunities for present and future students in Portland's public schools, and has staff capacity to support efforts to support the Culture Club-Portland - Public Schools collaborative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland Board of Public Education, by vote of approval, directs the establishment of the Culture Club-Portland Ad Hoc Committee (hereinafter the Ad Hoc Committee), signaling the District's recognition of, commitment to, and belief in the importance of retaining and expanding the Culture Club-Portland - Public Schools collaborative and the continued and enhanced educational opportunities provided therein. The Ad Hoc Committee will be asked to read and review three annual external program evaluations conducted by USM staff, study factors and conditions presented, and make specific recommendations that seek to a) strengthen coordination between PPS and the Culture Club-Portland consortium, b) maximize participation at all grade levels, and c) help secure the longstanding sustainability of the Culture Club-Portland - Public Schools collaborative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no later than two weeks after the adoption of this resolution, the Superintendent shall appoint up to 8 members from the community to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, and shall announce the members at the following regularly scheduled business meeting of the Portland Board of Public Education. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee will be selected based on their willingness, roles in the community, knowledge of and experience with the arts, knowledge of and experience with arts programming within public education, knowledge of and experience with philanthropic funding, and knowledge of and experience with the school and city budgeting process. At least one member of the Ad Hoc Committee will be an Executive Director from the Culture Club-Portland consortia. The chair of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be an employee of Portland Public Schools with access to school-based staff as well as Central Office staff, and all meetings shall be conducted in public in accordance with the policies of the Portland Public Schools. Administrative support for the Ad Hoc Committee will be provided by the Portland Education Foundation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no later than May 15, 2016 the Ad Hoc Committee shall submit a report to the Superintendent and the Portland Board of Public Education with its findings, and recommended next steps. Upon submission of the final report, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be deemed complete; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this effort shall be legally established and authorized to act when this resolution is approved.