



FOUNDATION FOR  
**PORTLAND**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although 2020–2021 was certainly the most challenging school year most of us can remember, it was also a year of tremendous growth for the Foundation for Portland Public Schools (FPPS). During this past year, FPPS doubled our revenue that benefits Portland Public School (PPS) students. Several of our existing initiatives, like the Families in Crisis Fund and PPS Food Fund, grew exponentially in response to increased needs of PPS families during the pandemic.

In our efforts to be responsive to the changing needs of our schools, we also launched several new programs this year, including Addressing the Opportunity Gap, the PPS Coronavirus Relief Fund, Outdoor Teaching and Learning, and several managed funds.

Another exciting development was becoming the fiscal sponsor for Portland Empowered, an organization that raises the voices of traditionally underrepresented stakeholders to improve our schools. We believe their work complements our efforts and furthers our mission.

We have diversified our board leadership and built capacity by adding students from Casco Bay, Deering, and Portland High Schools as full, voting members of our Board of Directors. We also launched our first Advisory Board this year with a tremendous group of community leaders and thinkers.

We do this work because schools are the center of our community. Research shows that students do better when families and local community organizations are engaged in schools. We'd like to thank all of the family members, business and community partners, and philanthropic supporters who have supported our work. We welcome your involvement as volunteers, thought partners, advocates, and donors.

Josh Rent, *Board President (2018–2021)*

Sarah Moran, *Board President (2021–present)*

Andi Weisman Summers, *Executive Director*



Sarah Moran



Josh Rent



Andi Weisman Summers

## 2020–2021 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

### INCOME

Restricted	\$632,849
Unrestricted	\$115,226
PPS contribution for staff salary & benefits*	\$124,279
Gifts in Kind	<u>\$44,591</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$916,945</b>

### EXPENSES

Investments in PPS	\$504,853
Operating Costs	\$33,313
Salaries and Benefits*	\$176,574
Distribution of in Kind	<u>\$44,591</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$759,331</b>

\*Note: PPS, per a Memorandum Of Understanding, contributes the Executive Director's salary and benefits. FPPS pays for the Advancement Coordinator's salary and benefits.



FOUNDATION FOR  
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**Our Mission** is to be a catalyst for increased educational opportunities, achievement, and equity for all Portland Public Schools students and staff.

**Our Vision** is to strengthen schools through community investment.

**Our Goals** are educational enrichment, innovation and community engagement.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Throughout these challenging pandemic times, the Foundation for Portland Public Schools has been an essential partner of the Portland Public Schools in realizing our Portland Promise goals: Achievement, Equity, Whole Student, and People. Foundation initiatives over this past year have included Addressing the Opportunity Gap, a new community campaign to raise money for systemic equity work in the Portland Public Schools, and a new partnership between the Foundation and Portland Empowered that is designed to enhance community engagement in our schools. These new efforts, combined with other Foundation initiatives like the PPS Food Fund and Families in Crisis Fund—which help students’ families impacted by the pandemic to meet basic needs—are crucial to our students’ success. The Foundation’s Equity and Innovation Teacher Grants Program also has long supported our teachers in their efforts to enrich education and innovate in the classroom and will continue to do that going forward. I’m proud to be a member of the Foundation’s board, and I look forward to continuing to build on these achievements and realizing even more successes during the coming year.

—Xavier Botana, *Superintendent of Portland Public Schools*



## Board of Directors, 2020-2021

Group photo includes Jonna Rosenthal, Aislinn Funkhouser, Sarah Brydon, Ashleigh Daniels, Sheila Adell, Mike Bove, Marnie Morrione, Josh Rent, Andi Weisman Summers, Blanca Santiago, Sarah Moran, Derek Pierce, Marie Mueller, Lorie Dana, Carol Hager

Board Members not pictured: Ahmed Abdirahman, Abdullahi Ali, Xavier Botana, Jill Botler, Emily Chaleff, Muhammad Humza Khan, Lisa Page, Stephen Segal

## Advisory Board

Tarlan Ahmadov, Kendra Allen, Dave Barry, Mary Bennett, Lili Brown, Matt Dubel, Chas Foehl, Sarah Fortin, Laura Newman, Adele Ngoy, Rob Reusch, Jenna Vendil



## FPPS FOCUS AREAS

In the 2020–2021 school year, FPPS worked with district leaders, educators, students, and families to identify and fundraise for a range of priority areas that benefit schools and students.

**Addressing the Opportunity Gap** deepens and accelerates systemic racial equity work in the district

### Equity and Innovation Teacher Grants

enable teachers and other staff to invest in innovations they believe will have meaningful impact and reach for students

**Families in Crisis Fund** helps vulnerable PPS families with emergency needs other than food such as housing, utilities, transportation, medical costs, or critical supplies

**Outdoor Teaching and Learning** supports district efforts to maximize outdoor learning spaces and opportunities

**PPS Coronavirus Response** allows flexibility in responding to unanticipated needs and expenses that arise from the pandemic including increased communications, health and safety outreach, and supplies to distribute to families

**PPS Food Fund** addresses food insecurity for students and their families

**STEM Funds** support additional opportunities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math

## FPPS MANAGED FUNDS

FPPS is pleased to work with a variety of individuals and organizations to create and manage funds in the interest of schools and students.

### Annetta Weatherhead Fund at Reiche School

provides flexible and easily-accessible financial resources to improve the lives of Reiche students and enhance their educational opportunities

**Barbara Anderson Scholarships** recognize first generation college students at Portland High School who demonstrate strong academic achievement and financial need

**Make It Happen! Scholarships** provide four years of financial support for immigrant or refugee students who have been accepted to college

**Rising Tide Awards** provide summer opportunities for students from immigrant families to pursue academic and personal interests, strengthen college applications, and develop leadership skills

**SolaRise** funds construction of solar arrays on school buildings through advocacy and collaboration between students, the City of Portland, environmental groups, and funders

**Step Up Awards** allow recipients at Portland High School to participate in extracurricular opportunities by decreasing the need to work after school and/or on weekends

**Thompson Scholarships** honor two Brown Medal Scholars and two poets graduating from Portland High School each year

## 2020–2021 EQUITY AND INNOVATION TEACHER GRANTS

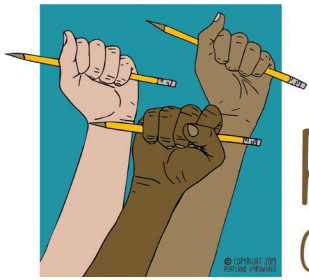
“ I feel so fortunate to have been a recipient of a FPPS grant this year. My students cheered when they saw ‘Science’ on our daily schedule. We did six engineering units, allowing students to explore bridge building, electric circuits, wind turbines, balloon shuttles, rockets, and wearable fitness trackers. I felt empowered to be able to enhance my work as a teacher for the benefit of my students. ”

— Julia Hazel, Rowe School

The FPPS Equity and Innovation Grants Program supports teacher-led classroom innovations which enhance learning experiences for PPS students. The program recognizes, rewards, and supports teachers’ work to inspire students and improve learning outcomes in alignment with the Portland Promise.

**In 2020–2021 FPPS awarded 61 grants totaling \$48,595 impacting 6,348 student experiences**





## PORTLAND EMPOWERED CHAMPIONING VOICE IN EDUCATION

FPPS is proud to have become the fiscal sponsor of Portland Empowered (PE) this year. PE champions student and parent voice with a specific focus on engaging those who have historically been under-represented. They reduce barriers and create opportunities for emerging youth and adult leaders so that youth in Portland Public Schools are successful in school and beyond. PE supports Youth and Parent Engagement Partners which enable students and parents to organize together and act as change makers and advocates in their schools and communities.

### PORTLAND EMPOWERED SUPPORTERS

#### Organizations

Cross Cultural Community Service  
Dream Cycles  
Gordon D. Russell Trust  
Longfellow PTO  
Maine Community Integration  
Maine Initiatives  
Old Bug Light Charitable Foundation  
Reve Recycling Studios  
Sam L Cohen Foundation  
Space Gallery  
The Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Inc

#### Individuals

Jill Babcock  
Claire Brady  
Melissa Clements  
Caroline Homer  
Katie Howard  
Ryan Scott & Jennifer Plume  
Dulari Tahbildar & Keith Catone  
Jessica Wedell

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ADDRESSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP FUND



“When you have students who are entering the world not knowing anything about African or Indigenous history, it erases huge groups of people in the world. It makes me feel like I’m not important. Like my history is not important. Like anything I ever do wouldn’t be included in a history book.”

— Umulkair Mohamed '21,  
Deering High School

We all want Portland students to be fully prepared to participate and succeed in a diverse and ever-changing world. But we have inherited educational policies and practices that systematically afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others.

The Addressing the Opportunity Gap Fund was created in response to friends and neighbors looking for local ways to support efforts to root out systemic or ongoing inequities and to become actively involved in anti-racist work. The fund allows us to continue and accelerate the work PPS is already deeply engaged in around curriculum, professional development, policy, and hiring.

In year one, we raised over \$98,000. The John T. Gorman Foundation, Martin’s Point Community Health, and Unum led the way in supporting our efforts. And we are already having an impact.

- Students and families are connecting deeply with the multilingual/multicultural social work interns that were supported and mentored with these funds.
- Thousands of students will see themselves reflected in culturally reflective picture books and textbooks purchased this spring.
- The number of highly qualified, new staff of color is slowly growing, and research shows clearly that this increases graduation rates and overall achievement for students.

We all need to do our part so that our future leaders have the skills they need to tackle the problems of tomorrow. Local employers confirm that they prioritize employees who are comfortable with diverse perspectives and can work through differences. We need broad community support for this work to change our collective culture. The Addressing the Opportunity Gap Fund is part of the solution.

# MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### \$150,000

Anonymous

### \$10,000 to \$25,000

Anonymous

John & Lin Burgess  
Jason Clere & Charu Saxena  
Andrew & Nesrin Tisdale  
Tom & Judy Watson

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Ann & Bill Weber

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

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Kate Atkinson  
Tori Bachman  
Amy Balk  
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Juliana & Richard Bean  
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Meredith Benton  
Aimee & Mark Bessire  
Amy Beveridge  
Emily Bienek  
Marly Biermann  
Jennifer Boggs  
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Carole Center  
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Rachel Conly  
Katharine Coon  
Deborah & Robert Cummins  
Danielle Currier  
Kathleen Dalton  
Anne Dandy  
Ashleigh Daniels  
Shawn & Amy Denecker  
Haley Didriksen & Jon Janelle  
Lauren Dietlin  
Moria Driscoll & David Pence  
Yvette N Dunnigan  
Talya Edlund  
Peter & Stephanie Eglinton  
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Justin & Kierston Van Soest  
Jenna R Vendil  
Stephanie Walsh  
Kate Walsh  
Zoe Washburn  
Charles Weber

Andrea Weisman Summers  
Barrett Wilkinson  
Wynne Wirth  
Suzannah Wood  
Hannah Young

## ORGANIZATIONS

**\$30,000 and above**  
Ensign Bickford Foundation  
Sam L Cohen Foundation  
Unum

**\$20,000 to \$29,999**  
Eastpoint Christian Church  
Estate of Philip P. Thompson Jr.  
John T. Gorman Foundation  
L.L. Bean  
The Cabin Foundation

**\$10,000 to \$19,999**  
Bank of America Foundation  
Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation  
Edward H Daveis Benevolent Fund of MCF  
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation  
Martin's Point Health Care Inc.  
United Way of Greater Portland  
Verizon Foundation

**\$5,000 to \$9,999**  
Benchmark Real Estate  
Crystal Reporting Solutions  
Maine Community Foundation  
Mascoma Bank  
The Hudson Foundation

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**  
Allagash Brewing Company  
Androscoggin Bank's Main Street Foundation  
Antonia J. Daley Foundation  
Brooks Family Foundation  
Coffee By Design  
East Brown Cow Inc.  
Good Shepard Food Bank  
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Marr-Anderson Family Foundation  
Portland Maine Elks Lodge #188  
PTC Inc.  
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Shell Oil Company Foundation Matching Gifts  
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The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation  
Town & Country Federal Credit Union

**\$500 to \$999**  
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Walmart

## Up to \$499

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Tulgey Wood Foundation

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Martin's Point Health Care Inc.  
Mechanics Hall  
Mexicali Blues  
Portland Ovations  
Spectrum / Charter Communications  
Spectrum Healthcare Partners  
Staples South Portland Donation Drive

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Call the Foundation office at 207-842-4658 with any omissions or corrections, and please accept our sincere apologies.*





FOUNDATION FOR  
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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### Donor Profile—Amy and Tom Landry of Benchmark Real Estate

Amy Landry and her husband Tom, owners of Benchmark Real Estate, created the **Portland Kids Duathlon** to give kids a race all their own. It is also a fundraiser for FPPS. The event has raised over \$35,000 to benefit Portland students since its inception.

*“Everything we do at Benchmark has a charity tie in. Giving back to the community that supports us is foundational to our business,”* said Amy, also Race Director for the event. *“The Foundation was a natural fit as beneficiary. What other charity in Portland can benefit as many community kids and families as they do?”*

## The Foundation for PPS Welcomes Your Support!

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
**FOUNDATIONFORPPS.ORG**

### SEND A CHECK:

Foundation for Portland Public Schools  
353 Cumberland Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04101

Matching gifts, stocks, and planned giving  
can be accommodated.

For more information, contact FPPS at:  
info@foundationforpps.org  
or call FPPS Executive Director,  
Andi Weisman Summers,  
at 207.842.4658.

