



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	\$44,591
Total Revenue	\$916,945

EXPENSES

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

**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
PORTLAND
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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 Morriane, 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 Ahmadow, 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

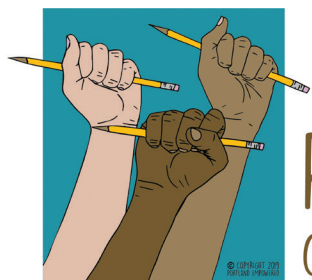
“I feel so fortunate to have been a recipient of a FPPS grant this year. My students cheered when they saw ‘Science’ on our daily schedule. We did six engineering units, allowing students to explore bridge building, electric circuits, wind turbines, balloon shuttles, rockets, and wearable fitness trackers. 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 Tahbilda & 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

Anonymous

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Abby Blake

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Brock & Lane Clarke

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Pious Ali
Kendra Allen
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Juliana & Richard Bean
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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
Androscooggin Bank's Main Street Foundation
Antonia J. Daley Foundation
Brooks Family Foundation
Coffee By Design
East Brown Cow Inc.
Good Shepard Food Bank
Great Diamond Partners
Maine Health
Margaret E Burnham Charitable Trust
Marr-Anderson Family Foundation
Portland Maine Elks Lodge #188
PTC Inc.
Red Sox Foundation
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Matching Gifts
Spectrum / Charter Communications
Strategic Media
The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
Town & Country Federal Credit Union

\$500 to \$999

Central Maine Power
Corporate Giving
IIS Financial

Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
The Boulous Company
Walmart

Up to \$499

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Comcast Spectacor, LLC
Foundation Brewing Company
Geary Brewing Co.
PayPal Giving Fund
People's United Bank
True North Networks, LLC

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InterMed
L.L. Bean
LT's Inc.
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.





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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:

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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.

