

May 2, 2024

My name is Magali Rabasa..

I'm a parent at Rigler Elementary where I'm also the President of Padres Unidos de Rigler.

Members of the Rigler PTA have been part of conversations about foundation policy reform for nearly four years, including through our participation in the 2022 roundtable listening sessions.

Parents from schools like ours that do not have foundations have repeatedly emphasized the following points, which I bring to the table again today:

- The current policy is deeply inequitable and directly undermines the differential funding model. The 30% contribution is itself evidence of the inequity baked into the current policy.
- As we have seen at Rigler, the Parent Fund Grants do not mitigate this inequity, since they are never enough to fund FTE, are unreliable, and cultivate a dynamic of charity, not solidarity.
- The current policy divides school communities across the district by promoting a culture of individually-minded rather than collectively-minded investment in public education.
- We believe that the proposal to create a District-Wide foundation has the framework and principles needed to strengthen our district and activate the diverse and rich resources of *all* of our communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, in a practice of mutual aid and systemic transformation that will benefit *all students* while honoring and promoting the agency and dignity of all members of our district.

The proposed policy for a District-Wide Foundation that includes state-level advocacy is ready to be passed now.

- There is a plan and structure in place, and we are grateful to Director Hollands for his work in advancing that.
- Many, many parents and community members already support this and when united around a clear district-wide fundraising model, will be motivated to participate more robustly.
- There are precedents that show that there is capacity, interest, and commitment to working across school communities, and we have seen this first-hand at Rigler. We regularly work closely with several other schools, supporting each other socially and materially, through *multidirectional* skill-sharing and resource-sharing. We know others are doing the same elsewhere in the district. Imagine the potential for this kind of work to be expanded across all of PPS with a structure and framework to support it!

As we say at Rigler, ¡Juntos podemos! Together we can!

Thank you!