

**Email from Suzanne Clark to Robyn Faraone, March 8, 2025**

Robyn,

I'd like to submit the following as public testimony, so that it is available to all PAC members and the community for review:

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On the March 6, 2025 episode of Think Out Loud, Gresham Police Chief Travis Gullberg said that if he "were King for the day," he would fully fund education because "that's where it all starts." Gullberg "would like to see a world where we don't have to put as much money into public safety. Obviously, I'm in public safety. I care very deeply about our police officers. But if we can find a way to fund and better fund and focus on education--because to me education is the pathway to success for everybody, it equals the playing field." @15:00  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/03/06/think-out-loud-gresham-portland-oregon-crime-police-chief-travis-guilberg-ceasefire-initiative/>

**Here are my questions for staff:**

- Can we use the \$1m to fund a contract-government relations firm to get schools funded to at least the QEM?
- Can we use a portion of the \$1m to cover expenses for raising funds for the 2026-27 school year and hold any remaining dollars to be additive to funds raised in 2025-2026?
- Can we use a portion of the \$1m to hire a professional-dedicated fundraiser to help get the fundraising going?
- To what degree might PPS be able to support marketing and communications for the new fundraising model and goals, including direct outreach to parent organizations in schools and materials that can be shared in school communities?
- How can PPS staff support fundraising and state funding advocacy?

**Data request:**

- cost for a high-impact tutor for one school year

- cost for a site-coordinator at a community school
- feedback from PPS on the highest need schools/students for next year

**Presenter Request:**

Rob Reich, Stanford University: professor and author on philanthropy <https://politicalscience.stanford.edu/people/rob-reich>

**Recommendations for potential PAC goals:**

- goal to get our communities and corporations funding this, not just parents.
- goal to make it additive to a fully funded district budget
- goal to not use it for core FTE because that should be funded by taxpayer dollars.
- goal to have district-wide fundraising events and cluster-wide events to build community bonds.
- goal to have fundraising events coordinated/aligned with advocacy opportunities
- since PPS is not fully funded, in the short term, we want to help students where resources are needed the most and possibly put emphasis at the elementary level because getting kids on track early will pay off down the line and those parents tend to be more involved in their schools.
- long-term goal example might be to develop creative tutoring centers for each cluster, maybe in affiliation with Ballmer Institute, UofP, Lewis & Clark, PSU, Reed, etc.  
(<https://www.edutopia.org/article/human-connection-everything-dave-eggert-what-hes-learned-tutoring-students/>)

**Possible proposal:**

The PAC presents a method and plan for the next year, for example:

A portion of the \$1m is used to get the Champions fundraising program on its feet and set three goals by May 1, 2025 to guide fundraising during the 2025-26 school year for distribution of funds for the 2026-27 school year. Example: 1) a dollar amount goal and 2) add X number of community site-coordinators and X number of tutors 3) use a small portion of funds to establish a strong joint fundraising/advocacy entity at The Fund.

The PAC develops a method/process for next year's PAC:

- meetings start at the beginning of the school year, so the PAC can hear presentations from program leaders at the early meeting to help develop a sense of where the money might be most effective

- drop-down donation menu set by November based on PAC's priority causes and develop individual fundraising events for each cause, for example: city-wide restaurant night for high-intensity tutors; auction/party for community school site-coordinators; Timbers' Champions for PPS fundraising event.

The PAC drafts guiding principles around future PAC allocations to explain why class-size or similar headcount funding is not the best use of dollars:

- problem of paying for staff that might not be there the following year if fundraising dollars aren't sufficient
- staffing changes occur through the start of the school year and the PAC might allocate funds where they were not needed (due to kids leaving a school) or not allocate funds where they were needed (due to kids entering school after the first day)
- it's too big of an issue for the amount of dollars the PAC will have in its first few years or possibly ever, if Salem doesn't step up.
- classroom teachers are "core" FTE that should be funded by taxpayer dollars
- funders would be inclined to only provide dollars for positions at their own schools.

The PAC has an opportunity to illuminate for the broader public the ethical impact of philanthropy in our public schools, so that the entire PPS community can unite and rally together in support of excellent education opportunities for all students. It is a huge responsibility with significant outcomes and should not be rushed. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this process!

Many thanks,

Suzanne Clarke  
Roosevelt HS Parent  
PAC member

## **Email from David LaMadrid to Robyn Faraone, 3/12/25**

Hi Robyn,

A couple of questions:

1. Some ideas have been suggested for the use of the funds, such as hiring a lobbyist or fundraising events, that don't align with the stated objective of the PAC. While the non-staffing suggestions are in fact excellent, are they non-starters for this inaugural PAC process? The amendment to 7.10.020-P seems very specific that the funds the PAC is considering is for staff positions (i.e., the 33% of the school foundation's total funds is for staffing). Seems non-staffing recommendations would fall into the areas covered by the remaining 66% of the total funds available.
2. Is the PAC tasked with identifying specific staff positions within a particular program or support service, or to provide a broader recommendation for staff to 'xyz' program, and 'xyz' program will then determine what is the best utilization for staffing. I don't believe this has been communicated to the PAC.

David Lamadrid