



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

501 North Dixon Street | Portland, OR 97227
(503) 916-2000 | pps.net

April 10, 2025

Dear Jefferson Community,

I want to thank you for joining me and the PPS team at the Jefferson Modernization Community Meeting, and for giving us the space to have transparent conversation. I left the meeting feeling deeply moved by the honest and sometimes painful truths shared, but most importantly by the unwavering pride and love this community continues to show for Jefferson High School.

It was not lost on me that trust has been fractured, and that disappointment runs deep. You have been asked to wait. You have been asked to believe in promises not yet delivered. But you continue to show up, speak up, and fight for what's right for your children and your neighborhood school. That tells me everything I need to know about your commitment, and it strengthens mine.

These types of conversations are not always easy. But they are necessary. And because of your voices, the path forward is clearer, and here's what I heard from you:

- **You want action, not more delay.** Many of you asked what happens if the bond doesn't pass, and whether there's a backup plan to build a school within the funds already allocated. We heard that urgency, and we are taking that back to our leadership and board for further discussion.
- **You are proud of Jefferson and want it to be a neighborhood school again.** We heard calls for Jefferson to be a school where students from across North and Northeast Portland choose to attend, and where boundaries reflect that vision. I want to reaffirm: enrollment boundary discussions will begin this spring, and Jefferson is part of that first phase of work.
- **You want our children involved in this process, every step of the way.** From permitting and planning to design and construction, students should have hands-on opportunities. I heard you clearly: not in bits and pieces, but throughout the life of the project. That is our commitment.
- **You want honest communication without sugar coating or spin.** You asked us not to minimize cost realities or overpromise what's possible. We're committed to telling the truth, even when it's uncomfortable, and ensuring you are equipped with clear, timely, and relevant information.
- **You want to see more visible leadership alongside the project team.** I heard that my presence and my team's presence matters. Please know that we intend to stay in this conversation, and you have my word that Jefferson remains a top priority for this administration.

PPS Board of Education

Zone 1

Christy Splitt

Zone 2

Michelle DePass (Vice-Chair)

Zone 3

Patte Sullivan

Zone 4

Herman Greene

Zone 5

Gary Hollands

Zone 6

Julia Brim-Edwards

Zone 7

Edward (Eddie) Wang (Chair)

Student Representative

JJ Kunsevi



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What's next?

The PPS team is currently compiling all the questions and comments submitted during the meeting, both spoken and written. We are reviewing them carefully, and we will be sending a comprehensive follow-up with responses to the Jefferson community soon.

In the meantime, I hope you'll join us again for the next Jefferson Community Design Meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 PM** at Jefferson High School. This will be another opportunity to stay connected, continue the conversation, and help shape what's ahead.

I want to thank you again for your honesty, your advocacy, and your continued belief that this school will be a source of pride, belonging, and opportunity for every student who walks through its doors.

We're listening. We're learning. And we're committed to doing right by Jefferson.

With gratitude and care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kimberlee', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong, Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

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