

March 25, 2013

Chairwoman Gelser and members of the House Education Committee,
Please support HB 2748, but amend the bill to implement it July 2014.

This past fall, I was a parent representative for Riverdale's High School Site Council... for one month. When we introduced ourselves at that first meeting, I described my participation in Beaverton Site Councils (we are a grandfathered "transfer" family) at the inception of No Child Left Behind and my growing worries as schools were to engage in more standardized assessments, tying teachers to test results. I also raised concerns about data privacy, knowing Oregon had embarked on a preK-through-career database, Project ALDER.

When I was politely told that I was "too political" in sharing these views, I understood I was not welcome to continue in this volunteer position.

In the four years that my son attended Riverdale High School, education politics have not been on the front burner. After all, if private dollars (foundation, local option levy and tuition) essentially double the public dollars allocated through the state school funding formula, this money can presumably build a fortress to keep poverty and egregious top-down reforms out. It could be a public school, with the quality of a private school, such as [Arbor School of Arts and Sciences!](#)

Tuition revenue at Riverdale High School is now 1 in 5 dollars. That will likely increase as compression is impacting most districts that collect local option levies.

I contend the **tight** noose of the Global Education Reform Movement¹ cannot be overcompensated by money **loosely** supplementing public coffers—whether it's through foundations, levies, or tuition. Charter schools—especially virtual ones—won't "save" public education either.

Understandably, the Riverdale community is engaging in education politics now. But is this what Oregon should allow? Public education vouchers for the richest school districts that market their schools to higher income, "motivated" families?

Unfortunately, education politics consume public education in America--but it's the poorest schools and communities² that are closing while income inequality soars.

Kris Alman MD

¹ <http://dianeravitch.net/category/global-education-reform-movement/>
http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/how-germ-is-infecting-schools-around-the-world/2012/06/29/gJQAVELZAW_blog.html

² http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-03-21/news/chi-chicago-public-school-closings-20130321_1_school-buildings-closure-district-officials

<http://www.riverdaleschool.com/page.cfm?p=2687>

HB2748

The Riverdale School Board sent information on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, regarding HB2748, which would prohibit school boards in Oregon from offering a tuition choice to non-resident students and their families. [Please click here to read the letter from the School Board.](#)

The next action on the bill is scheduled for Monday, March 25th at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in participating in the legislative process, you can send testimony to Rick Berkobien vis email: rick.berkobien@state.or.us.

The Education Committee meets on Monday May25th, promptly at 1:00 pm, in Salem, Hearing Room D.

You can track this bill, by [clicking here](#).