



Campaign for Open School

Philanthropic Support

Max Williams, Executive Director, Oregon Community Foundation

Government Support

Deborah Kafoury, Chair, Multnomah County

Shane Bemis, Mayor, City of Gresham

Partner School District Support

Sam Breyer, Superintendent, Centennial School District

Don Grotting, Superintendent, David Douglas School District

Jim Schlachter, Superintendent, Gresham-Barlow School District

Karen Gray, Superintendent, Parkrose School District

Carole Smith, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools

Linda Florence, Superintendent, Reynolds School District

Key Partner Support

Erin Hubert, CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area

Dan Ryan, CEO, All Hands Raised

John Watzke, Dean of the School of Education, University of Portland

Catherine Nicewood, President, Rockwood Neighborhood Association

Linda Nilsen-Solares, Executive Director, Project Access NOW

Additional Community Support

Michelle Borke

Anne Lipsitz

Rachael Spavins

MJ Trelease

Beth Zappitello



Here for Oregon. Here for Good.

May 3, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

Please join The Oregon Community Foundation in supporting Open School by funding Open Meadow Alternative School's request to the State for \$2 million in lottery bond support for its capital project in East Multnomah County.

The Oregon Community Foundation was an early supporter of this project, providing funds for campaign marketing and outreach. The Foundation later supported Open School with an investment through our Fred W. Fields *Out of School Time* Initiative, and last week at our 41st Annual Luncheon, we proudly invested our billionth dollar in this project with a \$150,000 capital grant.

Open School does what Oregon needs in serving the Rockwood neighborhood and community. It is a results-driven, innovative, and collaborative non-profit. Their coordinated services with six school districts, higher education, the Boys and Girls Club, and other non-profits is precisely the type of collaborative that brings out the best in Oregon and gets results.

A \$2 million investment of lottery bonds leverages over \$2 million in philanthropic support from across the region and could draw additional funding of up to \$1.8 million in federal investment through New Markets Tax Credits. This type of project and partnership brings out the best in our state and I urge you to give careful consideration to this important request.

Sincerely,

Max Williams
President & CEO



Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 988-3308



Shane Bemis
Gresham City Mayor

Suite 600 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, 3rd Floor
Gresham, Oregon OR 97030
Phone: (503) 661-3000

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Fred Girod and Tobias Read, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub Committee
on Capital Construction

Re: Open Meadow Alternative School Request for Lottery Bonds

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

We are writing to express our support for the Open Meadow Alternative School, which is requesting lottery bonds for construction of a school in Gresham. We are particularly excited to see this organization co-locate on a piece of land in the Rockwood Neighborhood of Gresham, along with the Boys and Girls Club, and very near a Friends of the Children facility currently under construction.

The strategic location of these education, after-school, and mentoring services for children will help change lives in one of Gresham's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Successfully securing this bond funding could help Open Meadow leverage up to \$1.8 million in federal New Markets Tax Credit funding, and another \$3.7 million in private investment.

Open Meadow brings together six of the County's largest school districts, along with a host of important community partners, to take on some of the least advantaged youth in our community. We encourage you to support their request.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair

Shane Bemis
Gresham City Mayor

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Fred Girod and Tobias Read, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub Committee
on Capital Construction

Re: Open Meadow Alternative School Request for Lottery Bonds

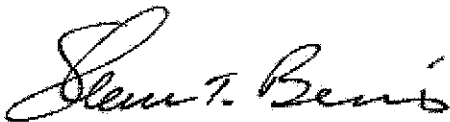
Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

I write to express my support for the Open Meadow Alternative School, which is requesting lottery bonds for construction of a school in Gresham. We are particularly excited to see this organization co-locate on a piece of land in the Rockwood Neighborhood of Gresham, along with the Boys and Girls Club, and very near a Friends of the Children facility currently under construction.

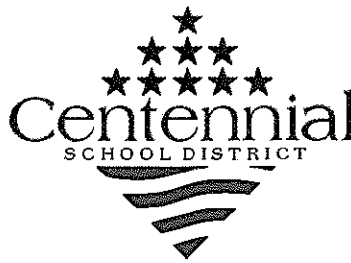
The strategic location of these education, after-school, and mentoring services for children will help change lives in one of Gresham's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Successfully securing this bond funding could help Open Meadow leverage up to \$1.8 million in federal New Markets Tax Credit funding, and another \$3.7 million in private investment.

Open Meadow brings together six of the County's largest school districts, along with a host of important community partners, to take on some of the least advantaged youth in our community. I encourage you to support their request.

Sincerely,



Shane T. Bemis
Mayor of Gresham



18135 SE Brooklyn Street
Portland, OR 97236-1049
Telephone 503-760-7990
FAX 503-762-3689

May 3, 2015

The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Oregon State Legislature
Capital Construction Subcommittee
900 Court ST NE, S-401
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tobias Read
Oregon State Legislature
Capital Construction Subcommittee
900 Court ST NE, H-286
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Read,

I'm writing to express my support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support. Open School is an excellent example of the partnerships that will be required for us to truly make a difference in student outcomes in Oregon. This partnership between six school districts and multiple private agencies is important to our schools and community.

Open School is managed by Open Meadow Alternative Schools, an organization with a long history of supporting struggling students. Open Meadow has been an active, engaged, and truly collaborative partner in our work together. The Open School program also brings private partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland and the University of Portland, among others.

Open School is a key component of the work we're doing in Centennial School District to identify and support students early who are at risk of dropping out. By identifying early, and leveraging partner support, we are able to use public resources most effectively to get and keep students on track to graduate on time and become contributing members of our community. This is far more strategic, and effective, than attempting to intervene after students experience years of failure.

Furthermore, the program's partnership with University of Portland's School of Education means that its influence will be felt well beyond simply the students in the school itself. By better

training educators to work with our most underserved students, we will improve outcomes across our system.

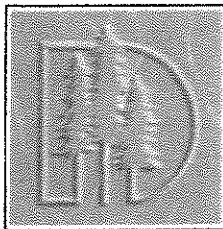
Open School's \$2 million request for lottery bonds is an effective public investment that makes financial sense. The project leverages a federal investment of up to \$1.8 million and leverages an additional \$3.8 in private investment. This is significant! Further, the project makes on-going operational sense with two non-profits sharing facility space in a manner that strengthens both program and operating models for the long-term.

As a superintendent, I certainly understand the challenge of prioritizing worthy needs. I urge you to support this request. It addresses critical aspects of the state's 40-40-20 goals; it makes programmatic and financial sense and will be managed by an established Oregon non-profit with a proven track-record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S G Breyer".

Samuel G. Breyer
Superintendent of Schools



David Douglas School District

Don Grotting, Superintendent

May 11, 2015

1500 SE 130th • Portland, Oregon • 97233-1719

(503) 252-2900 • Fax (503) 256-5218

The Honorable Fred Girod and Tobias Read, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Co-Chairs Girod and Read and the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

Open School is managed by Open Meadow Alternative Schools, one of the state's oldest and most effective organizations serving struggling kids. With 44 years of experience, Open Meadow partners effectively with public schools, as witnessed by the six-district Open School program and private partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland and the University of Portland.

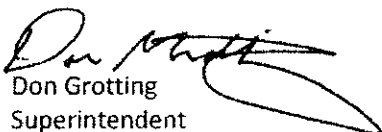
My support for the funding Open School project centers around what I believe makes programmatic and financial sense. On behalf of David Douglas School District, I urge you to give this request careful consideration.

Open School is making a real difference in the lives of David Douglas students and the students from five other districts. An added benefit is the school's teacher training program, designed to train the next generation of teachers to work more effectively with the target population through an innovative partnership with the University of Portland's School of Education.

The ability of Open School to leverage an additional \$1.8 million from federal sources makes this \$2 million request for lottery bonds an effective public investment. An additional \$3.8 million in private investment translates into creating a public and private combined effort. The project makes ongoing operational sense: two non-profits sharing facility space in a manner that strengthens both program and operating models for the long-term.

I urge you to support this request. It addresses critical aspects of the State's 40-40-20 goals, it makes programmatic and financial sense and will be managed by an established Oregon non-profit with a proven track record of success.

Sincerely,


Don Grotting
Superintendent

Visit our web page: www.dsdouglas.k12.or.us Email: David.Douglas@dsdouglas.k12.or.us

School Board

Bruce Anderson • Frieda Christopher • Dawn Gardner • Christine Larsen • Shannon Raybold • Kyle Riggs • Cheryl Scardelli-Ancheta



Jim Schlachter, Superintendent

Gresham-Barlow School District No. 10Jt

1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR 97030-3825
www.gresham.k12.or.us

Phone: (503) 261-4555
Fax: (503) 261-4554

May 6, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

My support for the funding for The Open School project centers around what I believe makes programmatic and financial sense. On behalf of Gresham-Barlow School District, I urge you to give it careful consideration.

Open School is making a real difference in the lives of Gresham-Barlow students and the students from five other districts. An added benefit is the school's program designed to train the next generation of teachers to work more effectively with this target population through an innovative partnership with the University of Portland's School of Education.

The ability of Open School to leverage an additional \$1.8 million from federal sources makes this \$2 million request for lottery bonds an effective public investment. In addition, an additional \$3.8 million in private investment translates into creating a public and private combined effort. The project makes on-going operational sense with two non-profits sharing facility space in a manner that strengthens both program and operating models for the long-term.

Finally, Open School is managed by Open Meadow Alternative Schools, one of the state's oldest and most effective organizations serving struggling kids. With 44 years of experience, Open Meadow partners effectively with public schools, as witnessed by the six-district Open School program, that also brings private partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland and the University of Portland, among others.

I urge you to support this request. It addresses critical aspects of the State's 40-40-20 goals, it makes programmatic and financial sense and will be managed by an established Oregon non-profit with a proven track-record.

Sincerely,

Jim Schlachter
Superintendent

JS:lc



**Parkrose
School District**
Portland, Oregon

10636 NE Prescott Street
Portland, Oregon 97220
t: 503.408.2100
f: 503.408.2140
www.parkrose.k12.or.us

Dr. Karen Fischer Gray,
Superintendent

*Parkrose School District is an equal
opportunity educator and employer.*

May 3, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

Please give careful consideration to Open Meadow Alternative School's request to the State for \$2 million in lottery bond support for its capital project in East Multnomah County. This project addresses significant aspects of Oregon's 40-40-20 plan and provides a strong economic boost in an Oregon community with significant need.

Open School uses early warning systems to identify struggling students before they drop out. This innovative approach to dropout prevention is cost-effective and Open Meadow has demonstrated over the last forty years that it understands how to get results with this population of students. To meet our 40-40-20 goals, we need targeted programs – like GED providers, and like Open Meadow.

A \$2 million investment of state lottery bonds will leverage over \$2 million in philanthropic support and could leverage an additional up to \$1.8 million in federal investment through New Markets Tax Credits. This type of project and partnership brings out the best in our state. I support this project and encourage the sub-Committee on Capital Construction to support it also.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen F. Gray".

Dr. Karen Fischer Gray
Superintendent
Parkrose School District



*Every child reads, thinks critically, and graduates ready for
college and career.*



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227
Telephone: (503) 916-3200 / Fax: (503) 916-3110
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3107/97208-3107
Email: csmith1@pps.net

Carole Smith
Superintendent

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 8, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

As a Superintendent, I certainly understand the challenge of prioritizing worthy requests. The Open School project makes programmatic and financial sense. On behalf of Portland Public Schools I urge you to give it careful consideration.

Open School addresses a critical component of Oregon's 40-40-20 goal by providing supports for the struggling students who are the most difficult to reach. The program is working with its six partner districts to train the next generation of teachers to work more effectively with this target population through an innovative partnership with the University of Portland's School of Education.

Open School's \$2 million request for lottery bonds is an effective public investment that makes financial sense. The project leverages a federal investment of up to \$1.8 million and leverages and additional \$3.8 in private investment. This is significant. Further, the project makes on-going operational sense with two non-profits sharing facility space in a manner that strengthens both program and operating models for the long-term.

Finally, Open School is managed by Open Meadow Alternative Schools, one of the state's oldest and most effective organizations serving struggling kids. With 44 years of experience, Open Meadow partners effectively with public schools, as witnessed by the six district Open School program, that also brings private partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland and the University of Portland, among others.

I urge you to support this request. It addresses critical aspects of the state's 40-40-20 goals, it makes programmatic and financial sense and will be managed by an established Oregon non-profit with a proven track-record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole Smith
Superintendent



May 11, 2015

To: The Honorable Fred Girod and Tobias Read, Co-Chairs;

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Co-Chairs Girod and Read and the Sub- Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

My support for the funding Open School project center around what I believe makes programmatic and financial sense. On behalf of Reynolds School District, I urge you to give it careful consideration.

Open School is making a real difference in the lives of Reynolds students and students it serves from five other districts. An added benefit is the school's program designed to train the next generation of teachers to work more effectively with the target population through an innovative partnership with the University of Portland's School of Education.

The ability of Open School to leverage an additional \$1.8 million from federal sources makes this \$2 million request for lottery bonds an effective public investment as it would translate into a \$3.8 million investment combined effort. The project makes on-going operational sense as two non-profits sharing facility space in a manner that strengthens both program and operating models for the long-term.

Finally, Open School is managed by Open Meadow Alternative Schools, one of the state's oldest and most effective organizations serving struggling kids. With 44 years of experience, Open Meadow partners effectively with public schools, as witnessed by the six-district Open School program and private partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland and the University of Portland.

I urge you to support this request. It addresses critical aspects of the State's 40-40-20 goals. It makes programmatic and financial sense and will be managed by an established Oregon non-profit with a proven track record of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Florence".

Dr. Linda Florence, Superintendent

Reynolds School District



May 12, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express our support on behalf of Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro (BGCP) is proud to partner with Open School to create transformative change in the Gresham neighborhood of Rockwood. In a community that is currently home to the largest concentration of youth under the age of 18 within the metro region, Rockwood has led the State for lowest academic performance, largest concentration of registered child welfare cases and arguably the highest incidences of youth-related crime in our region's history. Our organizations are poised to lead the creation of a campus of non-redundant youth service organizations providing wrap-around services for kids and families ages zero to adult.

Open Meadow has a long history of success in changing the academic path of young people facing adversity. Their nationally recognized program continues to prove that innovative learning environments with dedicated and caring staff can and do set youth up for success in school and in life. The new Open School in Rockwood will be a beacon of hope for the hundreds of youth who have struggled in the traditional educational environment, many of whom are living within a community that is currently posting the lowest graduation rates in the state.

BGCP and Open Meadow are working together to make this collective project as efficient as possible. We will be sharing architects and a construction partner as we look to break ground on our individual buildings in the fall of 2015 and have identified various shared-use opportunities to maximize our cost savings. Both organizations are conducting independent capital campaigns and currently have separate asks being considered for state funding.

BGCP enthusiastically endorses Open's request for this support. We believe this investment will transform the lives of countless youth who will then go on to be productive, contributing members of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Hubert". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Erin Hubert
CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro

all hands raised



Education, Equity and Excellence
from Cradle to Career

May 13, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

All Hands Raised serves as the backbone organization for the community's cross-sector partnership focused on improving student outcomes from cradle to career. In this role, we serve as the state's Regional Achievement Collaborative for Multnomah County, bringing together school districts, businesses, nonprofits, government and other partners to align and strengthen services for our children and drive improvement in the educational outcomes prioritized by both state and local leaders. Since the inception of our effort, Open Meadow has been a cornerstone partner, consistently exemplifying the dedication to excellence and equity that form the core of our mission. Open Meadow has been one of the largest, strongest and most consistent partners in the Ninth Grade Counts Collaborative, serving as a beacon for other ninth grade transition programs as we work together to raise program quality and ensure that students finish ninth grade on-track to graduate.

Open School is an innovative addition to our community's efforts. Open School not only brings high-quality educational services for 270 students and families who are most in need of academic supports, it also will serve as a training ground for pre-service and in-service educators through its partnership with the University of Portland School of Education.

Open School gains from Open Meadow's 44 years of success serving struggling young people. The organization has a strong operating model and demonstrated success in high-quality implementation. Partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs to develop a new site is another example of the type of forward thinking that exemplifies Open Meadow's work.

The All Hands Raised Partnership is grounded collaboration and smart public/private partnerships that strengthen our schools. I encourage you to invest in these values that lie at the core of Open Meadow's \$2 million request for lottery bonds. Improving educational outcomes is our region's most critical long-term economic development plan. As such, this is an opportunity to invest in our students and the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Dan Ryan
CEO

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Fred Girod and Tobias Read, Co-Chairs
Members, Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Co-Chairs Girod and Read and the Sub- Committee on Capital Construction:

I am writing as a key partner in support of Open Meadow's Open School proposal to invest capital resources in the Rockwood neighborhood of the Portland Metropolitan Area, an area of high need for the State of Oregon. I have seen many projects and educational trends from my position as Dean of the School of Education at the University of Portland. The Open School project represents one of the finest innovations on behalf of marginalized students that I have seen in my career. This project stands out for three primary reasons: It is good for kids, now and in the future; it is good for school districts; it is smart and sustainable financially.

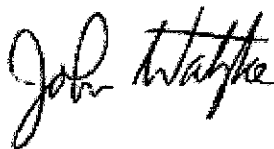
Open School and its partnership with the University is good for kids because our partnership reduces the student-teacher ratio, increasing the individualization offered to the disadvantaged population targeted by the Open School. In effect, this educational initiative will move the dial for students and families, countering declining trends in achievement and outcomes. At scale, the University will send eight graduate student teachers per year through the program, first, as part-time interns, and, in their second year of studies, as full-time teachers in residence. This is a substantial addition to a school of 270 students. Further, when the plan is fully implemented, eight new teachers will graduate from the program each year with a new Certificate of Equity that will bring them preferential hiring into partner school districts. The impact of this pipeline of educators on future classes of students is substantial.

Open School is good for districts because it provides a clear opportunity for mainstream educators to observe and learn best practice in serving disadvantaged students. Open Meadow educators are gifted and they get results. Open School provides a platform for in-service educators from the partnering school districts to learn new methods of instruction and classroom management. Open School also presents an opportunity for partner districts to increase their graduation rate as the program succeeds in graduating students who otherwise destined to drop out.

Finally, Open School is smart financially. Through this partnership, the University will offer an institutionalized reduced-rate tuition, by 30%, for pre-service educators. This savings increases the sustainability of the project's financial model and serves to attract excellent students to a career in teaching who might have found affordability an obstacle.

The Open School proposal represents a critical opportunity, not just for Open Meadow, but for Portland and the future of education in this city. It is the product of years of work by experienced and dedicated staff that comes at a time when statewide efforts are supporting and accelerating necessary reforms. By "catching kids early" and using data to identify which students are most likely to struggle and drop out of traditional high schools, we can provide a clear pathway to their success through high school and beyond.

Sincerely,



John L. Watzke, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor, School of Education



Project Access NOW
Community | Care | Connection

PO Box 10953 • Portland, OR 97296
Phone 503 413 5541 • Fax 503 200 1243
www.projectaccessnow.org

May 8, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod &
the sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

The Rockwood Pathways Project brings together over 20 non-profits with proven success through an innovative collaboration designed to provide "no wrong door" access to social services and healthcare. Our goal is to make the family the center of our work rather than make families run the gauntlet of seeking care and services that often results in frustration and always results in inefficiency. We know we can make better use of the investments in our sector and are committed to doing that together.

Open School is a critical partner to our endeavor bringing high-quality educational services for 270 students and families who are most in need of academic supports. Importantly, Open School uses a data-driven enrollment methodology to enroll young people upstream – before it is too late. Open Meadow has 44 years of success in serving struggling youth. This investment is critical in terms of breaking the cycles that keep families in poverty. We want to support a thriving, healthy Rockwood community over time – not just make short term investments. We are fortunate to have Open School as a partner (and leader) in our project and believe they will bring a strong contribution to the Rockwood Pathways Project's success.

Invest in innovation. Invest in Open School and, by association, the Rockwood Pathways Project. With your investment we can bring additional, well-coordinated supports to an area of the state that is most in need. We will demonstrate that we can make a difference long term in the lives of children and families that will result in a healthier more livable community for all of us.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Nilsen-Solares
Executive Director



For a complete list of our Board Members, Stakeholders, and Community Partners,
Please visit our website at www.projectaccessnow.org

In Strategic Partnership with

United Way of the
Columbia-Willamette



May 5, 2015

Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction.

This letter is to express support for Open Meadow Alternative School's request for \$2 million in lottery bond support.

The Rockwood Neighborhood Association is very excited to have this school being developed in our neighborhood in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. It will bring high quality educational services coupled with sorely-needed after-school recreation and educational activities.

We have been working closely with the City of Gresham and the Gresham Redevelopment Commission to offer input and design that will enhance the neighborhood. Open School addresses a critical neighborhood need by bringing strong education for struggling kids who are not successful in our mainstream schools.

Please make an investment in our neighborhood. Progress in Rockwood demonstrates progress that can be accomplished anywhere in the state. A win for Rockwood is a win for the State of Oregon.

I urge you to support the Open School request for \$2 million in lottery bonds. It is a smart investment in our neighborhood and state.

Sincerely,



Catherine Nicewood
Rockwood President
17401 NE Couch St.
Portland, OR 97230
503-285-6587

Carin Mateyko

From: Michelle Borke <mborke@starbucks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Carin Mateyko
Subject: Letter of Support for State Request for \$2M in lottery bonds to support new school

To: Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-committee on Capital Construction
Re: Open Meadow Request

Please support the bond request for the Open Meadow project. This school and the efforts of this nonprofit are critical for the future success of Oregon. The work that they currently do and are proposing to do more will support the need to up level the financial equity within our state. Open School and Open Meadow do effective dropout prevention by taking the time to get to know the students and community. Open School is getting strong academic results with a struggling student population an area that is at risk for our entire state. We can learn from what Open Meadow is doing in the community to make a difference and leverage for all of Oregon. State support will leverage significant individual investment- from people like you- of both volunteer time and money. This is how I want my tax money to be used.

Michelle Borke | regional vice president, LS northwest | **Starbucks Coffee Company**
mobile 503.544.6529
email mborke@starbucks.com

TO: Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-Committee on Capital Construction
FROM: Anne Lipsitz, Open Meadow volunteer, donor and concerned citizen

As a volunteer at Open Meadow, and contributor to Open School, I have seen first hand the impact of the programs that the organization has created, grown, and sustained. I am a former teacher and school administrator, and in my years of experience, I do not know of other programs getting such effective dropout prevention results.

Open School is getting strong academic results with a struggling student population. Our community needs these programs, and these students and families need these programs. In a state with such high drop out rates, programs that make a difference must be a priority. Please give state support to leverage the significant individual investments so many of us have given, of time and money.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best -

Anne Lipsitz
2415 NE 28th Ave
Portland OR 97212

3208 NW 123rd Place
Portland
OR 97229
May 6th 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-committee on Capital Construction,

I am writing in support of Open Meadow School and their request for a \$2 million dollars grant.

I have volunteered at the school for over two years and have seen first hand the excellent work carried out by the organization. The statistics are impressive. The drop out rate for students enrolled in the program is very low and the academic results are strong.

In addition to this, I have had the privilege of speaking to many students and have heard first hand how Open Meadow has turned their lives around. I firmly believe that the new building would not only benefit the 270 students who would attend, but also their families, our communities and far beyond. The return on any investment would not just be reflected in lower drop out rates and higher academic achievement. The trickle down effect of the success of these students would be unquantifiable but significant.

In addition, support from the state would be an endorsement and that would help the school leverage investment of money and time from a variety of other sources.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,
Rachael Spavins

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Spavins", written in a cursive style.

3620 SW 64th place
Portland, OR, 97221
May 7th 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the sub-committee on Capital Construction,

I am writing to express my support for Open Meadow School as they request \$2million for construction on a new building.

A friend who volunteered with the organization first introduced me to Open Meadow. She spoke highly of the work done by the school and when I attended a recent fundraiser I was also very impressed by what I saw and heard.

The presentation was eye opening. The figures for drop out prevention were extremely high, the academic achievements were impressive, and the student representative who spoke told of experiences that continued far beyond his high school success.

Based on everything I have heard and seen, the new building would not only benefit the 270 students who would attend, but their families and communities and beyond and I hope that the sub-committee will grant the monies required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. J. Trelease". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "M. J. Trelease".

May 4, 2015

To: Co-Chairs Read and Girod and the Sub-committee on Capital Construction

Dear Chairpersons,

Portland's citywide struggling student population has made measurable gains, as evidenced by recent academic results, and thanks in part to the sustained efforts of Open Meadow, which has an effective dropout prevention program. But our enterprise needs to be redoubled. Resources should not be focused disproportionately on the gifted and talented cohort of students. The \$2 million we are asking will support a much-needed college prep school, which is vital to achieving benefits for underachieving youth. This should be the gold standard of our success. It will also generate a wealth of volunteers whose time and money are welcomed and needed.

We implore the Ways and Means Sub-committee to look favorably upon our request for the unquestioned benefit of our 7th-12th graders. They will welcome your YES vote.

On behalf of our struggling students,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Zappitello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Beth Zappitello