

Dave Porter
1113 SE Cora Street
Portland, OR 97202
palabras@easystreet.net

2/19/19

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

My comments address SB 5537, the budget of the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission.

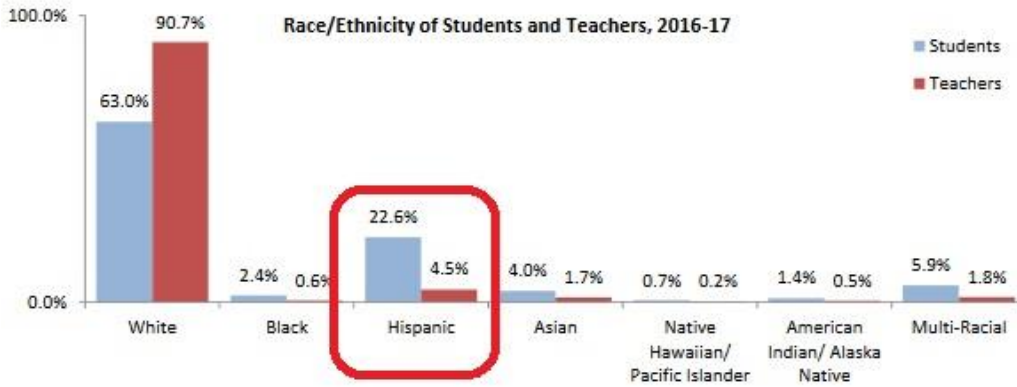
Oregon needs to reconstruct its teacher workforce in three significant and related ways: (1) more teachers of color, (2) more bilingual teachers for Spanish dual language immersion programs and (3) more bilingual teachers for dual language immersion programs in languages strategically important for Oregon’s future. The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission need to take a more active role in promoting and facilitating this reconstruction.

(1) Currently Oregon needs 9,100 more diverse teachers (and 9,100 fewer White, monolingual teachers). Oregon needs to flip 29.3% of its current largely monolingual White teacher workforce to diverse teachers.

Oregon Teachers 2016-17			
Linguistically & Ethnically Diverse Teachers			
data from figure 4, 2018 report			
		All Teachers	Diverse Teachers
Needed	39.4%	31,052	12,234
Current	10.1%	31,052	3,134
Gap	29.3%	31,052	9,100

(2) Of those 9,100 new diverse teachers, 5,618 should be bilingual Spanish-English Hispanic teachers.

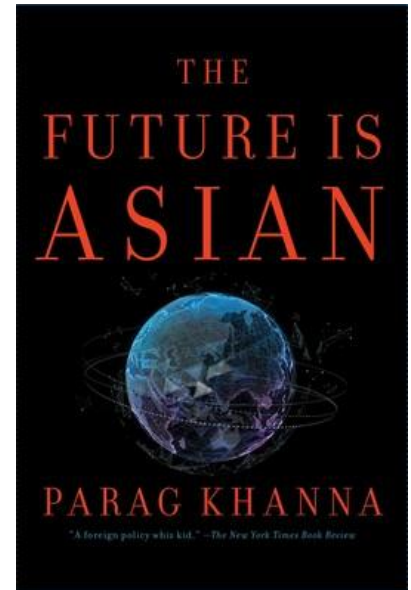
Oregon Teachers			
Hispanic teachers			
		All Teachers	Hispanic Teachers
Needed	22.6%	31,040	7,015
Current	4.5%	31,040	1,397
Gap	18.1%		5,618



(3) Oregon educators need to recognize that global economics and geopolitics are shifting significantly and that Oregon’s curriculum needs to offer more dual language immersion programs in strategic languages like Mandarin.

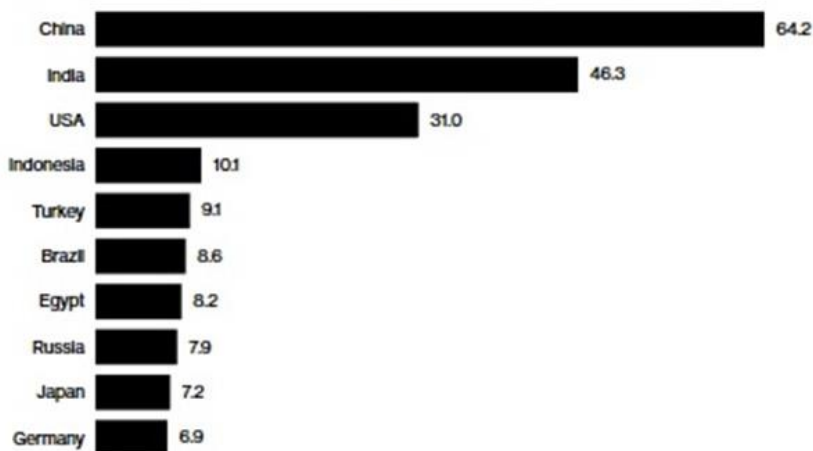
Writing of Parag Khanna’s book “The Future is Asian” the NY Times said “Khanna makes a big claim. If Europe dominated the world in the 19th century and America took over in the 20th, then this century will be Asia’s.”

Here is one forecast of national GDPs in 2030. Three of the top four, and four (or five with Russia) of the top ten, are Asian.



Rising Stars?

Top 10 countries by nominal GDP using PPP exchange rates by the year 2030



Source: Standard Chartered

Note: Estimates are in trillions of international dollars, using purchasing power parity measures

The new book “The Dawn of Eurasia” by Bruno Macaés not only discusses the geo-political rise of Asia and its growing links to Europe but discusses the ways in which technology and social changes are racing ahead in Eurasia while the United States and Europe stagnate. One of the arguments for teaching more students Mandarin and sending them to China, and other parts of Asia, is to break them out of the limitations of our culture to see what else is possible.

From the book:

Returning to Europe after a visit to China feels akin to stepping back in time, to a world where cash, email and business cards are still in use. Europeans have grown accustomed to new forms of social and technological conservatism, a widespread resistance to change which everywhere raises its heads, often under harsh regulatory inquisition, while Asia seems addicted to change, often for its own sake.

And:

The great divide between Europe and Asia was based on the notion that Europe had moved into a different historical age, itself marked by progress and continuous change, while Asia remained a prisoner of tradition, where all change, if it happened at all, was no more than a circular movement. Europeans would travel to Iran, India, or China in search of that variety of the exotic which they identified with their own historical past, and would find there a silent warning about the world to which they could regress if they ever abandoned their faith in modern values. It is interesting to note how that way of looking at the world – where the whole world is made to fit the categories of European historical development – has now been turned its head. No longer the land of eternal stagnation Asia now seems to have a special claim on the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely – Dave Porter

