



# PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Capitol Hill Elementary School

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Dear Capitol Hill Families –

Thank you for your advocacy for Capitol Hill and the school district as a whole to receive adequate funding to staff our building. In an ideal world, we would have enough FTE (employees) to staff all programs and schools in our district. As you may know, the state of Oregon has funded all K-12 education at the 8.2 billion level for the current 2017-2019 biennium. Far below what is suggested by the states Quality Education Model. The Quality Education Model suggests that it would cost 10.7 billion to fund our schools appropriately for the 2019-2021 biennium. The current proposed budget from the governor for 2019-2021 is 8.972 billion. This reality limits us as a district in how we staff our schools.

In PPS, the coming of spring brings with it the staffing process for next year. I'd like to share our staffing allocations and decisions with you. There are still some components we are working with the District to complete, and I am not sure when those will be finalized. While I believe this is reflective of the majority of our staffing for next year there may be some changes, depending on what is voted on for the coming state budget or any changes the school district makes.

PPS unveiled the 2019-2020 staffing allocation for all schools, including Capitol Hill the week of February 25th. Several factors impacted our allocation: PERS Increases (Public Employee Retirement System), a decrease in our student population in the district as a whole (-1.8%), less federal dollars to the school district as a whole due to a reduction of the overall poverty level, and the proposed state budget.

The staffing allocation coming to Capitol Hill is less than ideal. We are losing 1.0 FTE which is the equivalent of one general education classroom teacher. The school district gave guidance to place this cut in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade to all impacted elementary schools. We are not the only school who is affected by these cuts. The vast majority of schools across the district received some form of cut to their FTE. There are 18 other elementary schools who will also be creating some form of blended classroom(s) in their 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades unless their foundation is able to give them the FTE to support their losses. Currently we are looking at average class sizes of 32 students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The Office of Teaching and Learning is currently working on support to ensure teachers in these rooms have the resources they need. Below are some more details on how our staffing allocation was constructed and where we stand with enrollment and staffing for the 19-20 school year.

### 2019-2020 Capitol Hill Staffing Allocation Q&A

**1. How does this new staffing allocation compare to what we received for 2018-2019 school year?**

For the 2018-2019 school year we received 23.70 positions for 443 students. We received enough to minimally staff our campus. The allocation for the 2019-2020 school year is 22.70 for a projected 441 students. This amounts to -1.0 FTE in the form of a general classroom teacher.

**2. How are PPS school staffing allocations calculated?**

Individual schools receive allocations based on a formula calculated off a number of variables, including enrollment, required FTEs given that enrollment, equity formula adjustments (the number of English language learners, Special Education students, students who qualify for free/reduced lunch) and teacher/student ratios. Capitol Hill does not qualify for any equity adjustments. The bottom line is that we receive specific number of FTEs to meet the core program requirements that the school district sets. We have some limited flexibility in how we use those FTEs.

**3. How many students are you expecting per grade next year? How does this translate into budgeted teaching positions? (projected numbers by grade)**

Grade	# of students	FTEs
K (est.)	72	3
1	66	3
2	66	3
3	79	3
4	78	
5	80	5 total
<b>Totals</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>17</b>

**4. What about the Arts Tax? Won't it cover teachers next year?**

In 2019-2020 the Arts Tax will be used to pay for our full time Art Teacher.

**5. Who makes the final decision on staffing allocations at Capitol Hill?**

I was given a staffing allocation by the District and asked to submit a program to support it. I did so after consultation with the teaching staff, and my supervisor. Since all staffing allocation decisions are final, the only flexibility for additional staffing at this point will be through support from a Foundation or if the projected state budget changes. The teachers and I will work hard to make balanced classrooms and best meet the needs of our students.

**6. What happens if we have more kids enroll over the summer and into the fall? Will PPS provide more FTE?**

It is possible but not likely. It is rare to have changes to staffing allocations in the fall, regardless of enrollment growth, which is why some schools' Foundation funds offer critical flexibility.

**7. The following is our current staffing for the 2019-2020 school year (may be subject to change):**

K – MaryBeth Browne, Mary Lockett, TBD  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Dawn Bolgioni, Allyson Casey, Jessica Jendrzejek  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kinsey Fronk, Gracia Merrill, Andrea Pepitone  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Niki Marienburg, Cortney Standish, Gail Younie  
 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>- Ceyriss Caron, Jocelyn Gary, Andrew Jaquiss, Christopher Naze, Annie Westfall  
 Counselor – Dan Zelazek  
 Art-Nancy Helmsworth  
 Special Education – Saima Goodrich  
 ESL – Maia Kirkilie  
 P.E.-Mitch Gustin  
 Teacher Librarian- Susan Dahinden  
 Library EA – Jayne Morgan  
 SPED- paras: Kevin Healy, Bethany Dierickx  
 Educational Assistants – Crystal Hertzfeld, Meredith Gilchrist  
 Office Staff –Mike Eskew, Heidi Reichelt

In closing I'd like us all to remember what an incredible school we have! I continue to come to Capitol Hill every day feeling humbled and blessed to work with such dedicated teachers, staff and families. It is an honor to watch your children grow and learn. They remind me every day of what's truly important.

Thank you

*Kevin Walker*

Principal