



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Announcing New Chief of Staff, Jonathan Garcia

April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share with you, after careful consideration over the last several months, that I am appointing Jonathan Garcia as the organization's new Chief of Staff. Jonathan begins in this official new capacity on April 16. I am eager to have Jonathan in this new leadership role, focused on supporting our collective efforts at realizing our Vision for the Portland Public Schools.

As Chief of Staff, Jonathan will be a member of the Executive Leadership Team and serve as an extension and proxy of the Superintendent to advance the successful implementation of key district priorities. Jonathan will manage the operations of the Office of the Superintendent, including serving as the liaison to the Board of Education, in addition to overseeing our Communications, Government Affairs, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement teams. Jonathan will be responsible for collaboration and accountability among top leadership at PPS and will play a central role in ensuring our efforts meet our high standards and central obligation to serve students.

In his three and half years at PPS, Jonathan has made important contributions in a number of areas, including and especially, in how we engage and support our students and families. He spearheaded the broad community effort and organizational initiative that resulted in our PPS Vision, now the district's north star. He launched the Fund for PPS, which has already raised and distributed significant resources that have been a lifeline for many PPS families during the pandemic. He has been a key contributor and strategic decision maker in some of the most important initiatives we have launched during this administration's tenure.

Jonathan's ability to creatively build, cultivate and leverage partnerships has resulted in a number of direct benefits for our schools and students. He has also positively impacted PPS's success as a leader of school districts in Oregon and beyond. He is well respected and regularly represents us here and in front of national audiences on a variety of subject areas, including key themes of public education access and engagement of students and communities of color. Overall, his work at PPS follows a trend of similar successes in San Francisco and, before that, in his time as a community organizer, working with youth leaders. In fact, Jonathan is most at home when visiting with school communities and advising our student leaders or as a mentor. He is unapologetically student-centered.

As Chief of Staff, Jonathan's learning agility, decision-making, strategic acumen and ability to translate divergent, complex issues into successful outcomes will be critical in accelerating how we serve and support students as an organization. I will count on Jonathan's collaborative work ethic to advance our priorities and elevate student outcomes. He has demonstrated during his successful tenure as Chief Engagement Officer that he is up for the myriad of challenges and complexities that come with leadership in a larger urban school district. I have full confidence in his ability to support our collective journey and transformation as a school system.

Please join me in congratulating Jonathan Garcia on his new role.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent



Jonathan Garcia