



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

501 N Dixon | Portland, OR 97227 | www.pps.net | pubinfo@pps.net | (503) 916-2000

Español (503) 916-3582 | Tiếng Việt (503) 916-3584 | 中文 (503) 916-3585 | Русский (503) 916-3583 | Soomaaliga (503) 916-3586

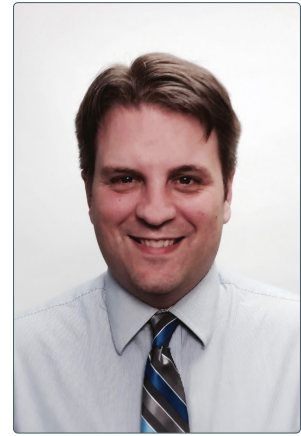
Announcing New Senior Director of Special Education, Jey Buno

May 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to announce that Jey Buno, an accomplished educational leader in the Portland area, will be the new Senior Director of Special Education starting July 1.

Jey will succeed Mary Mertz, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Mary is in her second stint leading our SPED program, having held the position from 2005 to 2008 and again starting in 2018. We are so grateful for Mary's leadership, having led the program through difficult financial times to build a state-renowned ABA model, as well as providing classroom alignment and focusing the department on the intersection of race and disability.



Jey Buno

Jey comes to PPS from Evergreen Public Schools in Vancouver, where he has served since 2000, including the last six years as Executive Director of Special Services and Federal Programs. In that role, he oversaw principals, the special education department and all federal programs. He is a skilled collaborator and team player, and is an expert in special education law.

We were particularly impressed by his work in creating a partnership with the English Language Learners department, which led to changes in ELL-SPED over-identification. He will lead this same work here in PPS, and will also lead implementation of our new strategic work around inclusionary practices.

Jey holds an Educational Specialist Degree in School Psychology, a Master of Education in Counseling and Human Services, and has a K-12 Building Principal and Program Administrator endorsement.

He and Mary will begin the transition process over the next few months, so you might get to meet him before his official start date. Please join me in welcoming him to Portland Public Schools.

Brenda Martinek
Chief of Student Support Services

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