



**PORTLAND
ASSOCIATION
OF TEACHERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2017

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Portland Educators Endorse Three Candidates for Board of Education

PORTLAND - March 9, 2017 - The Portland Association of Teachers Political Action Committee (PAT PAC) endorsed Trisha Parks, Scott Bailey, and Rita Moore for the Portland Board of Education today.

“After an extensive interview process, we enthusiastically recommend three candidates with a proven track record of leadership and commitment to strengthening Portland Public Schools so that our students can receive the education they deserve,” said PAT President Suzanne Cohen. “These candidates are devoted to the well-being of Portland students and educators, and have worked tirelessly to the betterment of our district.”

The PAT PAC endorsement panel consisted of 10 educators along with OEA staff. The panel considered the following criteria while making their endorsements: support for collective bargaining, trust of educators, knowledge of education issues including the impact of poverty, willingness to advocate at the state and national level including to oppose bad education policies, their record advocating for school funding, advocacy for safe and healthy schools, and electability.

Trisha Parks is a Beaverton teacher, a former local union leader, and a PPS parent. She believes PPS needs to bring teacher-voice into decision-making at the building and district level. She also knows what it takes for district initiatives to be successful in the classroom. She would bring years of classroom experience and a deep understanding of education issues to the Board of Education.

Scott Bailey has a deep knowledge of PPS. He has been a “critical friend,” working to improve the district for over a decade. He has organized with parents against school closures, served on the District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (DBRAC), and played a central role in passing the 2012 bond. He also understands the systemic failure of our statewide school funding. Last year, he played an instrumental role in the Better Oregon campaign for Measure 97.

Rita Moore has a formidable depth of knowledge about our district’s challenges, as well as its potential. Since 2005, she has focused on addressing PPS’s structural inequities, and has worked

tirelessly to bring systemic change. As co-chair and a member of the Community Budget Review Committee, she has worked toward a more transparent budget. She helped bring changes to enrollment and transfer policies which had brought numerous neighborhood schools to the brink of closure. Rita Moore would fight for the district to guarantee a full and equitable program for every student, regardless of their neighborhood.

“We are fortunate to have so many people willing to volunteer their time to serve on the school board,” said Suzanne Cohen. “Our school district is undergoing a great deal of transition including many new leaders; we appreciate our endorsed candidates’ deep knowledge of Portland Public School’s needs and their ability to navigate the system to realize our shared vision for our students.”

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The Portland Association of Teachers, represents more than 4000 professional educators in the Portland Public School system and is a member of the Oregon Education Association and the National Education Association representing nearly 3 million educators nationwide.

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