ACKNOWLEDGING:
OEA stated that we would only sit at the table with Nike and the Coalition for the Common Good based on the principles of raising significant revenue progressively that is not tied to reducing pay or benefits, including PERS; and

The Coalition for the Common Good was originally a PAC of our political opponents, Nike, Comcast, and developer, John Russell chair of the Oregon Business Association PAC; and

Nike has a long history of political maneuvering that has allowed them to evade taxes and has negatively impacted public education and public employees, including attacks on PERS; and

The Student Success Act proposed by the Legislature's Joint Subcommittee on Revenue’s largely reflects the goals and priorities lobbied for by the Coalition for the Common Good; and

The Student Success Act, a start for increasing funding but not enough to remedy decades of disinvestment, dedicates only 50% of its funding to improving our classrooms, approximately $500 million per year; and

The Student Success Act would raise only $1 billion per year, $2 billion per biennium, through a commercial activities tax or value added tax that is a flat tax that taxes the sales of businesses equally, but not equitably or progressively; and

We learned through the campaign for Measure 97 that a flat taxes such as commercial activities taxes and gross receipts taxes are unpopular with voters and would likely be defeated at the ballot; and

We have a supermajority of Democrats who state they want to raise revenue and fund education, and we are in a moment in the state and nationally, where taxing the rich and corporations is a popular idea not only raising revenue but also remedying both growing economic and political inequality; and

A coalition of progressive groups in the Oregon Revenue Roundtable, including Tax Fairness Oregon, Oregon Center for Public Policy, League of Women Voters and unions like AFT and OSEA, presented revenue ideas in Salem on February 26th that are both more progressive and raise more revenue than the deal being made with Nike; and

The Oregon Revenue Roundtable proposals include increasing the corporate tax rate, increasing the corporate minimum tax, enacting complete reporting, expanding Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit, and eliminating the pass-through income tax break which allows companies to pass profits to their owners who then report the profits as personal income allowing businesses to avoid corporate taxes on their profits; and

The most progressive and winnable part of the Oregon Revenue Roundtable proposals would raise at least $2.5 billion (with more if we can win property and excise tax reforms); and
RESOLVES:

That PAT leadership publically demands that the Oregon legislature increase the corporate tax rates, increase corporate minimum tax, enact complete reporting, expand Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit, and eliminate pass-through income tax breaks and use those funds to invest in public education, and;

Supports the legislature passing the most progressive and equitable Tax Proposals on the table; and

That PAT leadership endorse the May 8th walkout and encourages members to advocate for progressive and equitable revenue; and

Send a copy of this resolution to all PAT members; PPS Board of Education; to Oregon Education Association President, Board of Directors, and Lobbyists; Governor Kate Brown; and all Oregon legislators; and

Direct the PAT legislative committee to educate membership about the Oregon Revenue Roundtable Proposals and create a plan to mobilize members to win progressive state tax policies; and

Make this the specific demand for this legislative session and for upcoming lobby day actions.

https://tinyurl.com/revenueresolution