Better Oregon
By the Numbers

We’re over halfway towards our signature-gathering goal for the Better Oregon Campaign. If we are going to get corporations to pay their fair share in taxes, we know Portland is going to have to do lots of the heavy lifting. As of March 14th our results are:

Total Signatures: 6,586 (66% towards our goal)

PAT Member Signed: 1,295 (21% towards our goal)

We have until April 15th to get our signatures and have started public petitioning around the Portland area. If you are interested or available, please contact Board Member Mike Bauer: bigflapjack@gmail.com or (503) 484-8965.

Turn Up for Teaching and Learning

We are happy to report that our new school board members are engaging in more depth on the issues affecting PPS. One way they are diving in is by re-establishing School Board sub-committees.

Board member Steve Buel has made a special request for more educator involvement in the Teaching and Learning Committee he heads up. The Committee addresses everything from discipline problems in PPS, to the literacy curriculum adoption, to professional development offerings and high school schedules.

The Committee meetings are open to the public, and scheduled for 4:30 PM to make attendance easier. The next meeting is May 11th, 4:30 PM in the Windows Conference Room at BESC.

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

I’m happy to report that, on March 11th, the District agreed to remove the "Component 4G" from all educator evaluations.

As we described in last month’s Advocate, the District unilaterally added "Component 4G" to the evaluation rubric to assess the educator’s progress on meeting student learning goals in direct violation of the PAT/PPS contract.

The evaluation rubric can only be changed by mutual agreement, according to our contract. "Component 4G" should be removed from all professional educators' evaluations this year, and moving forward. Please make sure to check your evaluation after Spring Break to ensure that it has been removed.

Sad, as soon as we solve one problem with the District, something even more serious seems to come up. Next month we are scheduled to go to arbitration about the District giving contracts to temporary teachers that not only violates the PAT/PPS contract, but we believe also violates state law. These contracts state that temporary educators can be terminated at will without any due process. If they can deny due process and just cause to temporary teachers, it's possible for them to do that to the rest of us. Remember, an injury to one is an injury to all!

Another issue we have been working on is the District giving letters to new employees with the intent to hire. While we support the District making hiring decisions earlier and using letters of intent to do so, the District still needs to follow our internal and external hiring process. Internal professional educators should be considered for posted positions for which they are qualified, before external candidates. To be clear, we support the idea of giving applicants letters of intent, but do not believe that external candidates should be able to have more hiring/transfer rights than our current educators.

This year, at the urging of our new school board, we’ve been trying out a more collaborative approach to negotiations to address the serious student safety and discipline problems in PPS. The process, known as interest-based bargaining (IBB), has yielded some forward progress. But as the District knows all too well, IBB only works when operating on a foundation of trust.

Unilaterally changing the teacher evaluation rubric, violating due process and just cause, and giving external candidates more rights than current educators is no way to inspire trust. Quite the opposite -- it makes me wonder how we can productively move forward. One step forward, two steps back leaves us further and further behind.

In Solidarity,

Gwen Sullivan

PAT-PAC Endorsements

Over the past few weeks, the PAT-PAC interviewed dozens of candidates running for a variety of state and local offices. Through the interview process, it was clear that people across Portland are engaged and active, committed to making our city, and our state, a better place. The PAT-PAC process was as follows: PAT-PAC extended invitations for a
face-to-face interview to all candidates interested in our endorsement. For priority races, the PAT-PAC sends candidates a pre-interview questionnaire. In advance of the interviews, the PAT-PAC Board also developed a set of questions to ask candidates in each race. The PAT-PAC Board generally votes to recommend, or not to recommend, one candidate in each position. Recommendations are made on the basis of the candidate's record or position on educational issues, interview responses, electability, and PAT's strategic organizational goals.

This year, the PAT-PAC Board recommended candidates who:

- Discuss strong public schools as a key feature in planning for the city's growth;
- Publicly support the Better Oregon Campaign and for corporations to pay their fair share to support families and schools;
- Advocate for labor rights through policies and actions;
- Demonstrate a commitment to helping our most vulnerable students, particularly the homeless and hungry;
- Present a viable campaign to win their election;

Mayor of Portland: **Jules Bailey**  
Metro Council: **Sam Chase**, District 5; **Bob Stacey**, District 6  
Portland City Commissioner: **Amanda Fritz**, Position 1; No position at this time in District 4  
Multnomah County Commissioner: **Jessica Vega-Pederson**, District 3; No position at this time in District 1


Oregon Senate: **Kathleen Taylor**, District 21; **Lew Frederick**, District 22; **Michael Dembrow**, District 23

**PAT Election Results**

The following PAT members were elected to union office during the recently concluded PAT election. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in our democratic process!

PAT President: **Suzanne Cohen**  
Vice President: **Elizabeth Thiel**  
PAT Treasurer: **Al Rabchuk**  
PAT Secretary: **Rebecca Gregor**

**OEA RA Delegates**  
Raymond Amling; Katherine Anderson; Camila Arze Torres Goitia; Shannon Baker; Tatiana Balej; Mike Bauer; Christine Bemrose; Zoe Boltak; Alicia Brown; Paul Bubl; Greg Burrill; Margaret Byrkit; Kali Capps; Lisabeth Carter-Widyaratne; Christine Caton; David Child; Suzanne Cohen; Diana Collins; Kevin Conroy; Kyle Cooke; Sheila Craig; Kevin Cunningham; Diane Dean; David Dugo; Gerald Eaton; Alice Ferguson-Chadd; Hannah Flinn; Shannon Foxley; Michael Garcia; Adolfo Garza-Cano; Brittany Grahn; Rebecca Gregor; Catherine Griesdorn; Scott Guthrie; Ronald Hall; Rachel Hanes; LC Hansen; Christina Hargaden; Terri Harrington; Ned Hascall; Michael Horrrigan; Irene Ikada; Jennifer Jackson; Katie Johnson; Tom Kane; Michelle Kenney; Michelle Lacaden; Dominic Le Fave; Rebecca Levison; Rodney Maack; Eric Maccartney; Eliana Machuca; Elizabeth Maier; Deborah Miller; Ronald Morgan; Rose Murdock; Hyung Nam; Michelle Nicola; Ric Oleksak; Matthew Oleson; Lisa Kane; Aubrey Pagenstecher; Katherine Paxton-Williams; Russ Peterson; Al Rabchuk; Philip Rafferty; Gage Reeves; Chris Riser; Sandra Rosenfeld; Michael Salmon; Michelle Schardt; Diana Schneider-Barne; Vangie Shaw; Shelley Simonsen; Allison Smith; Gwen Sullivan; Henise Telles-Ferreira; Elizabeth Thiel; Raenn Thompson; Allien Tran; Candice Vickers; Jeffery Waters; Alice Weinstein; Rose Wilde; Huck Wilken; Kimberlee Wilson; Amy Wood; Emily Wright; Jamie Zartler