Tuesday March 13, 2011

Dear Oregon Education Investment Board members, in our review of SB 1581, we noted that the bill calls for local school boards to appoint **Achievement Compact Advisory Committees.** We, however, are concerned that such committees are limited only to "teachers, administrators and other appropriate education personnel who are employed by the district." We believe this is a significant flaw and that the OEIB should establish a criterion for parent/community participation, especially of parents of color and ELLs, on the achievement compact advisory committees.

We believe that parent and community involvement can positively impact school culture, working conditions, and student achievement. Parents, with the help of community-based organizations, can play a key role in helping bring about the culture shift necessary to bridge cultural and racial differences that exists in schools and communities. Similarly, community-based organizations, such as NAACP, the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, Self Enhancement Inc, APANO, Latino Network, Native American Community Organizations, Black Parents Initiative and Portland Parent Union can play a key role in creating opportunities for positive and productive relationships between schools and the community.

To not include parents and community as part of the achievement compact advisory committees is a substantial oversight.

George Russell
Education Committee Co-chair
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