

February 28, 2019

Dear Chair Wagner, Co-chair Thomsen and Members of the Committee;

Please find attached the three letters sent by the Portland Public Schools Deputy Superintendent, Yvonne Curtis, to Principals, Staff and Parents. I was going to provide some context to explain why I was so appalled by these PPS communications, but found myself writing more than the offending letters. So, I'll keep it short and to the point.

Please consider these three concerns as you read the PPS letters to Principals, Staff and Families:

- Parents are being misinformed about the value and purpose of the assessments.
- Teachers are being told to keep quiet if they disagree with Curtis's message about the value and purpose of the assessments.
- Principals are being told it is their responsibility to make sure that participation is increased.

These messages are diametrically opposed to the purpose of public education. Teachers and Principals should be encouraged to work collaboratively with parents to provide their children with the best educational experience possible.

Meaningless and invalid standardized test scores should not be the driving force in our public schools.

Sincerely,

Betsy Salter

Proud Parent of a 2018 PPS Graduate and First Year Oregon Duck