



## PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227  
Telephone: (503) 916-3200 / Fax: (503) 916-3110  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3107/97208-3107  
Email: [csmith1@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:csmith1@pps.k12.or.us)

**Carole Smith**  
Superintendent

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 9, 2011

Long Range Facility Planning Advisory Committee Member:

Welcome to Portland Public Schools' Long Range Facility Planning Advisory Committee and thank you for your service! I am pleased and excited to have your participation on this team to advise on long range facilities planning to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments for our students and teachers.

My charge to you is to bring your views and the views of the organization you represent to discuss the long range view of our school facilities. Your fellow committee members bring a diversity of perspectives to the table. I ask that you work with your fellow committee members to achieve consensus on the priorities for investments in our facilities. Current and future Board of Education members as well as teachers, parents, students, and the public will benefit from the outcomes of your deliberations.

While the goal of developing a long range facilities plan may seem straight forward, there is a great deal to consider, much of which has little to do with building construction. The long range facilities plan will define how student enrollment forecasts, student capacity estimates and enrollment balancing procedures will be used to right-size school attendance boundaries to meet curriculum program requirements. The condition of the facilities will also play a critical part in prioritizing capital investments in school facilities. **The highest priority of this work is the development of capital investment priorities that will improve student achievement.**

I am also giving you an ambitious schedule to complete this work: May, 2012. The reason for this is twofold: 1) the district is in need of an update to its long range facilities plan and 2) the further development of the long range facilities plan and the capital investment priorities it identifies can provide the underpinning for the development of a future capital bond proposal for PPS. (The proposed meeting schedule for the committee is attached.)

The result of the PPS capital bond election last May gave the district an opportunity to investigate and reflect on what our community thinks about capital investment in schools. Board members and I have asked a number of civic and business groups across the city to give us their opinions as to why the bond measure did not meet their expectations. One consistent theme I heard was the public's need for a long range plan to put the proposed capital bond into a longer term perspective. Your assistance in the development of a long range facility plan is vital to the eventual creation of a clear, well thought out proposal for physical improvements in our school facilities.

I ask you to think big and raise expectations for the physical and learning environment of our schools. As you will hear during your committee discussions, the quality of school facilities can impact student achievement. Imagining a way to deliver modern learning environments in a world where student curriculum is ever changing and resources are limited is your challenge. I have every confidence the Long Range Facility Planning Advisory Committee is up to the challenge.

Thank you for time and advice on our school facilities. I very much look forward to our collaboration. I will be joining you at your first meeting, December 13, 2011, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., where we will have a chance to talk about how your work fits with the Strategic Framework for the District. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Alexander, 503-916-3256, or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Smith".

Carole Smith  
Superintendent

Attachment: Schedule of Meetings