

**Non-agenda Public Comment:**

- **Against/Contra The silencing of voices who do not support the Salem Keizer school board majority view**

**Kirsten Manning**

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

This school board's behavior in the past year has been nationally recognized as abhorrent. Black face at meetings, silencing of minority voices and refusal to allow comment from above voices has been documented in local news and national news much to the embarrassment of many. Rather than seeing this as an issue to be addressed, chair Chandrigiri has doubled down on the suppression of dissent by removing a student from recognition at a board meeting until a "better time". Better for whom? Certainly not for the student, despite patronizing protective language from the chair. The world is watching. Our children are watching. None of us are fooled by the language of "removing politicization" while your actions instead protect your political position.

### Non-agenda Public Comment:

- Against/Contra **The failure to recognize Eddy Binford-Ross**

### **Brian Hines**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad  
Salem

Hard to see how this action by Salem-Keizer School Board chair Satya Chandragiri is anything short of flat-out outrageous.

Eddy Binford-Ross is editor-in-chief of South Salem High School's paper, the Clypian.

After getting national recognition for covering Black Lives Matter protests last year, she spent months researching and writing a tell-all expose of how screwed-up the school board is, "Scandals, Special Interests and Dysfunction Plague School Board."

Binford-Ross won a richly deserved 2021 Oregon High School Journalist of the Year award. She was set to be recognized at the April 13 school board meeting.

But Chandragiri decided to put off the recognition of Binford-Ross until after the May school board election, conjuring up a highly dubious excuse in an attempt to disguise his disdain for how Binford-Ross revealed the sleazy, stinky mess that calls itself the Salem-Keizer School Board.

Chandragiri supposedly is worried about the school board looking like it has a conflict of interest because -- don't try to follow the logic here, because there isn't any -- a socialist group cited the Binford-Ross expose in calling for a fresh slate of school board candidates to be elected in May.

No one on the school board, including Chandragiri, has called into question the accuracy of what Binford-Ross wrote about the school board.

This includes the fact that "In 2019, Chair Satya Chandragiri received over \$11,500 from Oregon Right to Life and the Oregon Right to Life PAC for his school board campaign."

Also, "Many of the current school board directors ran for the school board after they failed in political campaigns for public office at the state level. Chandragiri ran for and lost the Republican primary for Oregon House of Representatives District 19 in 2018, right before his bid for school board."

So Chandragiri should be mocked for his ridiculous assertion that the school board can't recognize Eddy Binford-Ross because it needs to remain non-partisan.

Actually, the Salem-Keizer School Board already is highly partisan.

Chandragiri and other members accept big bucks from Oregon Right to Life, a hugely partisan special interest group. And Chandragiri tried to be elected to the Oregon legislature as a Republican, an obviously partisan political party. Binford-Ross documents other partisan activities of school board members in her expose.

It seems clear that Chandragiri is punishing Binford-Ross because she did what all good journalists do: speak truth to power.

Chandragiri doesn't like that truth coming out before the school board election because it threatens his ability to keep promoting his right-wing views along with the current conservative majority on the board.

**Non-agenda Public Comment:**

- Against/Contra **Vice-Chair Bethell, conflict of interest.**

**Daniel M. Potter**

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

Vice-Chair Bethell should immediately resign her position on the Salem Keizer School board. It is a major conflict of interest for her to serve on our school board and be a Marion County Commissioner. She is not serving the best interests of our students and families in Salem/Keizer.

Non-agenda Public Comment:



**Kathleen Harder, M.D.**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad  
Salem

April 11, 2021

To: Directors of Salem Keizer School Board  
Superintendent Christy Perry  
From: Kathleen Harder, M.D.  
Re: Spotlight for Success

I have attended many Salem-Keizer School Board meetings, both in-person and virtually. One of the true highlights of the meetings is the acknowledgement of outstanding students, teachers, administrators and others affiliated with the District during Spotlight for Success. Those times, at the beginning of the Board meetings, always brought a sense of profound pride and a smile to all those attending— honoring those whose accomplishments are worthy of our accolades. Now, more than ever, student successes should be noted and applauded. With all the challenges that have been thrown at students in the past few years, followed by the ravages that COVID-19 has unleashed on our students and schools, it is truly important to acknowledge students who show excellence in their chosen passions.

Eddy Binford Ross, South Salem High School student, has written an outstanding piece of investigative journalism that has been recognized statewide and nationally. Her work has been picked up by multiple media outlets since initially published. She has won recognition as finalist for Oregon's Student Journalist of the Year. She was rightfully invited to be recognized at the upcoming Salem Keizer School Board meeting. Regretfully, that invitation has been withdrawn by the Board leadership, citing concerns that it would be "too political".

This sort of behavior undermines all that we should be doing for our students— building them up, supporting them, acknowledging and applauding their achievements. The withdraw of the invitation is nothing short of egregious behavior, not worthy of our elected officials. Unfortunately, this is but the latest of a series of either serious mis-steps or outright blatant disregard for students' expressed needs.

There is a growing loss of confidence in the Board leadership in this community. This District, home to more

than 42,000 students and the second largest in the state, and led by an outstanding Superintendent, deserves better than this. I respectfully request Board leadership step down. It is time to do the right thing.

Kathleen M Harder, M.D.

**Non-agenda Public Comment:**

- **Against/Contra Delay of Eddy Binford-Ross' Recognition**

**Joshua Myhre**

District Staff / Personal del distrito  
Salem

Eddy is a principled and talented young journalist. The article she wrote was not an editorial and passed no judgment on the board members. It was strictly fact-finding journalism, and it is not up to Eddy who picks up the article and uses that evidence for political positions. So far it seems none of her claims have been disputed by any board members. It is suspicious-looking and downright dishonest for the Board to delay recognizing Eddy's work until after the elections. This feels like a power-hungry gate-keeping move by the school board to keep important decisions out of the hands of the people of Salem. This isn't how democracy works.

Be better. This is remarkably disappointing.

**Non-agenda Public Comment:**

- For/Para **Planned and Delayed Student Recognition**

**Julianna L. Gibbons**

District Staff / Personal del distrito

Salem

Student Journalist Eddy Binford-Ross has received a number of national honors for her outstanding work, and it was planned that the School Board would recognize her achievements at this April 13th meeting. The decision was made to delay that announcement due to some of her well-written and well-researched articles detailing facts that might have an impact on the upcoming School Board elections. This delay comes across as a political action.

I urge the school board to recognize our outstanding journalist Eddy Binford-Ross without delay.