

**Public Comment:**

- **For/Para** 4.a. Election of Board Chair & Vice Chair
- 5.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings

**Colton Bond**

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Salem Keizer School Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the selection of the school board chairperson (item 4a on today's agenda). I am writing as a parent of a first grader at Wright Elementary.

As you know, this past May our community made their voices heard in the special election by electing four new school board directors that all ran on equality and inclusion. I believe that this year will provide an excellent opportunity set a new course, one that recognizes our community's diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and that strives to ensure that all children rise together.

Therefore, I ask that this board consider Osvaldo Avila for chairperson. He represents the will of voters in a recent election, won his seat by the largest percentage of any new school board director, has policy and grant experience with the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and has a Master's degree in educational leadership and policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Wishes,

Colton Bond

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**Linda Farrington**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

With so much misinformation circulating and political rhetoric that is emotionally charged but not always based on real facts, our school board must ensure that our school district is collecting and monitoring the kind of data that can inform policy and decisions and not just feed into confirmation bias. If we want to truly dismantle racism and find practical answers to barriers that our students face in finding success, we must base decision on data, not politics or emotional reactions. Please continue to collect data on expulsions and safety information in schools and if necessary reinstate the SKSD contract with SRO's in order to comply with the Salem Keizer School Board mandate to oversee safety of our public schools.

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**AnneMarie DuFault**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

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We need to have monitoring of school expulsions and disciplinary items with the removal of resource officers. It is important to see real data as we revisit these issues. Basing the removal of officers based on emotions versus data should not be how we make decisions.

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**Tracey Pratt**

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

With regard to having monitors, the pros far outweigh any sort of cons. Please, can we base decisions on real data not emotional politics? It is also time that we get back to holding meetings in person as is being done for quite some time now in other states/areas. We must have these important conversations face-to-face, it does make a difference.

**Public Comment – Agenda Item**

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**Patrice and Michael Pollard**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

Welcome Ashley, Karina, Osvaldo, and Maria, We support you as you work for equity in our school district! Thank you for volunteering your time and energy to our community.

Patrice and Michael Pollard

## **Public Comment – Agenda Item**

- **Swearing in of new board members**

### **Sarah Rohrs**

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

Salem Keizer School District board members – My comment is on Agenda Item 2 – the Swearing In of New Board members. I am writing to welcome new Student Advisor Grace Caldwell, and to congratulate and welcome new governing board members Osvaldo F. Avila, Ashley Carson Cottingham, Karina Guzman Ortiz, and Marina Hinojos Pressey. I look forward to these new board members' input, hard work and leadership. I encourage the new governing board to advance equity work in our school district, and to value and to welcome input from all members of our community. Toward this aim, I encourage the new board to revisit the issue of public comment. I urge the removal of current chair Satya Chandragiri's efforts to restrict public comment, specifically his move to limit public comment to only written testimony. I also urge the new board to consider overturning the November, 2020 board vote that gives the board chair the power to silence speakers expressing opinions critical of the district or board members. Thank you,

Sarah Rohrs