May 7,2020

TO: SCHOOLIMPROVEMENT BONDCOMMITTEE
Portland Public Schools

FROM:

I am not able to tune into yourmeeting this evening I am submitting these cese

comments aremy own.

First, as you know,the currentlyclosedSmith School is an indispensable asset and safety valve to manage K-5 enrollment shifts and growth in Southwest Portland. The Ashcreek Neigh Southwest P* n BT /F1 11.04 Tf 1 0 0 1 184.1

Smith Schoolwas notincluded in the 2020 Bond package, by the timereopening the school could be in the next plannedbond

. That seems tome to bring enrollment growth back into the discussion within this decadet and K-5 schools in Southwest Portland will no doubt continue to be the largest component of growth in those grades as has been the case for at least the last 15 years.

Based on the District's figures, the seven (7) K-5 elementary schools in the Wilson Cluster experienced 17.4% growth between 2009-2010 and 2019-2020. Meanwhile all other K-5 schools within the District have shown only 1.4% over the last decade, as illustrated in the chart below. Since K-5 schools in the Wilson cluster have consistently experienced stronger growth than the rest of K Z } } o • U] š [• Œ • } v o š } Æ ‰ š š continue in both less loss of enrollment as well as faster, stronger rebound

Second, through my own experiences in the last two months being engaged in distance leaning with two K-5 students in my household, I recognize the need for the District to upgrade and improve student access to technology as well as to create a more robust distance learning curriculum. So, I applaud a renewed focus an emphasis on technology and special education investments. I also fully appreciate the significant amount of underfunded school physical facility maintenance and security needs that currently exist

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Considering all of these factors, I am pleased that the District is considering a shorter Bond period and asking voters to approve a smaller funding request this November. Under present economic conditions and personal hardship, I believe an 8-year, $1.4 billion dollar request t even if it maintained the current levy rate t would not fare well at the ballot box.

I would encourage the Committee to consider another 4-year bond measure that would focus on the currently pressing technology, educational and facility needs, as well as completing the high school modernizations that will require additional funding. At the same time, to properly prepare for the anticipated rebound in K-5 enrollments within the Wilson cluster, I strongly urge that the District either 792 re W* n BT /F1 11.04 Tf 1 0 0 1 366.7