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Members of Northeast Portland's Highland United Church of Christ hold a First Service Celebration Sunday with Rev. Dr. W.G. Hardy at their new Christian Center at 7600 N.E. Glisan St., the former site of New Beginnings church. A formal dedication for Highland's multicultural congregation is coming this fall. See story and photo, front page.

Community Weary of Jefferson Changes

continued from Front

Kenton, Meek, Whitaker and Kennedy. It has reorganized other feeder schools like Boise-Eliot and Harriet Tubman.

In April, Superintendent Vickie Phillips proposed to close nearby Humboldt Elementary, but a wave of protest from parents and community resulted in a reprieve for the school. Whitaker was closed two years ago and students were transferred to Harriet Tubman, which will become a girl's academy in 2007.

Following the press conference, the Jefferson advocates marched

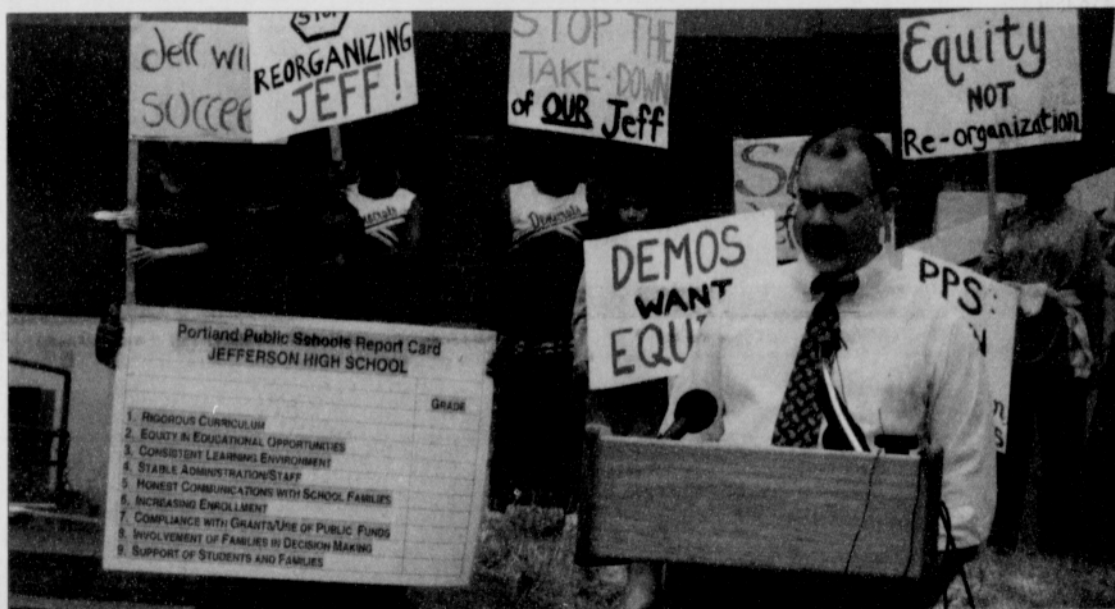


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Steve Kayfes, vice president of the Jefferson Parent Teacher Student Association, issues a report card giving the Portland School District a failing grade in its actions to help Jefferson High School.

to North Killingsworth to stage an all-day vigil in front of the North Portland Library. Many attended the school board meeting Monday night in an unsuccessful attempt to rescind its decision to reorganize the school for a fourth time in six years.

The school advocates want to

increase and improve course offerings at Jefferson, reinstate the popular television production program and studio, and empower the Jefferson Site Council as the primary decision maker for the school.

Jefferson's new principal Leon Dudley did not come outside to listen to or address Monday's protest.

He took up his post Aug. 14, having been recruited from Dallas Independent School District's Roosevelt High School, where the student body was mostly minority and low-income.

Dudley will be the eighth principal that Jefferson has hired in the past 10 years.

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A Highland Haven Program

11:00am- 5:00pm
Saturday, August 26, 2006
78th & NE Glisan
Portland, Oregon