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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

## LOCAL NEWS



Portland Parent Union founder Sheila Warren (right) with her husband Ronald Warren and granddaughter Paris Warren work to end school suspensions and create alternatives for youth at risk of being pushed out of critical learning opportunities.

### Push for Alternatives

#### Parents work to end school suspensions

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Parents Union invites the public to attend a meeting on Saturday, Oct. 6 in northeast Portland to educate and discuss alternatives to school "pushouts," a description for the disproportionate number of minority youth who are suspended or expelled from

school by zero-tolerance policies.

In support of the "National Week of Action on School Pushouts," parents, students, educators and advocates from across the country are taking action to expose the crisis of children being left behind and advocate for in-school alternatives.

According to the group's "Solutions not Suspensions" initiative, every year, 3.3 million students in the United States are suspended from school, causing them to miss critical learning time as well as opportunities to grow and succeed.

Recent federal data shows that

black and Latino students, and students with disabilities, are disproportionately targeted by suspensions. They are also likely to be punished more severely than white students for minor misbehaviors, contributing to the achievement gap and high dropout rates for these students.

The parents argue for a moratorium on suspensions and expulsions, citing a school-to-prison educational track and juvenile justice system that too often fails to serve

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### Input Sought on PCC Leadership

#### College reaches out in search for new president

The public and key stakeholders will help shape the search for a new president at Portland Community College. Dr. Preston Pulliams, the current president, will be retiring in 2013.

PCC has committed itself to an open and inclusive search process

that will involve the college board, faculty, staff, students, and members of the broader community. A number of events where staff, students and the public can learn more about the search process, and share thoughts about the challenges PCC faces in the years ahead are scheduled.

Community forums started Monday and another session is planned for Thursday, Oct 4, at 4:30 p.m. at the Moriarty building on the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N.

Killingsworth St. Feedback can also be provided online at [pcc.edu/president](http://pcc.edu/president).

A national recruitment will take place from November through January. The PCC Board plans to bring the finalists to the college next spring when community members will have another opportunity to meet and provide input on the candidates.

Pulliams has served as PCC's

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### Comment on Police Reforms Wanted

The Department of Justice is seeking community input towards efforts to reform the Portland Police Bureau's use of force, crisis intervention, and officer accountability policies.

The U. S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon, in conjunc-

tion with the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division, will host a community conference call with members of the public on both Wednesday, Oct. 3, and Thursday Oct. 4 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To participate, dial the following toll-free number: 1-800-369-1772, and

when prompted by the operator, provide your name and the passcode "Portland."

Last month, the Justice Department announced its findings of a comprehensive investigation con-

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