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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Deep community ties and a personal connection to the neighborhood helps Natasha Butler understand the needs as she plans for the reopening of Harriet Tubman Middle School. Butler is the planning principal for the north Portland school which is scheduled to open this fall.

Tubman's Revival

Educator with deep community ties plans school's future

BY DANNY PETERSON
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Natasha Butler's extensive resume and experience in education and school administration might make her more than qualified as the planning principal for the re-opening of Harriet Tubman Middle School this fall. But the personal connection she has to the area and the

north Portland school in particular can't be replicated in just anybody's repertoire.

Butler sees the opportunity to strengthen community ties and support for a robust program at Tubman. The plans are part of a larger effort by Portland public Schools to bring equal access and quality academic programs to schools across the district.

"I have two younger brothers that were in education that actually attended Harriet Tubman. And my dad owned a business right on Williams Avenue. And so as a result of that, I used to come to Harriet Tubman quite

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