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 regional edition,  
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 and local information.

## PPS on Race in Schools

Don't Shoot PDX  
 activists question  
 board on discipline

By Arashi Young  
 Of The Skanner News

Local Don't Shoot PDX activist Teresa Raiford approached the Portland Public School Board meeting with a story to tell — the life and death of Andre Dupree Payton, her nephew.

Nearly five years ago, on Sept. 26, 2010, Payton was shot on the corner of NW 2nd and Couch at 2 a.m. Raiford said he died in the same year he graduated, making him another young man whose graduation pictures were used for his funeral.

She said Payton had been enrolled in culturally competent education since he was seven-years-old, but his education didn't address his lived experience.

"These children aren't getting to 21-years-old, and they are coming through this system. This is a system, that I would think... would be competent enough to help those that have the biggest disadvantages," she said.

Raiford, and another Don't Shoot PDX member, Maria De Silva, asked the PPS board to be more accountable to their most vulnerable students. They challenged PPS's equity programs, calling these efforts a failure for Black students.

The activist group asked for an audit of all spending related to PPS's equity department, including conferences, speakers, contracts, trainings and seminars. The organization also asked for an audit of publicly funded alternative programs for students who left PPS.

"We need strong oversight of our programs and spending, because we are not getting the results we need for our kids," De Silva told the board.

In 2014 the Oregon Department of Education fined PPS for disciplining Black special education students at a higher rate than other students. In response PPS was ordered to spend 15 percent of its funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

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# CONTRACT



Paulette Thompson, a teacher at Middle College in Seattle, receives her ballot from Leslie Bedke before Seattle teachers and staff voted to approve their contract Sept. 20.

## PDC Creates New Startup Fund

New program seeks to assist underrepresented business owners

By Donovan M. Smith  
 Of The Skanner News

The city, county and state have banded together for the creation of a \$3 million initiative they say will boost the diversity of Portland's largely homogenous startup world — the Inclusive Startup Fund.

Earmarked specifically for underserved communities, the agency will award grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for startups whose owners are from underserved communities.

"Our core focus is on disadvantaged minority populations underrepresented in the startup community," said Portland Development Commission spokesperson Shawn Uhlman.

"That tends to be the Black community, Latino community, Native Americans," Uhlman added.

Uhlman also noted women as an underrepresented population in the city's startup world, but said the definition can also include veterans, people with disabilities and sexual minorities.

Uhlman said the idea wasn't birthed out of any one specific meeting but rather a part of recent intentional efforts by the agency to help mend previous shortcomings on its part when it comes to diversity.

"We've been, at PDC, kind of focusing on supporting entrepreneurs in different programs for the last three, four, five years," Uhlman said pointing to its recent efforts with Seed Fund and Startup PDX Challenge.

"We're really focused, and I would say, almost exclusively,

around our entrepreneurship around the concept that we use inclusive entrepreneurship and open up opportunities for underrepresented communities and aid them in access to startup resources."

Between the three government agencies, the program is more than one-third funded. It currently totals \$1.25 million.

Now, after putting out a public call for proposals, the PDC is in the process of deciding who will manage the fund.

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## Activists Protest Armed Campus Officers

Students call for Portland State's on-campus security to be disarmed

By Donovan M. Smith  
 Of The Skanner News

Nearly 100 students walked out of the PSU convocation opening ceremonies earlier this week to protest the administration's decision to arm campus security last December.

Inside the Smith Memorial Student Union

Ballroom the diverse crowd of students chanted "Disarm PSU!" and "Black Lives Matter!" before leading the rally into the streets of downtown.

Olivia Pace, freshman at PSU and an organizer for the school's student union which organized the event, said the group's attempts to work with administration to reverse their decision have gone ignored.

"[We] have tried for over a year to speak

to the administration to try and stop the arming of campus security," Pace said.

"President Wim Wiwel and the Board of Trustees have ignored our pleas, so this is the only option left: to interrupt business as usual.

"President Wim asked us to have respect for the other students at the convocation.

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