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hind Open School is to make the learning relational and relevant to the students' goals.

The school is committed to forging meaningful relationships with students and their families.

Andrew Mason, the executive director for Open School, said the teachers

ty-five percent of Open School students live in poverty and 78 percent are students of color.

Open School also uses culturally inclusive learning as part of its curriculum and one-on-one interventions for students having hard time meeting classroom expectations.

“One size does not fit and should not fit all.”

and staff at Open School know the aspirations of their students.

“They have dreams — and I know that because we ask them that when they enroll,” Mason said. “Our programs work. We offer our students an education that fits, teachers who believe in them, and academic results no one else can.”

Open School East opened in 2014 with a class of 46 students. That number grew to 76 students this following year.

The school intends to grow every year with the goal of serving 270 students by 2019.

Already students had advanced an average of 2.5 grade levels in math and two grade levels in reading over the last academic year.

Open School works in partnership with six Multnomah County school districts: Portland Public, David Douglas, Centennial, Reynolds, Parkrose and Gresham-Barlow. Together, they identify sixth-grade students who are struggling in school.

Students with poor test scores, low grades, high absence rates and a history of suspensions are those most at risk of dropping out. Seven-

The new Open School East building will be a 22,000-square-foot facility that will also host the Rockwood neighborhood Boys and Girls Club.

The new school should open in August 2016.

Current Open School East students are using classrooms in Oliver Elementary School in southeast Portland.

“Everyone here knows the Oregon State motto, ‘She flies with her own wings,’” Gov. Brown told the crowd.

“I believe the programs like the open school will enable all of our students to soar,” she said.

After the groundbreaking ceremony, Mason introduced Vinnie DeWayne who performed his song ‘Burnt Out.’ DeWayne was a former graduate of Open Meadow in partnership with Roosevelt High School, who now volunteers with Open School.

“I felt like it was only right,” he said in reference to giving back. “I do the music thing and I know that Open and Step Up helped me along the way the entire time to get where I am now,” DeWayne said. “I feel like it was only right and it’s all family here... I am still part of the family.”



Gov. Kate Brown addresses the crowd last week at the groundbreaking of Open School East, situated at the former location of Drake's 7 Dees on Southeast Stark Street.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPEN SCHOOL NORTHWEST

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truth to power is always needed,” Hales said.

Grace Stratton, a field representative for Sen. Ron Wyden delivered a Congressional record on behalf of the senator. The document is an official record of the proceedings of the United States Congress which informs President Obama of *The Skanner's* 40th anniversary. To view the Congressional record, visit [https://www.flickr.com/photos/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/theskannerstaff/22487753768/in/album-72157660958732006/)

“The role of *The Skanner* in speaking truth to power is always needed

[theskannerstaff/22487753768/in/album-72157660958732006/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/theskannerstaff/22487753768/in/album-72157660958732006/).

Copies of the recently published 40th anniversary commemorative edition were laid out on tables for guests to thumb through. The edition chronicled local community leaders, businesses and events that touched the community over the last 40 decades, through photos and reflective editorials penned by former *Skanner* editors Helen Silvis and Lisa Loving.

Attendees said the record of the

paper helped them see the story of Black Portland in a larger context. Community organizer Lakeitha Elliott said the written history in the paper was exciting.

“It’s a place where I can go for the history before I was born and from when I was young. I can look back and see stuff from when I was a kid and remember those things that I might not have remembered and be able to see them in print and understand the

“One of the most amazing things has been reading *The Skanner* newspaper to just get integrated into the community,” McGee said. “I think for a lot of Black transplants, *The Skanner* newspaper is the place and the way that they find out and get connected.”

Oakland, Calif., transplant Chris Fuzell said the paper has been integral in informing him on his quest to learn more about the history of African Americans in both the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, respectively.

Cindi Fischer, who has done work as a mental health advocate up and down the Northwest, commended *The Skanner* for spreading the voice of African Americans not just to other African Americans, but to the wider community as well.

“We’re a part of them, and they’re apart of us,” Fischer said. “We’re the canary in the coal mine. To have an independent voice for African Americans [in the media] is essential to our survival, and our ability to move into thriving as a people in our community.”

View photos on pages 6 and 7.

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to take immediate action and support a full and transparent investigation,” Rogers’ statement said.

Portland attorney Bronson James, who represents the anti-violence group Don’t Shoot PDX, told *The Skanner* he found the revelations deeply troubling.

“I believe that she didn’t know what was going on,” James said of Rosenblum.

“The key question is to what extent it was going on. Was this a single individual or a coordinated effort? Was there federal collaboration? How long has this data gathering been going on? All of these questions need to be answered. I think it’s good that the Attorney General has appointed an independent investigator to do this. I think it’s important that the investigator partners independently with myself and the afflicted groups to ensure the investigation is thorough and asks the right questions.”

The Skanner also contacted the Black

Lives Matter Portland chapter but did not receive a response in time for its deadline. Black Lives Matter Portland is a local chapter of the national group started in 2012.

The phrase “Black Lives Matter” has

“Not only is such profiling illegal, but it seriously threatens our democracy

also been used by protesters and organizations not connected to the organization, including Don’t Shoot Portland, which held its first public demonstration in August 2014.

Harmon Johnson also released a letter to Urban League members Tuesday hosted on the Urban League’s site in which she said she spoke for herself and her family only, expressing dismay that simply using a hashtag intended to express solidarity would make one

subject to state surveillance.

“When there is probable cause to suspect that a crime has been committed, law enforcement can and should investigate,” Harmon Johnson wrote. “But what motivation could the Oregon

Department of Justice Criminal Justice Division have had for conducting a threat assessment of my husband in the first place, let alone creating a file, and delivering it to the Attorney General, for further action? Yet, when nothing threatening was found, the department continued its investigation and escalation. If they labeled him a threat, who else is being wrongly targeted in this way?”

The Urban League is encouraging members of the public to share stories, concerns, questions or support regarding state surveillance by writing to WeMatter@ULPDX.org.



Nkenge Harmon Johnson, President and CEO of the Urban League of Portland, published letters Tuesday afternoon saying the Oregon Department of Justice was conducting “threat assessments” on Oregonians using the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has confirmed the surveillance took place and has placed an employee on administrative leave.