

Education cont'd from pg 1

everyone else," Quaid said.

Quaid testified on behalf of the "Our Stories Matter" campaign from the non-profit Know Your City.

The new initiative seeks to diversify Oregon Studies curriculum for students in grades 3 through 5 in the Portland

Crews told *The Skanner News* that current education equity policy needs to be put into practice.

"There are tons of equity policies we have in place at the state and at districts, but a lot of times the community doesn't know about it," Crews said. He said there are good equity laws in

“Advocates are pushing beyond token policies and unfunded mandates and directly asking legislators to fund underserved students

region.

The state of Black education in Oregon is changing through multiple efforts to create culturally relevant curriculum and the passage of a new legislative bill to address the achievement gap for Black students. Advocates are pushing beyond token policies and unfunded mandates and directly asking legislators to fund underserved students.

At City Hall, Know Your City Executive Director Cameron Whitten asked for \$35,000 to fund "Our Stories Matter." Mike Rosen of the Portland Public School Board also testified. Rosen said he would be asking PPS to financially contribute as well.

Whitten told the council the state requires Oregon Studies but doesn't mandate it be culturally inclusive.

In 2013 Senate Bill 739 urged the Department of Education to look at race specifically, but the law did not change Oregon Studies standards.

Karanja Crews, the founder behind the Teaching With Purpose pedagogy has been advocating for culturally inclusive curriculum for over 15 years.

place about multicultural education and disproportionate discipline, but these laws have little effect if they aren't enforced.

In January, Crews held a Teaching With Purpose town hall to connect these policies with community members. In June, Crews will host a culturally relevant curriculum boot camp to help educators craft their own diverse and responsive courses of study.

The town hall was an opportunity to discuss House Bill 2016, passed by the Oregon State Legislature last year.

The law directs the Oregon Department of Education to create a plan focused on closing the achievement gap for Black students.

Charles McGee presented the legislation at the Town Hall and has plans to travel throughout Oregon to reach out to the Black community.

At the state level, House Bill 4033, proposed by Rep. Lew Frederick for this session, would fund culturally competent continuing education for teachers.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com

Graduation cont'd from pg 1

considered for closure -- is the last remaining majority African American public high school in the state. Roosevelt is one of the state's most racially diverse schools and also the poorest.

Oregon Department of Education's Crystal Green says, while there are a lot of schools with high rates of poverty, there were tangible improvements among these populations in some of their data sets.

"That's one of the things we've been excited to see this year, is that some of our schools that have really made progress and are closing, or have closed the graduation gap (for low-income students)," Greene said. She added that Neah-Kah-Nie High, located in the coastal town of Rockaway Beach, graduated 100 percent of its students, who have a high poverty rate, surpassing the overall rates. "Jefferson and Roo-

sevelt also are examples of schools where they can really focus in on supporting all of their kids, and having interventions early, having the supports

“What we've been able to prove, is that with the right support African American students can learn at the same level, if not higher, than anyone else

that they need, and really making sure that kids are on track throughout their time in high school. So they can graduate on time, with a plan, and ready for whatever it is they want to do after high school."

Hopson tells *The Skanner* that at Jefferson over 80 percent of the students

it graduated last year were Black.

"The achievement gap is something that most folks talk about not just locally but across this nation," Hopson says.

"What we've been able to prove, is that with the right support African American students can learn at the same level, if not higher, than anyone else whether we're talking about Jefferson, Roosevelt, or any other schools, so this is huge given all of the equity questions that we're looking at in education."

While graduation rates in the country are at an all-time high, America lags far behind a host of other developed countries for graduating its seniors on time.

Friends of the Children

With the opening of the new Friends of the Children [friendspdx.org] youth service and community center in Gresham, Jan. 21, professional youth mentors can continue to help children reach their full potential. Sited in the Rockwood neighborhood, the center features a full-size gym, teaching kitchen, media room, arts and science learning center and more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY MOONEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Shooting cont'd from pg 1

er, a 21-year veteran of the department, both apparently fired shots at the young man. The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office has told *The Oregonian* the exact manner of death is still under investigation and it's unclear whether either officer hit Kalonji, but has said he died due to bullet wounds in the chest. One officer, Oregon City police officer Dan Shockley, was injured during the incident due to a fall from a ladder, but is expected to make a full recovery.

The Sheriff's Office's press release about the incident says Kalonji was armed with a rifle and that deputies heard one shot fired after Kalonji retreated to a bedroom.

The press release also states officers were called to the scene because Kalonji was threatening family members. Jennifer Semenova, a family friend who created a fundraiser for Kalonji's funeral expenses, told *The Skanner News* that isn't true.

"What I can tell you right now is that Chris did not threaten a single soul that day. In the articles about him it says he threatened

family members. That is a lie," Semenova told *The Skanner* via e-mail Tuesday. "Chris sat at his window unarmed, legs and arms out asking for everyone to get him help."

The standoff took place at an apartment complex in Oak Grove,

“What I can tell you right now is that Chris did not threaten a single soul that day

an unincorporated community in Clackamas County with a population of 16,629 residents.

According to U.S. Census data, in 2010, 1 percent of Oak Grove residents — 158 people — said they considered themselves Black or African American. In 2000, 0.6 percent of Oak Grove residents — 72 people — identified as Black or African American on Census surveys. In Clackamas County as a whole, eight-tenths of a percent of residents (158 people) considered themselves Black in 2010 versus 1.2 percent (149 people) in 2000.

According to Portland Cop-watch, between 2010 and 2014

there were six incidents involving use of force in Clackamas County, with five of those involving the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and one involving the Oregon City Police Department. In 2010, the county and a deputy reached a legal settlement in connection

with the 2005 death of Fouad Kaady, a 27-year-old Sandy resident who was un-

armed, naked, burned and bleeding when officers shot him to death. In 2000, Clackamas County Sgt. Daniel McLean was convicted of assault, harassment and official misconduct after using a Taser against a disabled inmate.

According to Sgt. Nathan Thompson, public information officer for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, the deputies involved in the shooting will remain on leave until the investigation is complete, and there isn't a specific time line.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH

Jefferson High School's graduation rates showed the highest rate of improvement statewide last year, though overall graduation rates throughout the state remain low.