



HUMBOLDT SCHOOL PROJECT TEAM MEETING 1

**Portland, Oregon
May 9, 2008**

Participants

Lorenzo Poe, Oregon Solutions Co-Convener	Deborah Stein, City of Portland Planning Bureau
Chip Shields, Oregon Solutions Co-Convener	Sean Waller, Humboldt School
Debbie Bischoff, City of Portland Planning Bureau	
Douglas Capps, Portland Public Schools	
Melanie Dixon, Humboldt PTA	
Byron Estes, Portland Development Commission	
Carol Herzberg, Portland Development Commission	
Cheryl James, Humboldt School	
Veronica King, Housing Authority of Portland	
Lanita Lockhart, Humboldt PTA	
Kate Raphael, Office of Mayor Potter	
David Sheern, Portland Development Commission	

Oregon Solutions staff

Wendy Willis
Kristen Earl

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Co-Convener of the project, Lorenzo Poe called the meeting to order. Co-Convener Poe thanked those assembled for their willingness to serve and to their commitment to Humboldt School. Co-Convener Poe is a Humboldt alumnus and his granddaughter is currently a second grader at Humboldt. The team then went around and introduced themselves and their relationship to Humboldt School.

II. Overview of the Oregon Solutions Process

Wendy Willis introduced the history, general principles and ground rules of the Oregon Solutions process. The goal of this project is to strengthen the connection between Humboldt School and the surrounding community.

Co-Convener Shields introduced himself and his connections to the Humboldt community. He stressed how impressed he is with Principal Williams and the teachers at Humboldt. Co-Convener Shields supports the school and hopes to see enrollment maximized.

The ground rules were reviewed and approved, with the caveat that they can be amended in the future.

III. Current Projects of Team Members

*Humboldt School Project
Team Meeting Summary
May 9, 2008*



Wendy Willis invited team members to discuss their current projects related to the Humboldt Community.

PDC

PDC is currently looking at additional affordable housing to increase enrollment, while noting that the area is fairly built out. Byron Estes raised the question of how do we maintain existing residents so that they do not get pushed out by cost? PDC is focusing on individual work with businesses, the Vancouver/Williams pedestrian safety project and potential expansion of PCC-Cascade Campus. PDC is taking a holistic look at the school area and existing housing, income levels and the number of students in the neighborhood attending Humboldt.

Bureau of Planning

Passed out a Humboldt Neighborhood Fact Sheet providing a snap shot of the neighborhood.

Housing Authority of Portland

The Housing Authority of Portland is working on a project next door to Humboldt. The project is in the process of building 130 units and is now starting to lease them. The projected Humboldt Garden move-ins will begin in June 2008. The tenants will consist of previous tenants, transfers from other HAP housing and those on the wait list. The site will be focused around households with resources from HAP staff and employment services.

Humboldt School

The goal for Humboldt is to move from 2.5 to a 5 technology rating in order to increase professional development and resources available to students and caregivers. The majority of the technology of at Humboldt was funded in 1999. The computer lab has 30 computers. When there is testing, the school is unable to have computer class. Additionally Humboldt is working on a grant to connect the Humboldt Garden to science classes.

Humboldt PTA

The PTA is working to strengthen the relationship between Jefferson High School, PCC and Humboldt. The other focus is on technical professional development, to make sure that teachers and parents have the necessary skills and resources available to teach.

Humboldt Family Involvement

The overall goal is to focus more on activities and resources for parents. Parents will often come to Humboldt to create and update their resumes when applying for jobs. The goal is to not only offer classes in the evening for parents, but to offer child care and a light dinner as well. Humboldt has a growing population of Latino families in the neighborhood, and Humboldt is working to bridge that language/cultural gap. The goal is to have all school communications, both written and verbal, to be available in English and Spanish. Some bilingual parents act as interpreters for parent conversation groups. Parents want a resource where they have the opportunity to use and learn about the same technology as their children.

Portland Public Schools

There is an idea of schools as the center of community. In some places that is true, in others it is not. The new Rosa Parks School is held up as an example of school as the center of community. But it has

*Humboldt School Project
Team Meeting Summary
May 9, 2008*



not reached the 100% goal of community. It has a parent resource center and a large library, but the school still shuts down at 3pm, and along with it those resources. We need to work towards that 100% objective and we need to know how the school district can support that.

A discussion followed about the need for resources at Humboldt. Sean Waller spoke about the inventiveness of the school, that while it lacks a SUN program, Humboldt has internally created an after school program. The school lacks a certified PE teacher, so Sean is the “movement” teacher. The school gym also doubles as the cafeteria, which will become a challenge when Humboldt houses 6-8th graders. Sean suggested some short-term fixes such as adding more basketball hoops or fencing in the field for soccer, but stressed that a big picture assessment of resources is needed. Humboldt has recently partnered with the ARC for CPR/Disaster training and the church across the street offers prep classes for students.

IV: Discussion of Project

The team brainstormed goals and potential challenges for the Oregon Solutions Humboldt School Project. The identified goals are as follows:

Goal: Humboldt as a Community Center

Extended hours/multiuse building
Technology
Adult education/professional and parenting development
Recreation space and facilities
Engage partners including businesses, retirees, neighbors, Boys & Girls Club, etc.
Garden program
ESL – language classes and conversation
Service learning
Social center/activities

Goal: Enrollment

“Niche” program
Numbers
Capture rate (Current rate 47%, PDX average 64%)

Goal: Seamless Educational Transitions

Serve children at all levels
Physical connections to other institutions
Pre-k to adult learning
Stabilization of housing

Goal: Housing/School Connection

Stabilization of family housing
Affordability
Connection to Humboldt Gardens
Midlevel housing (workforce)
Outreach

*Humboldt School Project
Team Meeting Summary
May 9, 2008*



Goal: Basic funding for education

Goal: Educational Village

Integrated discussion
Affordability (Housing)

Goal: Technology Improvements

Partner/share with PCC and Jefferson

Goal: Social/Multipurpose with Neighborhood Association

Track when new families move to the area and invite them to a school social every quarter.

Challenges

Integrating new and long-time residents
Housing affordability
Community identity
History of the school and neighborhood
Building use – janitorial extra hours for after school use

V: Before Next Meeting

Veronica King – Investigate housing credit for school service.
David Sheern – Investigate through IDP, match program by 10% if they serve in school.
Lorenzo Poe – Investigate use of district buildings.
Sean Waller – Provide totality of Humboldt technology needs.
Wendy Willis – Circle back with Maria Lisa Johnson.

Co-Conveners Poe and Shields each committed to raising \$1000 for Humboldt (Total \$2000.)

VI: Next Meeting

When: Friday, May 23rd @ 2pm
Location: Humboldt School
Agenda: Solidify goals
Prioritize specific action items

*Humboldt School Project
Team Meeting Summary
May 9, 2008*