

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Oya no Kai Statement to the PPS Policy & Governance Committee

Sara, Amy and I, co-presidents of Oya No Kai, would like to extend our community's support to the proposed changes to the Field Trips, Foreign Travel, Other Off Campus Activities policy as presented here today, February 21, 2019.

Oya no Kai understands, agrees with and supports the premise that providing focused educational opportunities for all students by creating capstone programs across all middle school curriculum is the best path to closing the opportunity gap and achieving equity. Creating and improving educational programming is the Rising Tide that will lift up everyone.

Oya no Kai firmly believes that creating a capstone paradigm within the three year middle school framework that takes advantage of the unique attributes of the school, the school's teachers and the school's administration is a commendable and achievable objective.

The JDLI is in its 25th year of programming and its success should be a testament to the types of communities and experiences PPS can build. However, it is also an example of how much hard work and effort it will take to develop this comprehensive capstone program. We are talking about rolling up the sleeves, brainstorming sessions with school staff, teachers and parents and extensive stakeholder outreach.

Absent a solid commitment by PPS to develop this capstone program, it will fail and we may be back here again in a few years discussing the perceived inequities across PPS programming. However, with the adoption of the proposed language policy comes the full support of Oya no Kai's resources and institutional knowledge towards the effort, toil and success we hope will inevitably come.

Oya no Kai supports good programming that would extend and expand a "building bridges" mentality and continue to open doors to innumerable opportunities for your charges, the students and families of PPS.

Thank you.

Sean Egusa

Sara DeLuca

Amy Thomas

Oya No Kai co-presidents