

Actions	Priority 1 = top priority 5 = lowest priority	New, Ongoing, Lead(s) Identified or TBD	Other SWNI Committees and/or NAs involved	Status: Active, Inactive Hold	SWNI Strategic Plan objective
<b>8 Identified Priority Actions</b>					
<p>Work with school administrators and teachers (public and private) to determine community involvement projects for SWNI Schools support. Meet with PTAs &amp; Foundations and community partners, such as Library and SUN School Program as well as City Bureaus for outreach and events.</p> <p>See information collection sheet used for Principal info gathering Spring 2017 posted on Schools website.</p> <p>Create filing system for updated materials from school meetings.</p>	1	Ongoing  Lead: TBD	NA Reps taking on meetings at schools in their NAs or within SWNI boundaries.	Active	Outreach and liveability understanding our community
<p>Use responses to May 2017 Google Form survey to determine how to provide info for NAs. The survey as emailed to all SWNI NAs leads will be posted on Schools website.</p> <p>Once info is summarized meet with 17 NAs on a rolling basis, provide opportunities for NAs to access information.</p>	2	New  Lead: TBD	NAs need to understand the work that is being done on their behalf.	Active	

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Develop an easy to use, cost effective method for engaging families via remote access by phone or laptop. (Determine an appropriate method for funding this approach to include more families in meetings.)	4	New  Lead: TBD	Organizational recommendation. Review prior work by NAs or other committees and integrate. Request help from ONI and/or the City of Portland.	Inactive	
Complete year 3 of ONI Small grant for Tech Equity: Enrichment Opportunities. Summer – Fall  (All event dates will be before snow could fall – 2016 experience with weather was not positive).  Determine if Committee will craft a 2018 proposal.  Final reports and photos from 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 available for review.	1	Lead(: Maripat Hensel and Tech Equity subgroup of the committee and partners	Equity & Inclusion	Active	Outreach and Equity, volunteering on a specific project

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<p>Provide speakers, educator panels or guests for 2 special (in addition to the every other month arrangement) meetings with topical discussions. Discussion or activity time is expected to be at the first part of a committee meeting. Meetings are open to all with invites to guests and/or community members who may not typically attend SWNI meetings. These meetings may be a panel discussion with invited speakers, a TED Talk or webinar review. Expect one fall and one spring meeting.</p>	3	TBD	Integrate with Tech Equity	Active	Educate the community, connect neighbors
<p>Community Involvement (CI) strategy as the primary method for drawing in new volunteers as resources who may be interested in school volunteerism programs or projects. Volunteers residing in a given NA may help in any SW Schools where we are establishing a program or project. (These volunteers may be asked to represent their NA in the future, however, this would not be a requirement for participation.)</p> <p>Use a specific identified pilot project with one or more SW Portland schools for this involvement. Begin as early in the 2017-2018 school year as possible. Work with NAs rental community.</p>	1	TBD in cooperation with SWNI Staff and Maripat Hensel			

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Using social media for consistent outreach and messaging	1	Ongoing Lead: Maripat Hensel – needs to be shared	Staff support as needed.		Outreach Advocacy
Clarify Schools Committee reason for existing and communicate this message. This is unclear for new residents and new committee reps. (Use survey responses as input from NAs as shown above.) Examine the purpose of the Committee and organizational structure and ensure that it is relevant and accurate.  Update committee focus and raison d'être if needed. Brand projects and focus.	2	New: Through 2017-2018 school year. Recom- mendation for future to be provided at May 2018 SWNI Board Meeting.  Lead: Maripat Hensel	Work in cooperation with SWNI Executive Committee and Board for this activity.  ONI Support		
<b>9 Additional Administrative Tasks, Training, Research and Other Actions:</b>					
Ensure SWNI Board and staff understand SWNI Schools role and needs for the upcoming school year. Ask all leaders to 'Like us' on FB. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/swnischools/">https://www.facebook.com/swnischools/</a>	1	Ongoing	Board		
Fill in Leads for a majority of Top Priority Actions in the Action plan by the January 2017 meeting. (If no leads emerge, then Actions without leadership will be put on Hold for the remainder of the school year.)	3	Ongoing Maripat Hensel to call to NA attention. Lead: TBD		Active	

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Researcher(s) – Topics or projects for involvement that may be of interest in the community.	4	New Lead: TBD		Inactive	
Review demographics and housing data, especially rental info to ensure these homes and apartments are represented in our work.	4	New Lead: TBD	In cooperation with other committees	Inactive	
Use City of Portland definitions and identified approaches for Racial Equity and Inclusion. (Use Toolkit for Training.) <a href="https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/62223">https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/62223</a>	1	New  Lead: Maripat Hensel	Staff and Board as well as committee members	Active	
Ensure that committee leadership is trained on initiatives and specific volunteer tasks that are prioritized by SWNI.	2	New		Inactive	
Hunger: Current needs to be determined.	4	From prior Action Plan  Lead:TBD	Understand more about what WPP/Markh am Elem and Rieke Elementary are doing	Inactive	
Create a vice-chair role in the event that committee chair may not be available to represent the committee or facilitate regular meeting(s).	5	New		Inactive	
Develop a general FAQ video about the Committee and post it via YouTube to the SWNI Schools website to provide information for NAs and other organizations to stay updated	3	New	Engage student support from schools as part of Tech Equity.	Active	

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Determine fundraising needs for School Committee student related outreach and pilot projects for 2018-2019. If established then funds provided for on-going annual support before Spring Break.	4	New  Lead:	Organizational effort	Inactive	Community Involvement and capacity building

SWNI Schools Committee Strengths and Weaknesses: This committee is in transition. The Action Plan that was adopted last year was reviewed throughout the past year. Very few action items were filled by leads or support volunteers. The two main items that were accomplished were the Tech Equity Project and attempts to keep NAs connected with the committee and with schools they selected to visit and report back on. The committee represented SWNI NAs for more than 10 years with a significant amount of work on all action items created and implemented by Will Fuller. School administrators in SW Portland are generally aware of the committee and some of the work that has been done due to efforts made to meet with schools. Neighborhood Associations are not as well connected to this committee as they are with Public Safety, Land Use and Transportation. City of Portland policy and initiatives indirectly impact the work of this committee. (For example, if the City of Portland need to provide funds to support PPS to keep teachers from striking then, this budget item may be something to ensure NAs review at meetings.)

To provide value in the future, given the current organizational structure some process for all NAs to be aware of the work that is going on for schools needs to be established. Face to face contact is the most beneficial approach to do this, however, it is important to note that the committee has a few reps, but no ongoing process for keeping those who are not NA Reps involved as committee members and once again there will be changes with some NA Reps moving from SW Portland or to different states. The current Chair will work to secure support and fill open positions throughout the summer and renew efforts again in the Fall. Meetings with NAs will be scheduled on some rotation. Staff support may be needed to facilitate these efforts.

Notes: The Schools Committee did not have a quorum in attendance at our last regular committee meeting, those NA Representatives who attended the May 18, 2017 meeting were in consensus with the Actions. Feedback was provided to several drafts that were reviewed at meetings in the Spring. Leaders for most actions were not identified. NA Representatives who were not in attendance in May were requested by email to provide feedback to Maripat by email. At this writing, additional feedback was not provided. If the top priority items designated with a #1 priority are successfully completed in the coming year, then significant accomplishments will be made. See yellow highlighted actions in the table provided above. It is my desire to also work toward other actions as new volunteer support is secured. This document is our Draft Action Plan for submission to the SWNI Board. Any changes or updates will be provided to the Board when meetings begin again in the Fall.

Additional information about the Schools Committee as shown on the website:

**SWNI Mission:** SWNI empowers citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of Southwest neighborhoods.

**What is the Schools Committee?** The Schools Committee is a standing committee of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI), which is the coalition of 17 Neighborhood Associations in Southwest Portland. <http://swni.org/schools>

**The Committee's charge is to enhance communication between schools (both public and private) and neighborhoods.** The committee addresses issues, such as, School boundary adjustments; Role of school property as open space; School closures; Sale of school properties; School events; and partnership opportunities with neighborhood associations and other organizations.

**How does the Schools Committee work?** Each neighborhood association and business association has one authorized representative with the right to vote. Qualifications for authorized representatives are determined by the neighborhood or business. The representative must be a member of their neighborhood association or business association. The chair of the committee does not count as the representative from his/her neighborhood association. Guests and specific project volunteers are also needed to support the work of the committee. These resources are welcomed to participate in all meetings. See SWNI School Committee FAQ below.

Committee purpose: *Promoting the **BEST** possible schools for **ALL** students in Southwest Portland through **STRONG** neighborhood involvement.*

[schools@swni.org](mailto:schools@swni.org) - <http://swni.org/schools/about>

#### **SWNI School Committee FAQ:**

When did SWNI Schools begin working in the community?

When the attendance boundaries were revamped in 2005 for the 2006 school year, SW neighbors looked for support from SWNI and the Board added the Schools Committee as a standing committee for the neighborhood coalition. This was during the Smith Elementary School closure.

The Committee works on behalf of all students in private and public schools within our Boundaries.

Neighborhood associations are invited to send a voting representative to meetings and community volunteers are also welcome to attend and support annual action plans as non-voting committee members.

Committee members include educators and parents who understand the need for school support and communication.

Next regular meeting: Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m. MAC Room #4.

What has the SWNI Schools Committee been doing lately?

We were awarded another (3<sup>rd</sup> year) ONI Small Grant. This year for Technology Equity:

Enrichment Opportunities. First event is planned on Cybersecurity at Hillsdale Library on March 19<sup>th</sup>

In the past two years we have followed the boundary balancing (DBRAC) with one active SWNI Schools member representing SW in discussions and regular meetings. We also worked to elevate the importance of knowing how SW Schools were using technology.

In 2015 and 2016 SWNI Schools received grants for Tech Equity for students and families within our boundaries.

Prior to 2014, we attended school board meetings, met with principals, invited speakers and guests to participate in discussions and compiled information and links for use on our website.

#### What are your Committee's current needs?

Regular communication with schools and the committee and securing volunteers to help the committee with specific projects.

Increase family involvement from those with school aged children. Provide simple ways for Neighbors and Neighborhood Associations (NAs) to provide information or request support.

#### What are your Expected Actions?

Focus on Community Involvement (CI). Synthesize and integrate projects based on capacity for action. Provide outreach to gather updated information from schools and neighborhoods. Provide information for the community by including speakers at the beginning of several seasonal meetings. (SWNI Schools Committee meets for general committee meetings every other month during the school year.)

How do I find out more about activities?

Look for information about our work in SW News each month. Read the most updated schools article by clicking on the SW News and scrolling through the newspaper pdf.

<https://www.facebook.com/swnischools/> Like us on Facebook.

Submitted to SWNI by Maripat Hensel June 21, 2017.