



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2013

For more information:
Megan Doern, 503.552.6754
mdoern@portlandalliance.com

Alliance board of directors makes endorsements in Portland Public Schools board races

Responses to candidate surveys guide endorsements

Portland, Ore. – The Portland Business Alliance board of directors today announced its endorsement of three candidates running for positions on the Portland Public Schools board.

The Alliance endorsed:

- Martin Gonzalez, Zone 4
- Pam Knowles, unopposed for Zone 5
- Tom Koehler, Zone 6

“We have identified education as the most critical factor impacting our top priority: job creation and retention, and so the leadership guiding city’s largest school district is critical to our region’s economic health,” said Sandra McDonough, president & CEO of the Portland Business Alliance. “While Portland Public Schools is moving in the right direction, there is more hard work that needs to be done to improve graduation rates and close the achievement gap, and we believe these three candidates are up to the task.”

Alliance board endorsements are based on a process that includes candidate interviews conducted by its endorsement committee and a review of the candidates’ responses to its Value of Jobs questionnaire, followed by a vote by the full board. Two-thirds of the board members present must agree before an endorsement is made.

The responses to the Value of Jobs questionnaires, can be found on the [Value of Jobs site](#). The Value of Jobs campaign is an effort led by the Portland Business Alliance to inform public policy debates about the connection between private-sector jobs, wages and incomes and the quality of the region’s public services.

###

The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland’s Chamber of Commerce, with more than 1,200 businesses in the region. The Portland Business Alliance’s mission is to promote and foster an environment in the Portland region that attracts, supports and retains private-sector jobs, spurs economic vitality and enables quality educational opportunities for the region’s residents. Visit www.portlandalliance.com for more information.