

We, the undersigned, are petitioning for the Seattle School District to rescind the decision to place additional portable classroom spaces at Garfield. Our current budget is based on an adjusted contact time FTE of 1593 students (this considers students in Running Start). Our building was built for 1600 students and an additional 4 portable classrooms were added at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. We currently have 1714 students. The addition of more space is neither warranted nor advisable from a safety standpoint.

We feel that this action would severely jeopardize both the safety and learning environment of Garfield High School. We have several issues with this plan.

Major concerns are:

- Security is a major concern.
  - Classes in remote portables with no sight line to the main building are very vulnerable to dangerous situations. There is a record of violence in the 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. corridor in that area.
  - Considering that it is difficult for the present number of students to pass through the Garfield halls, the addition of more students makes passage ways a hazard in the case of an emergency. What if there is a fire or shooter? Is the fire department aware of plans to expand enrollment even higher with compromised access to the west side of the building?
- Our school grounds are currently at capacity. A previous parking exemption due to insufficient spaces had to be secured when the school was remodeled to serve 1600 students. The neighborhood cannot handle any additional parking pressures.
- Our hallways are exceedingly crowded during passing periods. This makes travel to the lunchroom, restroom, and classes difficult, which impacts both the stress on students getting to class on time and instructional time. Students currently in the outlying portables and the PE/PAC building have a long way to travel through crowded hallways to reach classes. Students in classes on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. would not be able to get to classes on time.
- There are no restrooms available in the PE/PAC or in any portables, which means students must travel to the main building to use facilities. Current lines for the restrooms mean that students, even in the main building, are often late to class, or leave during class, to use the facilities.
- The District needs to offer additional infrastructure: security, more administrative help, counselors, etc. if the plan is to populate our school to over 2000 students.
- The current portables were months from ready at the start of this year and it was highly disruptive not only to those 4 teachers and all their classes, but also to the whole school because we had to let those classes use our rooms, use the library all day, etc.

Please accept our concerns for our students, both in safety and educational equity and do not add more students to our current enrollment status.

The Staff of Garfield

Bonnie Hungate-Hawk  
Chair, Building Leadership Team