PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT
A Tradition of Excellence

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Mar 02, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting at Kessler Center and livestreamed via Zoom
Category	4. Consent Agenda
Subject	E. Student Support Department: Rainier Scholars (MOU)
Type	Action (Consent)

Presented by:
Tonya Middling, Director of Student Support

Issue:
This is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Puyallup School District and Rainier Scholars to cultivate students' academic and leadership potential through rigorous, transformative opportunities that increase college graduation rates and empower new generations of leaders.

Background:
Provide a comprehensive 12-year program that combines academic enrichment, mental health support, college counseling, and leadership and career development. Scholars participate in an intensive 14-month experience in a supportive cohort environment designed to prepare them for placement on college preparatory pathways in public schools.

Discussion:
Rainier Scholars support students most underrepresented on college campuses who have the greatest number of barriers to achieving a college degree. The majority of program participants are from families who qualify as low-income and are from households without a four-year college degree. Academic counselors visit scholars at schools and college campuses, provide advocacy with school administrators, offer social and cultural activities, tutoring, workshops, and annual retreats designed to build skills for academic success, college readiness, and graduation. Families are supported through parent workshops, individual meetings and regular contact with academic counselors.

Contact Information:
If you have questions or comments regarding this item, please contact Tonya Middling, Director of Student Support, at middltr@puyallupsd.org or 253-840-8907.

PSD MOU with Rainier Scholars 25-26 - signed.pdf (360 KB)

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

Motion & Voting

Approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Romero, second by Melissa Bedford.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Gretchen S Miles, David B Berg, Shannon C Burch, Joseph Romero, Melissa Bedford

Puyallup School District & Rainier Scholars

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Collaboration in support of the District's Strategic Goals

SCHOOL(S)* OR DEPARTMENT: Student Support Services

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Rainier Scholars

TERM OF COLLABORATION: **March 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027**

Puyallup School District ("District") and the community organization named above ("Community Organization") (*collectively the* "Parties") agree to the following:

I. STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The District is committed to the creation and implementation of collaborations with community organizations that enhance the educational program of District schools, support the achievement of the District's strategic goals, and improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for District students. All collaborations with community organizations must:

a. Have measurable outcomes supporting the strategic goals of the District and individual school goals where appropriate;
b. Follow all District policies and procedures including, but not limited to, District policies relating to building use and student safety; and
c. Continuously demonstrate substantial positive impact.

II. THIS COLLABORATION SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC GOAL(S):

- ☒ Academic Achievement
- ☐ Family and Community Engagement
- ☐ Social-Emotional Supports
- ☐ Staff Development, Culture, and Satisfaction
- ☐ Facilities, Safety, and Security

III. THIS COLLABORATION SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING WHOLE CHILD ELEMENT(S):

- ☒ Academic Learning
- ☐ Basic Needs
- ☐ Family Engagement & Support
- ☐ Health & Wellness

☐ Behavior/Social Emotional Learning ☐ Racial/Cultural Identity
☐ College & Career Readiness ☒ Readiness and Transitions
☐ Expanded Learning ☐ School Culture & Climate

IV. THIS COLLABORATION SUPPORTS THE GOALS OF THE SCHOOL(S) IT SERVES:

Each year, District schools develop a Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). CSIPs detail the areas the school plans to focus on, the goals they want to achieve, and their plan to achieve the goals.

Community Organization reviewed the CSIP for the school(s) included in this MOU.

Community Partner Title: (initials): N/A

V. SCOPE OF WORK:

The purpose of this collaboration is to provide *(what, why, where, and when)*:

Rainier Scholars cultivates students' academic and leadership potential through rigorous, transformative opportunities that increase college graduation rates and empower new generations of leaders. They support students most underrepresented on college campuses who have the greatest number of barriers to achieving a college degree. The majority of program participants are from families who qualify as low-income and are from households without a four-year college degree.

VI. MEASURABLE OUTCOMES:

This collaboration has the following measurable outcomes to prove its support of strategic goals of the district and individual goals of the schools it serves:

GOAL	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
Increase college access, persistence, and completion for historically underrepresented students by partnering with Rainier Scholars to provide rigorous academic preparation, leadership development, and sustained support from middle school through college graduation.	95% or more of participating students enroll in a two- or four-year college immediately following high school graduation.

VII. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION WILL:

Provide a comprehensive 12-year program that combines academic enrichment, mental health support, college counseling, and leadership and career development. Scholars participate in an

intensive 14-month experience in a supportive cohort environment designed to prepare them for placement on college preparatory pathways in public and private schools. They build and strengthen foundational academic skills, cultural identity and resiliency over the course of two summer sessions and on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays during the school year. Overall, scholars complete the equivalent of one additional school year (1,000 hours) of academic enrichment. Our strong partnerships with public and private schools ensure that students who successfully complete AEP can access college preparatory pathways in middle school and high school. We provide workshops, tailored application and financial aid support to assist scholars and families to maximize school choices. Academic counselors visit scholars at schools and college campuses, provide advocacy with school administrators, offer social and cultural activities, tutoring, workshops, and annual retreats designed to build skills for academic success, college readiness, and graduation. Families are supported through parent workshops, individual meetings and regular contact with academic counselors.

VIII. SCHOOL OR DISTRICT WILL:

The school site will provide a meeting space in the school building for services to be conducted. The school will attempt to provide consistent space, which is conducive to the privacy and confidential needs of services and to the needs of other students and staff. The school will provide classroom access for the Provider to work with the student side by side in the classroom setting as appropriate. In the event the use of the space conflicts with any school event or program, the District, may elect to use the space for such school event or program, that the District will provide reasonable notice to Provider of the need for such use. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide similar alternative spaces. The building principal will have final authority over building use and availability issues. Alterations to the facility structure, room space or access are not part of this agreement. If there are required changes or enhancements such as but not limited to: windows, furniture, walls, doors, technology, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation or any other facility changes, a separate agreement will need to be added to this agreement.

IX. COMMUNICATION:

Successful collaborations require professional communication between the Parties to support the stated goals and to achieve and track the measurable outcomes detailed in this MOU. The Parties agree to communicate as follows:

Rainier Scholar's Director will meet with the Director of Student Support at least twice per year to discuss partnership strengths, progress, and any challenges that need addressed.

X. CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:

Upon arrival at designated District School building on each day of service, each provider shall report to the main office and sign-in to the Visitor's Log. Personnel shall wear a badge identifying them as "Visitors" in the building, which is clearly visible to anyone passing them in the hall. Ongoing regular providers shall have their agency issued badge, which is clearly visible to anyone

passing them in the hall. Provider shall notify the school personnel the name of the students they will be visiting each time they are at a school.

XI. REFERRAL PROCEDURES:

Students shall be referred to Community Organization by school counselors, family or student initiated by completing an **Inquiry Form** or by nominating a student at: https://rainierscholars.tfaforms.net/f/nominationseattle, upon which Rainier Schools will notify families of the next step in the process.

XII. QUALIFICATIONS:

Provider declares that it has complied with all federal, state and local laws regarding business permits, and licenses that may be required to carry out the work to be performed under this agreement. Provider further declares that it has the requisite qualifications, skills and experience necessary to provide such services.

XIII. PAYMENT:

This is not a fee-for-service paid MOU.

XIV. TERMINATION:

This MOU may be terminated by either party at any time and for any reason, with 30 days written notice. Additionally, the District may terminate this MOU with written notice, effective immediately, if the District determines that such action is necessary to avoid disruption to the educational environment of the school and/or for the health or safety its students, officials, agents, employees, or volunteers.

XV. NONDISCRIMINATION:

Community Organization will comply with the following nondiscrimination and equality in contracting provisions as mandated by federal and state law:

a. Americans with Disabilities Act: Community Organization will comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in performing its obligations under this MOU and shall provide such reports and information relative to the accessibility of services as may be requested by the District.
b. Discrimination: Community Organization will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification. Community Organization shall affirmatively attempt to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated without regard to their race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap, during their

employment period. Such efforts shall include, but are not limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer; recruitment, layoff, rates of pay, or other forms of compensation and training.

XVI. BACKGROUND CHECK:

Community Organization agrees all officials, agents, employees, and volunteers assigned to work in a District school or with District students under this MOU will undergo a criminal history background check at the Community Organizations expense, including fingerprinting through the Washington State Patrol criminal identification system **and** Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to services being rendered. Background checks must be completed before individuals are assigned to work in a District school or with District students.

Failure to comply with any provision in this section constitutes a material breach and is grounds for the District to immediately terminate this Agreement.

Background check results shall be provided to the District at the District's request within one (1) week of the District's request or Community Organization's receipt of the background check results. All assignments are contingent on the Community Organization's staff, his/her/its employees', volunteers', agents' or subcontractors' successful completion of a background check and are subject to the following:

(A) Community Organization shall permit all of his/her/its criminal records and those of his/her/its employees, volunteers, agents or subcontractors to be examined using the District's procedure for reviewing criminal records, or Community Organization's own assessment tool if it is more rigorous than the District's.

(B) At any time during the performance of this Agreement, the District may determine that the Community Organization, his/her/its employees, volunteers, agents or subcontractors are unsuitable to perform work for the District because of the existence of a criminal record. The District may request the Community Organization not assign any person the District has determined unsuitable to provide services to the District under this Agreement, in which case the Community Organization shall abide.

Pursuant to RCW 28A.400.330, Community Organization must not assign any personnel to provide services where there may be contact with children who has pled guilty to or been convicted of any felony specified under RCW 28A.400.322 or crimes involving the physical neglect of a child under RCW Chapter 9A.42, the physical injury or death of a child under RCW Chapter 9A.32 or 9A.36, sexual offenses under RCW Chapter 9A.44 where a minor is the victim, promoting prostitution of a minor under RCW Chapter 9A.88, the sale or purchase of a minor child under RCW 9A.64.030, or violation of similar laws of another jurisdiction.

Community Organization will complete "Appendix A" listing each official, agent, employee, and volunteer and the type of background check each received in accordance with the requirements below. All Community Organization officials, agents, employees, and volunteers who work with students must pass an annual criminal background screen.

a. The WATCH (Washington State Patrol) background check is acceptable for a Community Organization official, agent, employee, or volunteer who satisfies both of the following criteria. The individual has:
    i. Resided in Washington State for more than three years; and
    ii. Their contact with students will always be supervised by an adult (unrelated through family ties).
b. A national background check is required for a Community Organization official, agent, employee, or volunteer who satisfies one or both of the following criteria. The individual has:
    i. Resided in Washington State for less than three years from the date of the background check; and/or
    ii. Contact with students will be unsupervised.

Community Organizations must use their own WATCH account. WATCH background checks are free for non-profit organizations. For-profit organizations must provide payment to the Washington State Patrol for background checks performed.

For individuals required to submit to a national background check, this background check is required once. In subsequent years, a WATCH background check is required. Community Organizations may utilize the District's national background check vendor at their own expense.

If a positive criminal history is reported, Community Organization will share the information with the District's Community Partnerships Department by contacting middltr@puyallupsd.org. The District will determine if the individual may be assigned to a District school or student. Community Organization understands and agrees that as an independent contractor, employment decisions are always their own.

XVII. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TRAINING:

Community Organization agrees all officials, agents and employees will complete a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Course through Vector or other District approved course prior to working in a District school or with District students.

Community Organization will complete "Appendix A" upon which a link to an acknowledgement statement will be sent to prove compliance with the requirement.

XVIII. CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION:

Community Organization understands and agrees that the District will only provide identifiable student education records to the Community Organization upon receipt/approval of both parent/guardian-signed consent to release information form(s) and an executed data sharing agreement.

Community Organization also understands and agrees that any identifiable student education records received from the District are confidential and protected by federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g. Community Organization further agrees that identifiable student education records received from the District will not be disclosed to any other person, agency, or entity without the prior written consent of the District unless required to make such a disclosure under an applicable law or court order. Community Organization further understands and agrees that any identifiable student education records obtained through this MOU may be used only to perform the services described in this MOU. The unauthorized or unlawful disclosure of student education records is just cause for the District to immediately terminate the MOU.

If applicable, Community Organization will maintain all therapeutic/health records in accordance with State of Washington regulations for Community Mental Health Agencies and the United States Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Community Organization will only provide therapeutic records or treatment information to the District upon a signed consent to release information which must be authorized by the parent/guardian, or if the student is 13 years of age or older, by the student.

XIX. RESEARCH:

Community Organization has the right to present, publish, or use student results gained in the course of its collaboration, so long as publication, presentation, or use of the results is consistent with scientific standards, is outside the scope of a current District-supported research study, and does not include personally identifiable information of District students, staff, or parents/guardians. Should Community Organization use or collect data for the purpose of conducting a research study, Community Organization will submit a separate External Research Request prior to use or collection. To determine whether the proposed data use/collection constitutes a research study, Community Organization may contact the District's Assessment Manager and Edtec.

XX. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:

The Parties are independent contractors. Nothing herein shall be deemed to create an employment, agency, joint venture, or partnership relationship between the Parties or any of their officials, agents, employees, or volunteers, or any other legal arrangement that would impose liability upon one party for the act or failure to act of the other party. Neither party shall have any express or implied power to enter into any contracts or commitments or to incur any liabilities in the name of, or on behalf of, the other party, or to bind the other party in any respect whatsoever.

XXI. SITE ACCESS:

The District reserves the right to immediately prohibit any Community Organization official, agent, employee, or volunteer from entering District property if a District official determines that such

action is necessary to avoid disruption to the educational environment of a school and/or for the health or safety the District's students, officials, agents, employees, or volunteers. The District reserves the right terminate this MOU for a violation that results in a site access prohibition for a Community Organization official, agent, employee, or volunteer.

XXII. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION:

a. Insurance:

1. General Liability insurance for bodily injuries (including sickness or death) and property damages in the minimum amount of $2,000,000 per occurrence, $3,000,000 aggregate. Puyallup School District, its agents, employees, and board members shall be named as an Additional Insured. Policy shall include a Waiver of Subrogation clause and a Primary & Non-Contributory clause.
2. Sexual Abuse and Molestation insurance in the minimum amount of $1,000,000 per occurrence.
3. Employers Liability (Washington Stop-Gap) in the amount of no less than $1,000,000 per occurrence.
4. Professional Liability (malpractice) insurance in the minimum amount of $2,000,000 per occurrence.

b. Indemnification: Community Organization agrees that to the fullest extent permitted by law, Community Organization will hold harmless, defend, and indemnify the District, its agents, employees and board members from any liability, cost or expense, including and without limitation, penalties, losses, damages, attorneys' fees, taxes, expenses of litigation, judgments, liens, and encumbrances, to the extent arising out of, or resulting from any act or omission by the Community Organization under this MOU. The terms of this section shall survive the termination of this MOU.

The District agrees that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the District will hold harmless, defend, and indemnify the Community Organization, its agents, employees, and board members from any liability, cost or expense, including and without limitation, penalties, losses, damages, attorneys' fees, taxes, expenses of litigation, judgments, suits, liens, and encumbrances, to the extent arising out of, or resulting from any act or omission by the District under this MOU. The terms of this section shall survive the termination of this MOU.

XXIII. NOTICES:

All notices contemplated or required under this MOU shall be in writing and delivered by hand, U.S. Mail, or electronically as follows:

To the School/District Lead:

Tonya Middling, Director of Student Support
middltr@puyallupsd.org
253-840-8907
Puyallup School District
109 E. Pioneer
Puyallup, WA 98372

To the Community Organization:

Morgan Larsen, Chief Operating Officer
mlarsen@rainierscholars.org
1614 S Mildred St. Suite C
Tacoma, WA 98465
Phone: 253.219.5850

XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

a. Entire Agreement. This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties, and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, commitments, or understandings concerning the matters provided herein.
b. Amendment. Modifications to this MOU must be in writing and be signed by each party.
c. Governing Law. The terms of this MOU shall be interpreted in accordance to, and enforced under, the laws of the State of Washington. The Parties agree that any judicial proceedings will take place in Tacoma, Washington.
d. Severability. If any provision of this MOU is held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall not be affected, but continue in full force.
e. Assignment. Neither party shall assign its rights or responsibilities under this agreement unless it receives written permission from the other party.
f. Non-Waiver. Any express waiver or failure to exercise promptly any right under this MOU will not create a continuing waiver or any expectation of non-enforcement.
g. District Policies and Procedures. Community Organization agrees that all its officials, agents, employees, or volunteers providing services to District students under this MOU will comply with District policies, procedures, and guidelines, including all applicable District health and safety protocols. Community Organization will educate their officials, agents, employees, and volunteers of all applicable District policies, procedures, and guidelines before permitting work under this MOU to begin. District policies and procedures are available at: https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/psd/Board.nsf/Public
h. Counterparts. The Parties agree this MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an enforceable original of the agreement, and that electronic signatures shall be as effective and binding as original signatures.

i. Debarment. Community Organization, by accepting this MOU, warrants that it is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions (defined as not being eligible to receive federal funds) by any local, state, or federal department or agency.

j. Cooperation with District Auditor and State Auditor. Community Organization agrees to provide reasonable cooperation with any inquiry by either the District or the State Auditor relating to the performance of this MOU. The District has the right to audit records of Community Organization relating to payment or performance under this MOU, for one year after completion of this contract. Failure to cooperate may be cause for debarment from award of, or agreement to, future contracts.

THIS MOU SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS OF THE LAST DATE OF SIGNATURE AND UPON BOARD APPROVAL. BY SIGNING BELOW, EACH SIGNATORY REPRESENTS THAT IT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THIS MOU.

PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT	COMMUNITY PARTNER
Tonya Middling	
Authorized Signature	Authorized Signature
Tonya Middling	Morgan Larsen
Printed Name	Printed Name
Director of Student Support	Chief Operating Officer
Title	Title
2/23/26	2/23/26
Date	Date

PSD MOU with Rainier Scholars 25-26

Final Audit Report 2026-02-24

Created:	2026-02-23
By:	Tonya Middling (MiddlTR@puyallupsd.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAkwf7lx5UfkPdVfleLZ5Elj9CczsaN1h3

"PSD MOU with Rainier Scholars 25-26" History

Document created by Tonya Middling (MiddlTR@puyallupsd.org)
2026-02-23 - 9:00:27 PM GMT

Document emailed to Morgan Larsen (mlarsen@rainierscholars.org) for signature
2026-02-23 - 9:00:56 PM GMT

Email viewed by Morgan Larsen (mlarsen@rainierscholars.org)
2026-02-23 - 9:06:28 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Morgan Larsen (mlarsen@rainierscholars.org)
Signature Date: 2026-02-24 - 5:28:22 AM GMT - Time Source: server

Agreement completed.
2026-02-24 - 5:28:22 AM GMT