



August 6, 2025

Dear Guidepost South Beaverton Community,

The recent events at our South Beaverton campus continue to weigh heavily on our hearts. As we shared previously, the law enforcement action that took place in our school parking lot was deeply distressing for the family directly impacted, for those who witnessed it, and for our broader school community. We are thrilled that the family is reunited once again and while the road may still be long ahead, we are so grateful they are able to be with one another once more.

We are incredibly proud of the leadership exemplified by our Head of School, Amy, and Assistant Head of School, Hanna. Both Amy and Hanna responded quickly, judiciously, and empathetically to all involved and we could not be more impressed with their response to this situation.

We are also so grateful for how the entire community has come together to support one another, and especially the family impacted with kindness, generosity, and offers of support both big and small. Thank you all for living out what it means to be our South Beaverton community.

In the days since, many of you have reached out with strong feelings, important questions, and thoughtful calls to action—including a request for us to join a legal effort aimed at restricting immigration enforcement actions near schools, hospitals, and places of worship. We want to acknowledge and share our sincere appreciation for the spirit behind this ask. It's clear this community cares about action and wants to concretely help.

After careful reflection, we've made the decision not to join this legal initiative. This is not a decision we made lightly. It does not stem from indifference or disagreement with the aim of the effort. We understand and share the belief that schools should be sanctuaries of safety, where children and families are protected, not harmed. Rather, it reflects our belief that our greatest leverage and responsibility lie in other forms of action — ones that are more directly aligned with our role as educators, caregivers, and school leaders.

We are committed to acting to further support our South Beaverton community and our network of schools overall. We are actively updating protective measures we can control within our campuses. This includes reviewing emergency protocols to give guidance on ICE activity to increase staff preparedness, increasing the number of cameras and locks at our South Beaverton campus, and continuing to work closely with any staff on visas to ensure they are supported and understand their rights. We also remain committed to fostering a school culture where every family regardless of background feels seen, supported, and safe.

As we continue to navigate this situation, we remain focused on supporting the affected child and family, and we're continuing to offer space and resources for our staff and families to process this moment with care and compassion. We know some of you are still looking for ways to help. There is a parent-led group that has organized to support the impacted family. If you'd like to join those efforts, please reach out to Guidepost South Beaverton Leadership [southbeaverton-leadership@guidepostmontessori.com](mailto:southbeaverton-leadership@guidepostmontessori.com) to get involved. Additionally, if the lawsuit feels particularly important and meaningful to you, you are welcome to join as an individual plaintiff.

We know this moment has stirred profound emotion and, for some, reopened old wounds. Please know we are here: to listen, to care, and to act in ways that reflect our deepest values. We are grateful to be in community with you and committed to walking through this with transparency and compassion.

With care and respect,

*Maris Mendes*

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