

For Immediate Release

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## District Announces Realignment Plan for 2012-13 School Year

PITTSBURGH August 4, 2011 – Resolute in the goal of guiding the District on the path to financial health, Superintendent Linda S. Lane presented a District Realignment Plan that begins to reduce the burden of the District’s underutilized classrooms. The plan, shared at a press conference this afternoon, recommends the creation of one new school, while closing seven schools and seven facilities at the end of the 2011-12 school year. The earliest the Board can vote on the District’s Realignment Plan is at its November 22, Legislative Meeting.

“We are committed to using taxpayer dollars efficiently. This proposed reduction to our physical footprint is just the beginning. We remain committed to becoming a system of quality schools that promote high student achievement in the most equitable and cost-effective manner,” said Superintendent Lane. “Addressing the District’s underutilized classrooms will provide us our largest savings in the long run. The way to achieve these savings is through a combination of school closings and by addressing our under-enrolled classes.”

The Superintendent shared a presentation that described the impact of under-enrolled classes as well as information on the proposed closing of schools and school buildings.

“Our work to build a sustainable district includes more than just school closings. We are looking inside our schools to realign everything from under-enrolled classes to course offerings - from feeder patterns to staff reductions,” said Superintendent Lane. “We need to change our educational delivery of services in a way that accelerates achievement with fewer resources.”

The proposed District Realignment Plan is detailed in the chart below.

Close 7 Schools	Close 7 Buildings	Open 1 New School
Pittsburgh Fort Pitt PreK-5	Fort Pitt	
Pittsburgh Langley High School		New PreK-8 in Langley Building
	McNaugher	
Pittsburgh Murray K-8	Murray	
Pittsburgh Northview PreK-8	Northview	
Pittsburgh Oliver High School		
Pittsburgh Schaeffer K-8	Schaeffer Primary	
	Sheraden (Schaeffer Intermediate)	
Pittsburgh Stevens K-8	Stevens	

The plan proposes the expansion of Pittsburgh Morrow from a K-5 school to a K-8 school, with grades PreK-4 in the Morrow building and grades 5-8 in the Rooney facility. Also proposed in the plan is the reconfiguration of Pittsburgh Westwood from a K-8 school to a K-5 school. The plan additionally calls for the relocations of McCleary Early Childhood Center into Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, and the Chartiers Early Childhood Center into a newly-created PreK-8 school to open in the Langley facility.

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## Page 2 – District Announces Realignment Plan for 2012-13 School Year

In 2006, the District closed 22 under-utilized and low-achieving schools. Since 2007, the District has closed an additional six schools. In June 2011, the District began an internal process that reviewed its current schools and school facilities based upon four equally rate measures listed below. As part of its internal review, the District also factored in the effects any move would have on its early childhood, regional special education and English as a Second Language classrooms.

- 1) Student Achievement- AYP; Student Growth;
- 2) Student Enrollment- Enrollment vs. Capacity;
- 3) Facility Condition- DeJong study rating;
- 4) Operations Costs- Utilities, custodial, etc.

### **Proposes New PreK-8 School in Langley Facility**

The District Realignment Plan recommends the closure of Pittsburgh Schaeffer K-8 and Pittsburgh Stevens K-8 at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Contingent on the closure of Pittsburgh Langley High School that same year, the plan proposes the opening of a new PreK-8 school in the Langley facility. Students from Pittsburgh Schaeffer K-8 and designated feeder patterns from Pittsburgh Stevens K-8 will move into the new school in the Langley building. The Early Childhood Center at Chartiers would also be relocated into the Langley building.

### **Recommends Relocation of Pittsburgh McNaugher**

In order to increase the District's ability to educate its special education students currently in private placement, the plan recommends the relocation of Pittsburgh McNaugher into the Oliver facility. Contingent on the closure of Pittsburgh Oliver, the plan additionally recommends the move of the District's special education offices, which are currently housed in the Overbrook facility, into the Oliver facility.

### **New Feeder Patterns**

As the District continues its due diligence, feeder pattern details will be discussed at a Special Board Education Workshop on Monday, September 26, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Administration Building, First Floor, Conference Room A, located at 341 S. Bellefield, Pittsburgh PA 15213.

The chart below details projected student assignments resulting from the District Realignment Plan 2012-13.

<b>7 Closed Schools</b>	<b>Student Assignments</b>
Pittsburgh Fort Pitt PreK-5	Arsenal PreK-5, and Pittsburgh Woolslair K-5
Pittsburgh Langley High School	Pittsburgh Brashear High School
Pittsburgh Murray K-8	Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8
Pittsburgh Northview PreK-8	Pittsburgh King PreK-8, Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-8
Pittsburgh Oliver High School	Pittsburgh Perry High School
Pittsburgh Schaefer K-8	New PreK-8 at Langley
Pittsburgh Stevens K-8	New PreK-8 at Langley, Pittsburgh Westwood K-5, Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8

Pittsburgh Public Schools, like districts across the Commonwealth and the country, is facing daunting financial challenges. When the District adopted the 2011 budget, the problem was smaller but still there – and showed an \$8.7 million deficit for 2011 and forecast a \$53.6 million deficit for 2012.

With the cuts from the State, the District's projected budget deficit grew to over \$60 million for 2012. Due to cost saving measures already taken by the Superintendent, the District has reduced its projected deficit to \$41.2 million in 2012. Still facing a potential funding gap of \$75 million in 2015, the Realignment Plan will address the need to improve the District's financial health.

## Community Input Process

### ***Special Public Hearing***

A special public hearing will be held Monday, August 22, to gather public commentary only on the proposed closing of seven schools and seven buildings: Pittsburgh Fort Pitt PreK-5 (school and building closing), Pittsburgh Langley High School (school closing), Pittsburgh McNaugher (building closing), Pittsburgh Murray K-8 (school and building closing), Pittsburgh Northview PreK-8 (school and building closing), Pittsburgh Oliver High School (school closing), Pittsburgh Schaefer K-8 (school closes and 2 buildings close: Schaeffer and Sheraden), and Pittsburgh Steven K-8 (school and building closes). The meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m., in Conference Room A, located in the Administration Building.

Anyone wishing to speak at the Special Public Hearing must register with the Office of Superintendent of Schools by calling 412-622-3600 from August 15, 2011 until Noon on August 22, 2011. Persons wishing to submit written testimony in lieu of appearing at the Special Public Hearing may send it via email to [publichearing@pghboe.net](mailto:publichearing@pghboe.net) or may fax the comments to 412-622-3624 no later than 5 p.m. on August 22, 2011.

A second special public hearing to provide comment on the District Realignment Plan is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2011.

### ***Regular Public Hearing***

Public commentary can also be submitted through the Board's regular monthly public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak at a public hearing must register with the Office of the Superintendent of Schools by calling 412-622-3600. Dates for upcoming regular public hearings are August 22, September 19, October 24, and November 21.

### ***District Website***

The public can learn more about the District's fiscal challenges, including the projected deficit of \$75 million in 2015, and potential solutions by visiting the District's website at <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/CitySchoolsFiscalChallenges>. The public can provide input on solutions by completing a quick online form located on the City Schools Fiscal Challenges web page or via email at [cityschoolsfinancialchallenges@pghboe.net](mailto:cityschoolsfinancialchallenges@pghboe.net).

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