



## **Statement by Dr. Linda Lane on Selection as Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools December 13, 2010**

First, I would like to thank the members of the Board for my appointment as the next Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. I look forward to working with each of you to continue the work to move our District forward.

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the District and the city, both of which I have come to love. I want to thank the leadership team that I've been privileged to work with for the past four years, for all of your hard work and dedication to improving the lives of our students. You are the hardest working group of professionals I've had the pleasure of working with in my career, and I hope that you will all recommit yourselves to this work and our District.

We have many accomplishments to be proud of, and I believe that we all owe Mark Roosevelt a tremendous debt of gratitude for his vision and his hard work. Every decision we make and everything that we do in Pittsburgh Public Schools will be guided by the goal of ensuring that each and every one of our students is ready to take advantage of a scholarship from The Pittsburgh Promise®.

Mark Roosevelt and John Tarka also successfully changed the culture of this District, most importantly by showing that adults can accomplish more by working together on behalf of children than we can by bickering. I look forward to continuing our collaborative dialogue with our partners at the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, and to strengthening our shared commitment to the work of empowering our teachers.

I began my career as a teacher, and my time in the classroom still informs much of my decision making. I know firsthand the challenges our educators face in the classroom and in schools everyday, and I'm going to do all I can to ensure that our teachers and principals have the support needed to continue to improve the academic achievement of our students, even in difficult financial times.

Together we have developed a vision for what we can achieve as a District, and we have laid the foundation to achieve that vision. We have seen some success. We have students attending college on Promise scholarships that might never have dreamed of attending college. We've seen gains in our test scores, even achieving AYP as a District.

Now we need to take the next step forward. We need to deepen the work we have begun. Evidence continues to confirm that strong school leaders and effective teachers make a difference in the lives of children and youth. We are going to continue the work of our Empowering Effective Teachers plan and invest in our teachers and school leaders as the catalysts for change in our schools. We are going to focus efforts around our underperforming high schools to get more of our kids Promise-ready. Success on these fronts will expedite closure of the racial achievement disparities that have plagued our schools for too long, as well as raise achievement for *all* PPS students.

Finally, we need to recognize that we have challenges ahead. As Superintendent, I will not shy away from the difficult decisions that will need to be made to ensure that our students continue to improve their academic achievement at all levels.

To achieve our vision of *Excellence for All*, it is up to all of us—this entire community—to rededicate ourselves to the work of preparing our students to be lifelong learners who can earn a college degree or workforce certification.

Again, I am humbled by this opportunity to serve our community. I pledge to come to work every day focused and prepared to ensure that, together, we achieve our shared vision of *Excellence for All*.