

June 26, 2009

Ms. Theresa Colaizzi
Board Chair
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Bellefield
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Ms. Colaizzi,

I respectfully submit my resignation from the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Public Schools effective June 30, 2009.

It has been a great privilege to serve my community in this capacity. It has been particularly gratifying to work with you, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt, my fellow Board members, the leadership of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, the families and engaged parents of PPSD, and the outstanding staff of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given, and leave with a deep admiration for the men and women of PPSD who dedicate their lives to providing an excellent public education experience to the children and families of Pittsburgh. Their faith in the District's mission and core values are an inspiring example to those who still believe that government should stand for the public interest.

It has been a privilege to serve the residents of District 2 who care deeply and passionately about these issues and who will continue to be a strong voice for equity, justice, and transparency in our schools and all levels of local government. During my short tenure on the board, I am most proud that together we have been able to:

- Increase public investment in the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program.
- Continue reform efforts to increase academic achievement for all students.
- Implement a new Principal Evaluation model to enhance school performance.
- Successfully pass legislation creating a new and improved K-12 Comprehensive Health & Sex-Ed Curriculum Policy to ensure our students have the information they need to make informed, safe, & healthy choices.
- Begin a thorough Title IX audit of the district to ensure equal opportunities and resources are available to female athletes and coaches throughout our school system.
- Mandate that our school busses and transportation fleet decrease diesel emissions significantly to improve air quality for our children and our communities.
- Develop new board procedures and committee structures to improve school board governance.

These are some of the community-led initiatives that I was most proud to be involved in and champion at the board level.

However, the current economic crisis has had a devastating impact on our local non-profit community and the constituents we serve. At this time, I must return my full attentions to the needs of my full-time job, serving as the Executive Director of the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania (WGF).

At WGF, our focus for 2009-2011 is to work with local non-profits, public officials, and community organizers to articulate the impact of the economic recession on women and girls in our region. The non-profit agencies we support are experiencing significant decreases in revenues, while demands for their services are increasing. At the Foundation, our grant revenues have also declined as the need for increased investment on our part to support the community grows. In order to serve the community, the Board of Directors, donors, and grantees of the Women and Girls Foundation to the best of my ability, I regret that I must step down from the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Public Schools at this time.

I will continue to be an advocate for the idea that better schools will create a better Pittsburgh and look forward to continuing my support of you, Mr. Roosevelt, and the PPSD community moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather S. Arnet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Heather S. Arnet