



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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District and Teacher Union Extend Remote Teaching Five More Weeks for Teachers

PITTSBURGH, PA September 25, 2020 — Today the Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, in collaboration with the President of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Nina Esposito-Visgitis, announced to extend and maintain remote teaching for an additional five weeks for teachers and a brief two-day extension for students. The first day of in-person teaching and learning for both students and teachers will be Monday, November 9, 2020. The District initially communicated that onsite work for all staff would begin on Monday, October 5; however, this date was pushed back to align with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and PFT.

In a statement prepared for parents, Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, shared, “When difficult decisions have to be made, our District takes into consideration all sides of an issue. The safe return of our students to in-person learning has been our priority since the start of the pandemic. While our schools are clean, ready, and safe to receive its students, our District has to also consider another major component of our school system...the safety of our staff.”

Dr. Hamlet continues, “Over the past three weeks, we have worked in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, the Pittsburgh Administrators Association, and our Board of Directors to account for every concern that our staff has regarding returning to school and in-person teaching. We have also held Teacher Townhalls so that we truly listen to our faculty and staff.”

“Our teachers have stepped up to the challenge and I have every confidence that they will continue to do so,” said PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis. “Teachers are working hard to reach out to both students and families to engage them in this new learning environment and have made remarkable strides.”

The District will continue to ensure staff and student safety remains a priority with the goal of establishing a safe return to in-person instruction for all PPS students

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