

**THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
*OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA*

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** August 19, 2009

**Call of the Meeting:** Special Legislative Meeting

**Members Present:** Mark Brentley, Jean Fink, Sherry Hazuda, William Isler, Floyd McCrea, Thomas Sumpter and Randall Taylor

**Member Absent:** Theresa Colaizzi

**The following matters were received and acted upon.**

**Actions taken are recorded following the reports.**

# **THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213**

**Administration Building  
341 South Bellefield Avenue**

**August 19, 2009**

## **SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

ROLL CALL

### **Education Report**

**[Roll Call]**

1. Adjustment to 2009-10 School Calendar.
2. Ratification of a report to the state regarding school configurations for the 2009-10 school year.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

**Committee on Education  
Special Legislative Meeting  
August 19, 2009**

**Adjustment to 2009-10 School Calendar for All Schools**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted the School Calendar ALA/2009-10 for the Accelerated Learning Academies at the Legislative Meeting of January 21, 2009, Committee on Education Item #26; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted the School Calendar 2009-10 for all schools except the Accelerated Learning Academies at the Legislative Meeting of January 21, 2009, Committee on Education Item #27; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent is recommending an adjustment in the 2009-10 School Calendar for ALL schools in light of the G-20 Summit that will be held in Pittsburgh September 24 and 25, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has determined that travel disruptions will make it untenable to plan to have normal school days on September 24 and 25, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to ensuring that students do not lose any instructional time as a result of potential travel disruptions on September 24 and 25, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has collaborated as appropriate with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers regarding an adjustment to the 2009-10 School Calendar; and

WHEREAS, the District will develop a plan to support the selection of Pittsburgh CAPA as a Pittsburgh Summit Venue site for either September 24 or September 25, 2009 that includes a selection process for students and staff who are agreeable to participating in the event that the White House is planning.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- All schools will be closed on Thursday, September 24 and Friday, September 25, 2009.
- All schools will be open on November 3, 2009 and February 2, 2010, dates which had previously been scheduled as days off due to staff professional development.
- The Superintendent is directed to designate four dates where the staff day will be extended beyond the school day in order to accommodate four three-hour professional development sessions for staff in 2009-10.

# Pittsburgh Public Schools District Calendar

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING September 3, 2009

Revised 8/17/2009

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	B	26	T	27
30	T	31	T	1	T	2
LABOR DAY		8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	B	23	24	25
VACATION DAY		29	30			

## NOVEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	VETERAN'S DAY	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	B	24	R	25	26
		THANKSGIVING BREAK		27	28	
29	30					

## OCTOBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	B	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					31	

## DECEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	B	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		WINTER BREAK		27	28	29
30	31					

- Half school day
- RED Dates - School Vacation Day
- GREEN Dates - All PPS Employee Vacation Day
- BLUE Dates - School Month Ends
- T - Pupil Only Vacation Days
  - E - Elementary only
  - M - Middle only
  - S - Secondary only

R - Report Card Dates

B - School Board Meets (dates are subject to change due to holidays or schedule conflicts)

Standard Evening School (September 16, 2009 - January 25, 2010; February 10, 2010 - June 7, 2010)

Schedule

Bi-Weekly

Teachers

12-Month

Pay Date



# Pittsburgh Public Schools District Calendar

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING September 3, 2009

Revised 8/17/2009

## JANUARY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	■ 14	◆ 15	16
17	DR. KING DAY 18	19	B 20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	■ 28	◆ 29	30
31						

## MARCH, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	■ 11	12	13
14	◆ 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	B 24	■ 25	▲ 26	27
28	29	30	▼ 31			

## FEBRUARY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
T	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	R 9	10	■ 11	12	13
14	◆ 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	B 24	■ 25	◆ 26	27
28						

## APRIL, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				SPRING VACATION 1		2
4	5	6	7	■ 8	9	10
11	12	13	14	▲ ▼ 15	16	17
18	19	20	B 21	R ■ 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	◆ 30	

■ Half school day

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BLUE Dates - School Month Ends

T - Pupil Only Vacation Days

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Teachers



12-Month



# Pittsburgh Public Schools District Calendar

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING September 3, 2009

Revised 8/17/2009

## MAY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	B	26	27	28
MEMORIAL DAY						
30	31					

## JULY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	B	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## JUNE, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	T	17	T	18
19	20	21	22	BR	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## AUGUST, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	B	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

■ Half school day

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Schedule

Bi-Weekly

Teachers

12-Month

Pay Date

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# Pittsburgh Public Schools Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) Calendar

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING August 24, 2009

Revised 8/17/2009

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
16	T	17	T	18	T	19
20	T	21	T	22		
23		24		25	R	26
				27		28
30	▼	31		1	2	3
	LABOR DAY					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	◆	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	B	23	24	25
	VACATION DAY					
27	28	29	◆	30		

## NOVEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	■	5	6
			VETERAN'S DAY			
8	9	10	11	12	◆	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					THANKSGIVING BREAK	
22	23	B	24	R	25	26
27	28					
29	◆	30				

## OCTOBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				■	T	
11	12	13	14	▲	▼	15
18	19	20	B	21	22	23
				24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	◆	

## DECEMBER, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	▲	11
13	14	▼	B	16	17	18
				19		
20	21	22	▲	23	24	25
					WINTER BREAK	
27	28	29	▼	30	31	

■ Half school day

RED Dates - School Vacation Day

GREEN Dates - All PPS Employee Vacation Day

BLUE Dates - School Month Ends

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R - Report Card Dates

B - School Board Meets (dates are subject to change due to holidays or schedule conflicts)

Schedule

Bi-Weekly

Teachers

12-Month

Pay Date

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Standard Evening School (September 16, 2009 - January 25, 2010; February 10, 2010 - June 7, 2010)

**Pittsburgh Public Schools Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) Calendar**  
 FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING August 24, 2009  
 Revised 8/17/2009

**JANUARY, 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	■ 14	◆ 15	16
17	DR. KING DAY 18	19	B 20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	■ 28	◆ 29	30
31						

**MARCH, 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	■ 11	12	13
14	◆ 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	B 24	■ 25	▲ 26	27
28	29	30	SPRING VACATION			31

**FEBRUARY, 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	T 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 R	9	10	■ 11	12	13
14	◆ 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	B 24	■ 25	◆ 26	27
28						

**APRIL, 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				SPRING VACATION		
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	■ 8	9	10
11	12	13	14	▲▼ 15	16	17
18	19	20	B 21	R ■ 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	◆ 30	

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# Pittsburgh Public Schools Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) Calendar

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING August 24, 2009

Revised 8/17/2009

## MAY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	B 26	27	28	29
MEMORIAL DAY						
30	31					

## JULY, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	B 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	BR 23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## AUGUST, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	B 25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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**Committee on Education  
Special Legislative Meeting  
August 19, 2009**

**Submission of 2009-10 School Configuration Changes to  
Pennsylvania Department of Education**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education approved the configuration change of Pittsburgh Miller African Centered Academy from a PreK-8 to a PreK-5 beginning with 2009-10 school year and approved that students at Pittsburgh Miller African Centered Academy PreK-8 in grades 6-8 will be reassigned to University Prep 6-12 at Milliones at its **Legislative Meeting of October 22, 2008, Committee on Education Item #46**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education approved the configuration change of Pittsburgh Vann (Robert L. Vann) school from a K-8 to a PreK-5 school beginning with the 2009-10 school year and that students in grades 6-8 who would have been assigned to Pittsburgh Vann be reassigned to University Prep 6-12 at the Milliones facility at its **Legislative Meeting of October 22, 2008, Committee on Education Item #48**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education authorized the request to open a new 6-12 school focused on University Preparation (University Prep) at the Milliones facility, which will be re-opened, and that the school be phased in beginning with grade 9 for the 2008-09 school year at its **Legislative Meeting of February 27, 2008, Committee on Education, Item #49**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education at its **Legislative Meeting of June 25, 2008, Committee on Education Item #66** approved an amendment to relocate Pittsburgh Schenley grades 10, 11 and 12 and to establish Pittsburgh Schenley as a 10-12 school at the Reizenstein facility beginning with the 2008-09 school year, and to have the school be reduced by one grade per year and remain at the Reizenstein facility until its last class graduates in 2010-11; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education authorized the opening of a new 6-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focused magnet school at the Frick facility, which will be phased in beginning with grades 6-9 for the 2009-10 school year at its **Legislative Meeting of June 25, 2008, Committee on Education Item # 63**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education authorized the opening of a new 6-12 International Baccalaureate school focused on language and culture that would be phased in beginning with grades 6-10 for the 2009-10 school year and be located at the Reizenstein facility at least through the 2011-12 school year at its **Legislative Meeting of June 25, 2008, Committee on Education Item #64**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education authorized the opening of a new 6-12 CAPA school, merging the Pittsburgh CAPA 9-12 and Rogers CAPA as a 6-12 facility downtown Pittsburgh for the 2009-10 school year at its **Legislative Meeting of July 23, 2008, Committee on Education Item # 81**; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Superintendent is directed to submit the 2009-10 school configuration changes and school closings information in accordance with the Department of Education Policy, which includes the following:

**Grade configuration updates:**

2008-2009 School Code	2009-2010 School	2008-2009 Grade Configuration	2009-2010 Grade Configuration	2009-2010 Status
7872	Pittsburgh Miller K-8	K-8	PreK-5	New
7875	Pittsburgh Vann K-8	K-8	K-5	New
8026	Pittsburgh University Prep 6-12	9	6-10	New
0425	Pittsburgh Schenley	10-12	11-12	Same

**New schools for the 2009-2010 School Year and their grade configurations:**

2009-2010 School	2009-2010 School	2009-2010 Grade Configuration	2009-2010 Status
Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy	2009-2010	Grades 6-9	New
International Baccalaureate 6-12	2009-2010	Grades 6-10	New

**The merging of the following schools:**

2008-2009 School Code	2008-2009 School	2008-2009 Grade Configuration	2009-2010 Grade Configuration	2009-2010 Status
6080	Rogers CAPA	6-8	Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12	New
7103	Pittsburgh HS Ctr/Prfm Arts	9-12		

**The closing of the following schools with the 2009-2010 school year:**

2008-2009 School Code	2008-2009 School	2008-2009 Status	Reason
6030	Frick International Studies	Closed	Program replaced with the International Baccalaureate 6-12 School
6080	Rogers CAPA	Closed	Program being merged with Pittsburgh HS Ctr/Prfm Arts.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

- - -

PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009  
6:08 P.M.  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

- - -

BEFORE:

THOMAS SUMPTER, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM ISLER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
MARK BRENTLEY  
JEAN FINK  
SHERRY HAZUDA  
FLOYD McCREA  
RANDALL TAYLOR

- - -

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

THERESA COLAIZZI

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT	DR. LINDA LANE
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET	MR. LAWRENCE BERGIE
MR. IRA WEISS	MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MR. FRANK G. CHESTER	MS. JULIA STEWART
MS. CAROL BARONE-MARTIN	MS. LISA FISCHETTI

- - -

REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER  
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

- - -

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PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
412-281-0189

- - -

 ORIGINAL

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. SUMPTER: Good evening, ladies and  
3 gentlemen, and welcome to the Special Legislative  
4 Meeting, August 19, 2009.

5 I'm going to ask that we please stand to  
6 salute the flag.

7 (Flag saluted.)

8 MR. SUMPTER: Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll  
9 call?

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

11 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

13 MRS. FINK: Here.

14 MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

15 MS. HAZUDA: Here.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

17 MR. ISLER: Present.

18 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

19 MR. McCREA: Here.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

21 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Here.

24 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Colaizzi?

25 Mrs. Colaizzi is absent.

1           Seven present, one absent.

2           MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

3           On this evening's agenda we have two  
4 items. One is adjustment to the 2009-2010 school  
5 calendar, and the second item is ratification of  
6 a report to the state regarding school  
7 configurations for the 2009-2010 school year.  
8 We'll take each item separately.

9           The adjustment to the 2009-2010 school year  
10 for all schools, now therefore, be it resolved,  
11 all schools will be closed on Thursday, September  
12 24th and Friday, September 25, 2009.

13           All schools will be open on November 3,  
14 2009 and February 2, 2010, dates which had  
15 previously been scheduled as days off due to  
16 staff professional development. The  
17 Superintendent is directed to designate four  
18 dates where the staff day will be extended beyond  
19 the school day in order to accommodate four  
20 three-hour professional development sessions for  
21 staff in 2009-2010.

22           The chair will entertain a motion for  
23 approval of this resolution.

24           MR. McCREA: So moved.

25           MR. ISLER: Second.

1 MR. SUMPTER: It's been moved and seconded.

2 Is there any discussion?

3 MR. TAYLOR: Excuse me. Are we talking  
4 about the --

5 MR. SUMPTER: Mr. Brentley?

6 MR. BRENTLEY: I just have a question. I  
7 think what I heard in the media is the make up  
8 dates, November 3rd?

9 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

10 MR. BRENTLEY: Have you checked, Doctor --  
11 if I'm not mistaken, I think that's the general  
12 election.

13 MR. SUMPTER: Yes, it is.

14 DR. LANE: That's correct, it is.

15 MR. BRENTLEY: You also have to keep in  
16 mind that quite a few of our schools are used as  
17 polling places.

18 Has anyone checked out the impact of  
19 schools being opened or being re-adjusted and how  
20 that would play on the election process for the  
21 day?

22 DR. LANE: Yes, Mr. Brentley, we did  
23 consider that, and we are going to obviously have  
24 to have means that we would keep members of the  
25 public that might be using the school separate

1 from students; and, of course, we'll have to make  
2 those adjustments in the schools that do serve as  
3 polling places.

4 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. Well, I am very  
5 concerned about that, Doctor, because, you know,  
6 the county and some of these relationships go  
7 back 10 and 15 years with the polling places. I  
8 just really wish we would have walked through  
9 that first to make sure that everything's going  
10 to be smooth on that particular day because I'm  
11 not sure how it will change.

12 Some of the schools I think we would  
13 normally have -- or some of the schools would  
14 normally be closed and just be available for  
15 election.

16 So I'll support it, but please get back to  
17 me as soon as possible letting me know and then  
18 checking with the county. I believe it is  
19 Mr. Razilio, Jim in the Allegheny County Election  
20 Division I believe that handles those locations  
21 so that we can make sure that if we're going to  
22 be in school.

23 Also, if there's an opportunity for some of  
24 our high schools or middle schools if there's a  
25 learning opportunity there we can work with the



1 county and maybe let some of our kids either  
2 participate in the process or observe the process  
3 and somehow we can kind of expose some of our  
4 students, so I think it's a wonderful opportunity  
5 for those schools.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. SUMPTER: Point well taken.

8 Mrs. Fink?

9 MRS. FINK: There was a time when schools  
10 where polling was taking place were open; and in  
11 many instances, schools would arrange something  
12 that day, a day-long field trip for instance.  
13 They would take the kids to the zoo or to the  
14 Science Center or, you know, a whole variety of  
15 places.

16 The other thing that would happen, which  
17 was a good thing, was that the PTOs in the  
18 schools would have an opportunity to make some  
19 money with bake sales and what have you, and that  
20 was a very nice idea. It was a good money maker  
21 for the school, so it does have its advantages.

22 I don't have a problem with having it that  
23 day. I think that depending on the building and  
24 how the configurations are set up, you want to  
25 watch that you don't have all kind of people

1 walking through the building; but other than  
2 that, you know, it has its advantages.

3 And, also, I remember a time when high  
4 school kids in civics classes would go and get  
5 poll watcher certificates, and they would  
6 actually go to the polls and sit there and  
7 observe for a period of time, maybe four hours or  
8 whatever, but that was also part of their lesson  
9 plan for that day.

10 So it does have its advantages, and there's  
11 probably a lot more things that some of our  
12 creative teachers could think of to do on that  
13 day.

14 DR. LANE: Thank you, Mrs. Fink.

15 And Dr. Rudiak reminded me that the schools  
16 were open for the primary in May, and we had no  
17 problems, so the schools are familiar with  
18 procedures to make sure that the public and the  
19 students are properly separated.

20 MR. SUMPTER: Any other comments or  
21 discussion?

22 Mr. McCrea?

23 MR. McCREA: We worked long and hard on  
24 this on the Safety Committee. I approached the  
25 Superintendent several weeks ago, and I said I'm

1           scared for the children's safety. That's why  
2           this amendment is in here, this Legislative  
3           Meeting is taking place tonight.

4                    I want to thank the staff for stepping up  
5           to the plate and working out the logistics  
6           because it was a nightmare trying to come up with  
7           just these  
8           two days off and how to compensate for it, so  
9           thank you for a job well done.

10                   MR. SUMPTER: Mr. Taylor?

11                   MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. Dr. Lane, I was -- I am  
12           a bit concerned about the closing of all the  
13           schools.

14                    I certainly agree, Mr. McCrea, that CAPA  
15           being Downtown should, and I think we should also  
16           encourage our charters that are located Downtown,  
17           but I still have to get some clarification on why  
18           have all the schools are being closed. I had  
19           heard on the news yesterday I think schools in  
20           West Mifflin and other ones are talking about  
21           closing.

22                    So I'm a little bit bewildered by that, and  
23           I don't want a band wagon effect to start taking  
24           place that people, you know, feel we have to do  
25           something which is very important, which is close

1       our schools, so it says on here determined travel  
2       disruptions will make it untenable for normal  
3       school days.

4               Now, we know a lot of students don't ride a  
5       bus. They walk to school, and then we have  
6       some -- and to be honest with you, I do think we  
7       have very few bus or van transportation that even  
8       goes through Downtown, so I'm really wondering --

9               And, again, I may not be accurate about  
10       that, but I'm still thinking of our communities,  
11       east south and west. There are some schools  
12       where children are transported that are three and  
13       four miles away from Downtown, so that's the part  
14       I was just a little bit wondered because that's  
15       an important thing to close, you know, our  
16       schools.

17               And so I was just wondering why we feel  
18       there would be travel disruptions when there are  
19       students who again walk and there are students  
20       whose travel plans take them nowhere near the  
21       Downtown area.

22               MRS. FINK: The teachers do. It could be  
23       difficult for all the faculty to get to their  
24       teaching locations if we have a number of  
25       closures, buses. They're talking about maybe

1           there won't be T service. You know, that could  
2           really disrupt the educational process.

3           MR. TAYLOR: It could, but I think just for  
4           those two days I think we could request of our  
5           staff that they would be inconvenienced as far as  
6           leaving for work, to and from work earlier. I  
7           mean, I think again closing the schools is a far  
8           more serious matter than a teacher may have to  
9           leave for school a half an hour earlier or  
10          something and detour around the Downtown area, so  
11          I understand that point.

12          I mean, I intend to support this. I just  
13          wanted to really get a clarification because  
14          again to me closing our schools is a very  
15          important step that I don't take lightly.

16          DR. LANE: We don't take it lightly either,  
17          Mr. Taylor. We've talked long and hard about  
18          this and to be very honest with you held out a  
19          long time before we came to this conclusion  
20          because it certainly was important to us not to  
21          close schools, but there are a couple things I  
22          would like to point out.

23          First of all, yes, we are closing schools,  
24          but we are revising our calendar. We're not  
25          just not having school for two days, and I think

1           that's an important thing because we had thought,  
2           well, we could use our two snow days, but I don't  
3           think we can go forward on the assumption that it  
4           will not snow in Pittsburgh this winter. That  
5           probably wouldn't be true, so we felt we had to  
6           make up the time and figure out how to do that.

7                         In regard to your comment about students  
8           and transportation, 5,000 of our students are  
9           transported by Port Authority and 2,500 of those  
10          5,000 actually transfer buses in Downtown  
11          Pittsburgh every day. We have 800 yellow buses  
12          that move 18,000 students, and the magnet  
13          students in our District come from all over the  
14          city as I'm sure you're aware. Then we have  
15          students that attend some special CTE classes  
16          during day that are transported during the school  
17          day.

18                        So there's quite a bit of transportation  
19          and because of the geography of Pittsburgh, a lot  
20          of it does go Downtown.

21                        MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

22                        MR. SUMPTER: Any other comments or  
23          questions on the motion?

24                        Mr. Brentley?

25                        MR. BRENTLEY: I just also wanted to

1        mention, Doctor, my comments earlier were for  
2        the -- an election day with the new changes for  
3        our schools to kind of make something out of it,  
4        but I also want to ask again if you would put on  
5        your extra thinking cap for the high schools for  
6        the actual event. I just think it's a once in a  
7        lifetime.

8                And, yes, they're drumming up on how  
9        negative this could be in terms of its impact,  
10       possible violence, but the flip side to that is  
11       the First Lady will be here.

12               The First Lady has committed to coming to  
13       CAPA, and, you know, Doc, I believe that what we  
14       can do you know --

15               You know, with the things the First Lady  
16       has been involved with in the past, if we put a  
17       program together using our big billboard on the  
18       side, you know, focus on the women of Pittsburgh  
19       and to recognize some of those trail blazers in  
20       the past with Michelle, with the different hats  
21       that she wears as a mother and as a First Lady  
22       and a wife, et cetera, I think we can put a  
23       program together with some of our students that  
24       would be top notch, but also get our other  
25       students involved.

1           Are we allowed to video record it? Are we  
2 allowed to print invitations where our kids can  
3 have something that can say we were there, we had  
4 hands-on, and it was really important.

5           So, I mean, I have some suggestions that  
6 I'll share with you later, but I'm just asking  
7 for something so unique and so different that it  
8 would make a lasting impression on the First  
9 Lady.

10           MR. SUMPTER: Seeing no more questions or  
11 comments, Mr. Weiss, could we have a roll call?

12           MR. WEISS: This is on No. 1.

13           Mr. Brentley?

14           MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

15           MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

16           MRS. FINK: Yes.

17           MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

18           MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

19           MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

20           MR. ISLER: Yes.

21           MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

22           MR. MCCREA: Yes.

23           MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

24           MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

25           MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?



1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: The item is approved seven to  
3 zero.

4 MR. SUMPTER: The second item that is  
5 coming before us is the ratification of a report  
6 to the state regarding school configurations for  
7 the 2009-2010 school year.

8 The Superintendent is directed to submit  
9 the 2009-2010 school configuration changes and  
10 school closings information in accordance with  
11 the Department of Education policy, which  
12 includes the following: Grade configuration  
13 updates, new schools for 2009-2010 school year  
14 and their grade configurations, the merging of  
15 the following schools and the closing of the  
16 following schools with the 2009-2010 school  
17 year.

18 Each Board member has a list of the schools  
19 before them. All of these measures have been  
20 previously voted on by the Board and approved,  
21 and this is carrying out the policy of the  
22 Department of Education of submitting that  
23 information to that agency.

24 The Chair will entertain a motion for  
25 acceptance.

1 MR. ISLER: So moved.

2 MS. HAZUDA: Second.

3 MR. SUMPSTER: It has been moved and  
4 seconded that this report be submitted to the  
5 Pennsylvania Department of Education.

6 Is there any discussion?

7 Mr. Brentley?

8 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes, I have a question.

9 And, Doctor, I will respectfully abstain  
10 from this item. In the second whereas and it  
11 mentioned in the final sentence I believe that  
12 the students 6-8 who would have been assigned to  
13 Pittsburgh-Vann be re-assigned to the University  
14 Prep 6-12 at Milliones. That entire paragraph is  
15 what I raised some concerns before.

16 That entire community, Doctor, we have done  
17 nothing more than play musical chairs with either  
18 the structure of the schools, changing of the  
19 students, and this here we're doing it exactly  
20 again, and I don't know what else to say other  
21 than stand up on the table to say that this  
22 community needs to be treated just like the other  
23 communities where they have less confusion and  
24 less changes and they have some stability.

25 How do we ever expect the community to ever

1 regroup, and so I am just a little tired of it,  
2 but I will not be supporting it. And it doesn't  
3 matter if we talked about it before in the past,  
4 but here we are again.

5 Now, can you tell me what is the number  
6 that we have to date in Milliones building?

7 DR. LANE: I think Mr. Lopez probably can  
8 give you a more accurate number.

9 Can you, Mr. Lopez?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Derrick Lopez, assistant  
11 superintendent for secondary schools.

12 At this point in time, we have 388 students  
13 that are actually registered at Milliones for the  
14 fall in Grades 6 through 10.

15 MR. BRENTLEY: And that's including the  
16 forcing of the Vann School students or the  
17 re-assigning them?

18 MR. LOPEZ: The re-assignment of the Miller  
19 students in Grades 6-8 and the re-assignment of  
20 the Vann students 6-8 will result in there being  
21 388 students at the Milliones facility this  
22 coming year.

23 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. So those parents or  
24 those two schools did not have a choice? It said  
25 here they are just re-assigned there?

1           MR. LOPEZ: That's exactly right, sir, but  
2 they also were a part of a -- many more of them  
3 were a part of a Summer Connections program with  
4 the University of Pittsburgh, and there were many  
5 outreach efforts with those parents and the  
6 students so that they were -- their transition  
7 has been very smooth.

8           MR. BRENTLEY: Well, I appreciate that, but  
9 the point is we pride ourself on choice, having a  
10 choice; and if we're locking these parents out of  
11 being able to choose, then that's not fair.

12           We did the same thing last year with some  
13 of these students, and it don't -- we're not  
14 going to get into it.

15           Doc, you're an educator. Both of you are  
16 educators. How do you ever expect anyone to  
17 succeed when you make these kinds of changes?

18           And now as a parent, it almost gives the  
19 impression, well, oops, we made this move to  
20 create Milliones. We build it, but they didn't  
21 come, so now we have to force people in it, and  
22 those students should have a right or those  
23 parents should have a right.

24           So I am disappointed, but I want to ask you  
25 again please consider poor neighborhoods and

1 please consider those neighborhoods who are in  
2 need. They need stability, and this here is not  
3 helpful at all, so I'll just respectfully abstain  
4 from this on the entire item.

5 MR. SUMPTER: Any other comments or  
6 questions on this motion to submit a report to  
7 the Pennsylvania Department of Education?

8 Mr. Taylor?

9 MR. TAYLOR: Have we done this with other  
10 ones because I haven't really seen this one  
11 before? Have we done this? I haven't seen us do  
12 this. Okay.

13 And, Mr. Brentley, also keep in mind  
14 Pittsburgh-Miller students also were assigned to  
15 that experimental program.

16 I only had one question, Dr. Lane, about  
17 the groups of schools as we have K-5, 6-12.

18 Is it true that our middle schools  
19 performed academically better than any of those?  
20 If you took out one group in the system, that our  
21 middle schools performed better than our K-5s,  
22 our ALAs, our K-8s, our 6-12s?

23 DR. LANE: I would want to check the data  
24 to make sure of that. I suspect that might be  
25 true simply because of the eighth grade

1 performance, and the middle schools because it is  
2 only three grades, their performance obviously --  
3 that eighth grade would weigh very heavily as  
4 one-third of the school, but I can certainly --  
5 we can certainly get that information for you.

6 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Sumpter, I request again  
7 that we can get a further discussion because  
8 again we've had a great debate about the merits  
9 or lack thereof of our middle schools, and many  
10 people believe that our middle schools are doing  
11 the best academically in the system right now.

12 And so I request again as we have that  
13 as part of that broader discussion about the  
14 school-by-school data also I would like to have a  
15 discussion, further discussion about our  
16 school-by-school data.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SUMPTER: You're welcome. That will be  
19 taken into consideration.

20 Seeing no more comments or questions on the  
21 motion before us, the approval of submitting the  
22 report to the Pennsylvania Department of  
23 Education, Mr. Weiss?

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

25 MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

2 MRS. FINK: Yes.

3 MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

4 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

6 MR. ISLER: Yes.

7 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

8 MR. McCREA: Yes.

9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

10 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

12 MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.

13 MR. WEISS: This vote is five in favor,  
14 two abstentions.

15 MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

16 That is the agenda for this Special  
17 Legislative Meeting.

18 At this point, I'll entertain a motion for  
19 adjournment.

20 MR. ISLER: So moved.

21 MR. McCREA: Second.

22 MR. SUMPTER: This meeting is adjourned.

23 - - -

24 (Thereupon, at 6:19 p.m., the Special  
25 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, Melissa L. Fenster, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing twenty (20) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Special Legislative Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on Wednesday, August 19, 2009.

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Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter

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