

For Immediate Release

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Superintendent Proposes Revised Westinghouse Plan

Recommends Establishing Westinghouse as Feeder Pattern School With a Single-Gender Magnet Option

PITTSBURGH April 13, 2011 –At this evening’s Board Agenda Review Meeting, Superintendent Linda S. Lane presented a proposal for Westinghouse that establishes an adjusted feeder pattern for East End students, while still providing a single-gender option for families. The new 6-12 school will open at the start of the 2011-12 school year with a newly recruited staff and an extended day program infused with the principles of leadership and social justice. A single-gender magnet program will open within the school allowing students to receive core course instruction in a single-gender classroom. The Board is expected to vote on the new plan at its April 27th Legislative Meeting.

“We had families of over 400 students tell us they wanted a single-gender option for their children. By creating a magnet program at the Westinghouse facility we can honor the choice of these families, while ensuring we are able to provide strong, robust feeder school options for East End families,” said Superintendent Lane. “We are committed to continuing the plans we have started that will transform the program at Westinghouse to one where students will grow, both academically and personally.”

The Superintendent’s plan to re-establish Westinghouse as a feeder pattern school will address concerns around the potential over-crowding of Pittsburgh Millions.

“We need to adjust our current plan so we do not run the risk of disrupting our growing program at Pittsburgh Millions. We also need to ensure we open our new school at a level that enables us to create an enriching program at the Westinghouse facility that provides the students who live in Homewood the same resources and benefits found in our larger comprehensive high schools.”

While instruction in the school’s magnet program will be separated by gender, all students will have the opportunity to interact in elective, art, career and technical education courses, extracurricular activities and sports that promote interactions among all students. Additionally, the District intends to continue its work with the Homewood Children’s Village to become a full-service school that provides recreational and cultural enrichment, as well as health and social services providers to students who learn and live in Homewood.

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Plan Re-establishes Westinghouse Feeder Pattern

Due to the closure of Pittsburgh Peabody and the 6-8 programs at Pittsburgh Lincoln and Pittsburgh Faison, and at the recommendation of the East Region Advisory Committee, the Board voted to develop a feeder pattern along Negley Avenue so that:

- students in grades 9-12 west of Negley Avenue would attend school at Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12; and
- students in grades 9-12 east of Negley Avenue would attend school the new school at the Westinghouse facility.
- students in grades 6-8 in the Lincoln and Faison feeder pattern will attend the new school at the Westinghouse facility.

The Superintendent's revised plan to support a feeder pattern school at the Westinghouse facility follows this prescribed alignment.

All students now assigned to the new school at the Westinghouse facility will have a one-time opportunity to select Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12 through Friday, May 13th 2011.

The public is invited to provide comment on the new Westinghouse plan at the Board's upcoming Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2011. Anyone wishing to speak at the public hearing must register with the Office of Superintendent of Schools by calling (412) 622-3600 no later than noon, the day of the hearing. Each speaker on agenda or non-agenda items will be limited to three minutes of testimony. All speakers should submit, if possible, 11 copies of their testimony at the time they are called to speak.

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