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**DeJong Presents Status Report On Facilities Study at June 22 Board Workshop
*Final Report with Recommendations Expected In August***

PITTSBURGH, June 22, 2009---At this evening's Board workshop, DeJong presented a status report on the District's facilities study that began in January.

The report will serve as the basis for the District's 10-year facilities plan, a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Education that also advances a key priority in the District's Strategic Plan.

"Tonight's report is a first step, a status report or first look at the condition of physical plants and their capacities," said Superintendent Roosevelt. "Although DeJong's final report, expected in August, will carry recommendations for maintenance, renovation and replacement of facilities, the District will need to look at the report through an academic and programmatic lens before decisions can be made to move forward."

At the Legislative Meeting on January 21, the Board approved hiring DeJong to conduct the facilities study. The Ohio-based firm is nationally recognized and has done similar work in other urban districts including Grand Rapids, Michigan; Long Beach, California; Montgomery, Alabama, and Virginia Beach, Virginia over the past few years.

Evaluation of Facilities

The study includes a review of the District's 69 school buildings, 5 early childhood centers—Arlington, Chartiers, Homewood, McCleary and Spring Garden—and several closed facilities. The majority of Pittsburgh Public School facilities were built before the 1960s. Based on their review, DeJong has ranked the facilities in the study and placed them in the following categories: General Maintenance, Minor Renovations, Moderate Renovations, and Major Renovations and Replacement.

DeJong's physical plant evaluation included:

Building Analysis

- o Roofing, exterior walls, exterior windows, exterior doors, interior floors, interior walls, interior ceilings, HVAC, electrical lighting, electrical distribution, plumbing, fire safety, structural, technology and accessibility.

Site Analysis

Parking lot/drive, walkways and drop areas, playgrounds and playfields, site lighting, fencing, drainage and accessibility.

Other Analysis

- o Environmental, site configuration, building configuration, code compliance, food service equipment and air conditioning.

MORE

Enrollment

The District's 2008-09 enrollment for Pre-K through 12 was 27,690 students. Based on a proven formula that DeJong used to calculate enrollment, the Pre-K through 12 enrollment for 2018 is expected to be 23,395. It should be noted that DeJong adjusted their enrollment forecasting methodology to factor in the potential positive impact of *The Pittsburgh Promise*.

The capacity issue is especially severe at the high school level. Currently, the District has a high school enrollment of 7,563 students, resulting in 4,821 extra seats in grades 9-12. If no changes are made to current facilities, excess capacity is expected to increase to over 5,958 by 2018. "Since high schools were not addressed during Right-Sizing Plan in 2005-06, it makes sense that we have a capacity issue that is especially severe at the High Schools." said Roosevelt.

Community Input

The facilities study process began with one-on-one interviews with Board members and the formation of a steering committee. Members of the steering committee included parents, students, community representatives, a representative from the Urban Redevelopment Authority and City Planning, a Board member, district level educators, principals and teachers. The Steering Committee met seven times between March and June.

To garner input from the community during the process, one city-wide dialogue and three regional dialogues were completed by DeJong. There were also opportunities for public input during the six regularly scheduled public hearings that were held between January and June.

In an effort to be as open and transparent as possible, a special web site was established at www.pittsburghbuildingexcellence.com. As DeJong moves to making recommendations in August, factors they'll consider include the condition of facilities, cost, population and enrollment trends, survey results and Steering Committee recommendations. All of this information will be posted on the web site.

Steering Committee Recommendations

At their final meeting on June 11, the Steering Committee refined a list of nine recommendations that DeJong will consider in their overall analysis. Steering Committee Recommendations are posted on www.pittsburghbuildingexcellence.com.

"After the District receives DeJong's final report in August, it should be understood that our expectation is to use it to develop a plan that takes into consideration academic and programmatic factors." said Superintendent Mark Roosevelt. "DeJong's recommendations will require discussion and deliberation, more opportunities for community input and Board action before they are implemented, so planning and change will take time."

For more information please call the Parent Hotline at (412) 622-7920, visit the District's website at www.pps.k12.pa.us or email the Superintendent at superintendentoffice@pghboe.net.

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