

For Immediate Release

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Culturally Responsive Arts Education to Enhance Summer Regional Extended Learning Camp at Pittsburgh Lincoln K-8

PITTSBURGH, June 24, 2009 --Students at Pittsburgh Lincoln K-8 will be the first to experience the District's new Culturally Responsive Arts Education (CRAE) program. The students will have the opportunity to work with three local teaching artists as part of the school's Summer Regional Extended Learning Camp. At this evening's Legislative Meeting, the Board approved Oronde Sharif, Ayisha Morgan-Lee and Wabei Siyolwe to teach Pittsburgh Lincoln students screenwriting, poetry and African dance as part of the school's summer program, from June 25 to July 24.

As part of a District-wide effort to increase African American student achievement, Pittsburgh Lincoln K-8 was selected, along with Pittsburgh Montessori K-8 and Pittsburgh Sunnyside K-8, to pilot the CRAE program for the 2009-10 school year. Pittsburgh Lincoln is the only school incorporating the program into its Summer Learning Camp curriculum. The three artists are among the 18 teaching artists previously approved by the Board to be part of the CRAE Teaching Artist Directory.

CRAE uses the best practices of arts instruction and arts integration to work toward the creation of a culturally responsive and healthy school environment. This project engages the arts of the African Diaspora and incorporates the culture of the students to stimulate student interest, develop ownership of learning, and inspire achievement. CRAE enlists teaching artists and arts specialists to bring to life its central principles-- viewing race and culture as an asset, educating about the impacts of racism and models to overcome it, and the role that artists can play in building relationships between children, schools, and communities. The program is supported by a grant from The Heinz Endowments.

In addition to the use of teaching artists this summer, the Board approved the services of the Chicago Arts Partnership in Education (CAPE) to provide professional development training in arts instruction and integration for the teaching artists and CRAE team members.

Summer Regional Extended Learning Camps

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 have the opportunity to get academic support in reading and mathematics at the one of the District's 12 Summer Regional Extended Learning Camps. The camps began June 23 and are open until July 17. The summer camp at Pittsburgh Lincoln runs until July 24. For more information about the Summer Regional Extended Learning Camps please contact the Parent Hotline at (412) 622-7920 or visit the Upcoming Events Section on the homepage of the District's website at www.ps.k12.pa.us.

In Other Business

At the Legislative Meeting this evening, the Board approved the reassignments of five principals for the 2009-10 school year. The following reassignments will be effective July 1st:

<i>Administrator</i>	<i>Current Assignment</i>	<i>Principal Assignment 09-10</i>
Ms. Kellie Abbott	Lead Principal, PELA	Pittsburgh Peabody High School
Ms. Carla Berdnik	Principal, Pittsburgh Linden	Pittsburgh Woolslair K-5
Ms. Victoria Burgess	Principal, Pittsburgh Woolslair	Pittsburgh Linden K-5
Ms. Melissa Friez	Principal, Pittsburgh Peabody	Pittsburgh Allderdice High School
Mr. Robert Scherrer	Principal, Pittsburgh Allderdice	Pittsburgh Science & Technology 6-12

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Additionally, the Board approved the appointments of PELA Residents Heath Bailey to Principal on Special Assignment at Pittsburgh Allderdice and Christine Mussomeli to Director of Science and Technology at the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy.

Mr. Robert J. Scherrer Appointed Principal at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy

The Board approved the reassignment of Pittsburgh Allderdice Principal Robert J. Scherrer to Principal of the Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy. Principal Scherrer will start his new position on July 1st in time to welcome Academy faculty and staff on July 6 to begin the school's five weeks of professional development. The school's current principal, Dan Lentz, will resign effective June 30, 2009, to accept a position with the Fox Chapel School District.

Ms. Christine Mussomeli will join the Science and Technology Academy team as the school's Director of Science and Technology. In this position Ms. Mussomeli will work collaboratively with the Academy's principal to execute all aspects of school management and leadership and utilize her expertise to support the Academy's instructional programming.

Prior to joining the District in August 2007, Mr. Scherrer served as Co-Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Woodland Hills High School. He began his career as a secondary educator in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. Mr. Scherrer has served as an Assistant Principal in the school districts of Peters Township and Woodland Hills.

On June 25, 2008, the Board approved the opening of the new 6-12 magnet school focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy will open in the Frick facility with 250 students in grades six through nine for the start of the 2009-10 school year. The school will add a grade each year thereafter until it reaches full capacity at 550 students in 2012-13.

Pittsburgh Allderdice Alums Team Up to Lead School

Ms. Melissa Friez and Mr. Heath Bailey have been named Principal and Principal on Special Assignment respectively of their alma mater, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, effective July 1, 2009.

Ms. Friez has been named Principal of her alma mater, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, effective July 1, 2009. Ms. Friez had been appointed Principal of Pittsburgh Peabody following her completion of a PELA residency in June 2008. As Principal of Pittsburgh Peabody, Ms. Friez chaired the transition of the District's Robotics Technology Magnet, engaged parents and guardians in various school activities and implemented policies used to maintain a safe and welcoming environment. Prior to her PELA residency, Principal Friez served as an Administrative Intern and Testing Coordinator at Pittsburgh Allderdice. From July 2006- October 2006, Ms. Friez taught English at Pittsburgh Allderdice.

Mr. Bailey has recently completed a year long residency at Pittsburgh Brashear High School and Pittsburgh Arlington K-8 as a part of the District's Pittsburgh Emerging Leadership (PELA) program. PELA is a component of the District's Pittsburgh Urban Leadership System for Excellence (PULSE) accountability system to recruit, train, support, evaluate and compensate principals.

Kellie Abbott Appointed Principal of Pittsburgh Peabody

The Board approved the appointment of Kellie Abbott to Principal of Pittsburgh Peabody. As Lead Principal of PELA, Ms. Abbott managed the day to day workings of the PELA program, facilitated resident trainings and one on one coaching sessions. Prior to joining the District, Ms. Abbott served as Principal of Valley High School located in New Kensington. During her time as Principal student performance consistently improved over the five years of her tenure.

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