



**PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
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For Immediate Release

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District Provides Board Overview of New 6-Year Strategic Plan

PITTSBURGH, November 5, 2008 – Tonight, at its Education Committee Meeting, the Board received an overview of the District’s Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan aligns and organizes the District’s priorities for the continual improvement of student achievement, making sure students are “Promise Ready” and able to take advantage of scholarships through *The Pittsburgh Promise*.

“With so much at stake – up to \$40,000 beginning with the Class of 2012 – the Strategic Plan is a roadmap designed to meet the flexible needs of the District as it continues to implement and deepen the work of *Excellence for All*,” said Deputy Superintendent Linda Lane.

The six year plan, a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), ensures the District remains on target for reaching the student achievement goals set by the Commonwealth within its Accountability Plan for No Child Left Behind. The Final Revised Plan presented this evening reflects comments gathered from the public during a 30-day comment period held from September 30 through October 31, 2008. Public comment was gathered through a variety of means including a website survey, public hearing, parent focus groups, student listening groups and steering committee meetings.

Board Feedback from this evening’s session will be included in the Revised Final Draft Plan and circulated to the Board for review prior to its Agenda Review Meeting, November 19, 2008. The Board will vote on the District’s Final Strategic Plan at its Legislative Session November 25, 2008, in order to meet the PDE’s November 26 deadline.

“The Plan helps us set into motion the key strategies that are essential to reaching our mission to prepare all children to achieve academic excellence and strength of character, so that they have the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of life.” said Lane.

The PDE is moving to a system that unifies all technical plans under one umbrella plan. For the Pittsburgh Public Schools, this new approach brings together eight different plans into one comprehensive submission to the Commonwealth. The District’s draft plan follows the PDE’s required format for organizing and writing the plan. The Plan also responds to the Conciliation Agreement between the District and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and The Advocates for African American Students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Under this agreement, the PA Human Relations Commission will monitor District progress in addressing the need to improve equity in the school system, including reducing current racial disparities in achievement and reducing the disproportionate number of behavioral referrals by race.

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Major sections of the plan include a letter from Superintendent Mark Roosevelt, an executive summary and the history and demographics of the District. The Revised Final Draft Strategic Plan outlines 42 comprehensive strategies around five goal areas for the District, sample strategies are detailed in the chart below. For a copy of the complete Revised Final Draft Strategic Plan please visit the District’s website at www.pps.k12.pa.us or call the Parent Hotline at (412) 622-7920.

Five Goal Areas	Total Strategies Under Each Goal	Sample Strategies
Goal 1 - Maximum academic achievement of all students	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to Provide and Improve Early Childhood Education. • Reduce racial disparities in academic achievement and graduation rates. • Leadership Improvement among Principals and Executive Directors.
Goal 2 – Safe and Orderly Environment for all students and employees	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support and establish safe and welcoming school environments. • Continue to implement behavioral support interventions. • Continue to implement alternative school setting.
Goal 3 – Efficient and Effective Support Operations for All	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal restraint through disciplined budgeting in all areas, including additional budget reductions while protecting academic initiatives. • Improve bid process with the goal of lower costs and more efficient EBE(Eligible Business Enterprises) compliance. • Create District Progress Reporting System.
Goal 4 – Efficient and Equitable Distribution of Resources	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie all plans to direct enrollment declines and fiscal realities of the District without negatively affecting student achievement improvement initiatives. • Develop a ten year facilities plan. • Standardize Distance Learning across the District.
Goal 5 – Improved Public Confidence and Strong parent/Community Engagement	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build an excellent customer service organization. • Ensure effective and consistent outreach to every PPS household throughout the school year. • Present the advantages, choices and success stories of PPS in a consistent and compelling manner to assert a view of the District that is different than what most people may know.

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For information regarding accommodations, civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Mrs. Susan Dobies-Sinicki, Employee Relations Manager, Office of Employee Relations, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3516; Phone (412) 622-3691 (Voice/TTY/TDD); Fax (412) 622-7968.