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PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
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For Immediate Release

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**District Announces Construction Delay for Reopening of Milliones Building and
Completion of Pittsburgh Miller K-8 Addition**

*Relocation of Pittsburgh Rogers CAPA 6-8 Program and Pittsburgh Vann K-8
Rescheduled for 2009-10 School Year*

PITTSBURGH, August 28, 2007 – In a press release today, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt described the need to expand the timeline for completion of two facility construction projects.

The Milliones Building Construction Project

The Pittsburgh Public Schools has decided to delay the reopening of the closed Milliones school building until the start of the 2009-10 school year rather than rush to have construction completed for the 2008-09 school year. In February of this year, the District announced that it would renovate the existing facility and build a new addition in order to accommodate the Pittsburgh Rogers CAPA 6-8 program and the Pittsburgh Vann K-8 feeder pattern school along with more Early Childhood Education classrooms.

Superintendent Mark Roosevelt expressed dismay at the delay, but noted that the additional time is necessary to ensure quality design and construction. "We want to do this major construction project the right way," said Roosevelt. "Taking a few more months upfront to do the additional design work necessary will help to ensure that we deliver a quality facility that meets the needs of both school programs in the most cost-effective manner."

After receiving the recommendations of two different citizens' committees, which evaluated and determined which of the District's closed school facilities was best-suited for each of the school programs, the District initially pursued an accelerated design and construction plan that would have had the Milliones facility ready for the start of the 2008-09 school year. However, today the Superintendent reported that subsequent site evaluation work has uncovered subsurface conditions that require further investigation. The District's facilities team reported extremely poor soil conditions where the addition is to be located. Structural design modifications must be made to accommodate these findings. Additionally, a review by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority found that the site had low water pressure issues that must be addressed.

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In light of these findings, the District is working with its outside architectural firm to explore the most cost-efficient way to provide the necessary structural stability and reconfigure the ground floor plan. “The more we reviewed the timeline to take into account these early setbacks, the clearer it became that it would be in everybody’s best interest to redo the entire timeline based on the realities of managing a construction project of this magnitude,” said Roosevelt.

The additional time will also allow the District to rework the design plan to provide fully enclosed classrooms for the K-8 school and to obtain additional input from school staff. Roosevelt added, “We are hopeful that we can figure out a way to have the gymnasium in the Millions facility ready a year earlier so that it could be used in the 2008-09 school year by the Pittsburgh Vann K-8 students. The gymnasium in the current K-8 facility is not adequate. The District shelved previous plans for a multi-million expenditure to upgrade the gymnasium at Pittsburgh Vann K-8 when it recommended relocating the school to the Millions facility.

The Pittsburgh Miller K-8 Addition

More time is needed to allow for the approvals by various governmental agencies for the addition of a gymnasium and three classrooms for the related arts at the existing Pittsburgh Miller K-8 building. The District has made some design modifications based on changes in the scope of the project, accounting for some of the additional time that is needed in the schedule. Also, with the increase in construction around the City, the approval process is trending longer for various governmental agencies. Under the revised timeline, the addition will be completed in time for the start of school in 2009-10.

Pittsburgh Miller-Millions Community Meeting Scheduled for August 30th

There will be a community meeting on **Thursday, August 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Millions building** where the public can learn more about the status of the proposed school additions for Millions building and the Pittsburgh Miller K-8.

Public feedback also can be provided to the **Parent Hotline at 412-622-7920** or to the Superintendent via an email to superintendentoffice@pghboe.net.

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