

For Immediate Release

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**In Response to Pittsburgh Schenley Students District Adjusts Year Two Plans
of *Excel.9-12, The Plan for High School Excellence***

Current Schenley Students to Move Intact to Reizenstein and Graduate With a Schenley Diploma

University Partnership 6-12 to Open with Grades 6-9 for the Start of the 2008-09

PITTSBURGH, November 14, 2007 – In response to Pittsburgh Schenley students, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt presented plans to adjust the District’s Year Two plans for *Excel.9-12, The Plan for High School Excellence* at tonight’s Special Legislative Meeting. *Excel.9-12* is a multi-year plan focused on the redesign and restructure of the District’s high schools and improvement of student achievement. Consistent with national best practices for high school reform, *Excel.9-12* is organized around five core principles: Safe and Welcoming Schools, Relationships, Rigor, Student Support and Relevance. Year Two plans have been adjusted to phase in the creation of the District’s four new 6-12 “learning communities,” relocate current Pittsburgh Schenley High School students intact to the Reizenstein facility and delay the closure of Pittsburgh Frick 6-8 until the start of the 2009-10 school year.

“We’ve concluded and continue to conclude that we cannot recommend returning students to the Pittsburgh Schenley facility in the fall of 2008,” said Superintendent Roosevelt. “We have heard from our most important constituents, our students, that they want to graduate with their fellow classmates therefore, we are recommending that next year’s 10th, 11th and 12th grade Schenley students be moved intact to the Reizenstein facility.”

In addition to the relocation of the current Schenley students to Reizenstein for the start of the 2008-09 school year, the Year Two plan reassigns incoming 9th grade students scheduled to attend Pittsburgh Schenley to the following locations:

- International Baccalaureate and International Studies program students to attend Pittsburgh Frick
- Robotics Technology magnet students will attend the Robotics Technology Magnet program at Peabody
- Non-magnet Schenley feeder students will attend the University Partnership School at the Milliones facility.

The approximately 174 students currently enrolled at the Robotics Technology magnet at Pittsburgh Schenley will relocate with their classmates to the Reizenstein Facility and take Robotics Technology magnet courses at Pittsburgh Peabody.

Additionally, the Plan calls for:

- Pittsburgh Vann PreK-8 to close as planned for 2008-09. This will require the relocation of Pittsburgh Vann PreK-5 to either Pittsburgh Weil Pre-K-8 and or to Pittsburgh Miller PreK-5.
- Pittsburgh Miller PreK-8 will become a PreK-5 school in 2008-09.
- 6-8 students from Pittsburgh Vann and Pittsburgh Miller will relocate to either Pittsburgh Weil or the new University Partnership 6-12.
- The consolidation of Pittsburgh Rogers CAPA 6-8 and Pittsburgh CAPA High School into one 6-12 thematic learning community to create Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.
- The opening of a Science & Technology program at the Frick facility for 2009-2010.

(more)

Pittsburgh Schenley High School

Deteriorating conditions at Pittsburgh Schenley High School facility have accelerated the need for the District to slightly modify its high school reform roadmap.

Pittsburgh Schenley High School continues to experience infrastructure deterioration. The following recent incidents prompted District officials to conduct further investigations of the 90-year old structure:

- On July 10th a two-foot-square section of ceiling collapsed in a second-floor stairwell prompting the District to relocate summer school.
- In August, the District paid \$750,000 to have a contractor remediate and re-plaster close to 10,000 spaces of potential asbestos containing material.
- Within three weeks of the initial remediation, a piece of plaster fell in a classroom on a date when no students were present.

For the remainder of this school year, this District has adopted an enhanced monitoring and maintenance program for the facility. The District believes that it is not prudent to keep students in the facility beyond the current school year without pursuing the full remediation necessary. There will be a special hearing for the public to provide feedback on the proposed closing of the Pittsburgh Schenley facility. The hearing will take place on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Reizenstein to Become Pittsburgh IB World 6-12 for the start of the 2009-2010 School Year

The District will open a fully accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) Program in the Reizenstein building to create Pittsburgh IB World 6-12 for the start of the 2009-10 school year. Currently, the District has an IB Diploma Program at Schenley High School for 11th and 12th grade students and is currently in the application process to institute a Middle Years Program (MYP) at Pittsburgh Frick 6-8. These two programs will merge to create one of the first comprehensive international baccalaureate middle years and diploma programs in a U.S. urban district. Pittsburgh Frick 6-9 students will relocate to Pittsburgh IB World 6-12 beginning in the 2009-10 school year. Additional classes will be added each year as current Schenley students graduate.

Pittsburgh's First University Partnership School 6-12 to Open 6-9 Cohort for Start of 2008-09 School Year

The District is currently formalizing plans with the University of Pittsburgh to create Pittsburgh's First University Partnership School 6-12 at the Milliones building. Students will be phased into the University Partnership School. Upon completion, this school will become a national center for excellence in public education, and a model for school district/university partnerships. Also, this school will provide an opportunity for the University of Pittsburgh's faculty to have a meaningful and substantive impact for PPS students.

Pittsburgh Rogers CAPA 6-8 to Combine With Pittsburgh CAPA High School

Combining the District's total Creative and Performing Arts curricula will optimize the state-of-the-art resources currently deployed at Pittsburgh CAPA's downtown location. The Board approved the purchase and renovation of three additional floors at the downtown facility to house all of its 6-12 CAPA students in one location, thus creating a cohesive learning community to be completed for the 2009-10 school year.

Public Participation in the Process

Special Public Hearing – Closing of Pittsburgh Schenley High School

A special public hearing will be held specifically for the closing of Pittsburgh Schenley High School. It is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A, first floor of the Board of Education's Administration Building located at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue in Oakland.

Anyone wishing to speak at the special public hearing on the topic of Pittsburgh Schenley must register with the Office of Superintendent of Schools by calling (412)622-3600 from November 13 until Noon on November 21, 2007. Persons wishing to submit written testimony in lieu of appearing at the special hearing may send it via e-mail to publichearing@pghboe.net or by faxing comments to (412)622-3624 no later than 5 p.m. on November 27, 2007.

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There are several other ways for the community to share their comments regarding the Year Two plan for high school reform:

- Write to the Division of Communications, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; or,
- Phone the Parent Hotline at (412)622-7920; or,
- Send an e-mail by visiting the Pittsburgh Public Schools web site at www.pps.k12pa.us.

Public Hearing Procedures

The public hearings will be conducted under the following procedures:

- 1) 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.
- 2) A speaker may not relinquish his or her allotted time to another.
- 3) All speakers, regardless of their viewpoint, are entitled to the courtesy of speaking without interruption from those who might disagree. Failure to extend this courtesy could result in the adjournment of the meeting.
- 4) Speakers must call personally to be placed on the agenda. They will be scheduled in the order the calls are received.

Additional Information

The public can also review plans for Year Two of *Excel.9-12: The Plan for High School Excellence* by visiting the Pittsburgh Public Schools web site at www.pps.k12pa.us, visiting the Division of Communications, Room 201, or by requesting a copy by calling the Parent Hotline at (412)622-7920.

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