

For Immediate Release

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Superintendent Recommends Relocation of CAPA Middle School into closed Milliones School Building for the Start of the 2008-09 School Year

PITTSBURGH November 1, 2006 –Superintendent Mark Roosevelt presented the recommendation of the Rogers CAPA Committee this evening at the Board’s Business and Finance Committee Meeting. At close to 80% capacity, the middle school has outgrown its current facility located in the East End area of the city. The Committee, formed in July 2006 by the Superintendent and charged with exploring the possibilities for the relocation of the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Middle School, recommended the move of CAPA Middle School to the closed Milliones Middle School building.

The renovations needed to launch the arts magnet program, particularly the construction of a theater for the performing arts, will total between \$6 million - \$8 million. Planning and designing of the new CAPA Middle facility will need to begin in December 2006.

CAPA Middle School, known for its quality arts curriculum and the academic achievement of its students, is one of Pittsburgh Public Schools’ premiere middle schools. The creative and performing arts magnet boasts master classes in all arts areas and high student achievement as measured by the PSSA reading and math scores for all students. In addition the school maintains arts partnerships with the Carnegie Museum of Art, Carriage House Children’s Center, Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, Citiparks Intergenerational Initiative, Community Mural Project, Horizon Theatre, Manchester Craftsman’s Guild, Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh Dance Alloy, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony and others.

Selection Criteria

The Committee based its recommendation on the following criteria :

- **Location** –As a magnet program, it is essential that the new building be centrally located.
- **Capacity** – The new facility must accommodate 400 - 450 students.
- **Square Footage** – The new building must encompass at least 100,000 - 150,000 square feet.

Based on these parameters, the Committee visited and analyzed five sites before making its final recommendation to Superintendent Roosevelt. Of these five sites four were closed Pittsburgh Public Schools locations: Connelley Technical Institute, Knoxville Middle School, Milliones Middle School and Prospect Middle School. The fifth location was the former Allegheny Regional Branch of the Carnegie Library.

Why the Milliones Middle School Building

Located in the City's historic Hill District, the former Milliones Middle School building was chosen by the Committee as the best-suited location for the new CAPA Middle School for a variety of reasons. Since the CAPA Middle magnet school is open to all District students, the central location of the closed Milliones Middle School was appealing. It provides nearby public transportation that makes the City's cultural assets and CAPA Middle School easily accessible for students, parents, community and partners.

The approximate 150,000 square footage of the Milliones facility can support the necessary capacity for growth needed to expand the arts magnet student enrollment. The size of the building also lends to the creation of larger open spaces such as an amphitheater and additional amenities needed in an arts magnet program as well as early childhood education classrooms to serve the community.

"CAPA Middle School with its successful academics and engaged and motivated students has much of what we want to see across the District," said Superintendent Mark Roosevelt. "I'm optimistic that the new CAPA Middle School will increase student achievement and hopefully serve as an Arts Center for the surrounding Hill District community."

Rogers CAPA Committee Members

- **Howard Bullard** – Executive Director, Secondary and Middle Schools, Pittsburgh Board of Education
- **Leonard Carter** – Music Teacher, Conroy Education Center
- **Steve Hawkins** – Pittsburgh Public Schools Parent, Architect
- **Dale Hertrick** – Instrumental Teacher, Rogers Creative and Performing Arts Middle School
- **Dr. Roberta Horowitz** – Performing Arts, Point Park University
- **Nancy Rocco Kodman** (Chair) – Lead Principal on Special Assignment, Pittsburgh Board of Education
- **Chris Laitta** – Stage Craft/Musical Theatre, Rogers Creative and Performing Arts Middle School
- **Dr. Lynda Lewis** – Principal, Rogers Creative and Performing Arts Middle School
- **Birdie Nichols** – Retired Chorale Teacher, Westinghouse and CAPA High School
- **Vidyardhar Patil** – Chief of Construction, Facilities Design Department, Pittsburgh Board of Education
- **Henry Schmitt** – Pittsburgh Public Schools Parent
- **Michael T. Thorsen** – Retired Principal, Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts
- **Arthur Waller** – Grandparent and active community member, Construction Background

Public Feedback or More Information

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