



**PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING
341 S. BELLEFIELD AVE.
PGH., PA 15213

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Releases Preliminary District Empowerment Plan for Public Comment

PITTSBURGH, November 13, 2006 – Today, Pittsburgh Public Schools released a preliminary draft of the District’s Empowerment Plan for public comment. The Empowerment Plan will serve as the District’s comprehensive plan for meeting the State’s requirements as a result of the District’s designation as a Commonwealth Partnership School District in July 2006. Additionally this comprehensive plan will meet the District’s obligation to submit a District Improvement Plan as a result of its Corrective Action I status under No Child Left Behind.

The District received the Commonwealth Partnership School District designation because it met the following criteria :

- A fifteen percent or more decline in student enrollment during the immediately preceding five-year period.
- A loss of revenue during the immediately preceding three-year period due to the removal of one or more of the sources of revenue under Section 652.1 (the School District Taxing Statute).
- A certain level of equalized millage.

As a result of the Commonwealth Partnership designation the District was placed on the Secretary’s Education Empowerment List. In accordance with this designation the District must submit a plan for more efficient and effective management of the District’s special education program. Additionally the District was required to appoint an 11 member Empowerment Team to develop a plan to improve the academic performance of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and give priority consideration to improving the financial stability of the District. The plan also must address increasing the level of achievement of African American students.

Empowerment Team Members

- **Mark Roosevelt** Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- **Thomas Sumpter** Member, Pittsburgh Board of Education and Chair of Education Committee
- **Bill Johns** Acting Chief Financial Officer, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- **John Tarka** President, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers
- **Barbara Jett** Teacher, Northview Accelerated Learning Academy

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Empowerment Team Members Continued

- **David Donahoe** Executive Director, Allegheny Regional Asset District
- **Nancy Kodman** Principal on Special Assignment, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- **Alex Matthews** Highmark Blue Cross Community Program Implementation
- **Dr. John Young** Retired Principal of Greenway and Schenley High Schools
- **Dr. Johnson Martin** Retired Principal of Homewood Montessori
- **Mary Ziegler** Parent of Current Carrick High School Student

Special Public Hearing November 20, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

A special public hearing will be held on November 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, in Oakland. From November 13th until noon on November 20th, the public can sign up to speak at the special public hearing by calling (412) 622-3600. Emails will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m. on November 20th at publichearing@pghboe.net. The Board will review a final draft of the plan at its December 4th Education Committee Meeting at 7:30 p.m. The Board is scheduled to vote to accept the plan at its December 19th Legislative Meeting.

The Public Can Obtain a Copy of the Empowerment Plan

The plan can be accessed online at www.pps.k12.pa.us.

In addition, the public can obtain a copy of the plan by calling the **Parent Hotline at 412-622-7920**, or visiting Room 204 at Pittsburgh Board of Education, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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