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For Immediate Release

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District Adjusts Transportation Plan Which Called for Early Start Times *Pittsburgh Public Schools Works With Port Authority to Accommodate Students*

PITTSBURGH, May 18, 2012 – A new transportation proposal will create district-wide start times that will have less of an adjustment in the school start time for high school students next year. As a result of parental feedback and support from the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the District has decided not to go with an April proposal to create a district-wide Three Tiered Routing System, where high schools would have begun at 7:11 a.m. Although last month’s proposal would have saved the District \$1.2 Million, the new plan released today is cost neutral.

In an effort to be more cost-effective while anticipating changes in Port Authority routes and costs, the April proposal called for buses to go on three daily runs, instead of the current two run structure. This plan would have changed the high school start time to 7:11 a.m.

“We value the opinions of our parents. After hearing a number of concerns over the earlier start times, I have withdrawn the proposed Three Tier Routing System plan since the anticipated transportation changes would have been very challenging for many families,” said Superintendent Linda Lane.

The District and Port Authority leaders are working to accommodate students impacted by the 35% public transportation service reduction across Allegheny County, which starts September 2. Port Authority is exploring options to adjust service to better meet students’ needs.

“We are looking at a number of ways to best solve the problem. For example, the District may use shuttles to transport students from their neighborhoods to main bus lines or to their schools. We already use this approach on a smaller scale. We are also researching a routing system for a small number of busses to make three runs per day,” said Dr. Lane.

Currently, around 4,100 students receive monthly bus passes to be transported to and from their schools. At the start of next school year, that number will be reduced by at least 460 students; these students will be assigned yellow busses.

“Port Authority is committed to working with Pittsburgh Public Schools to serve as many students as possible within our resources,” said Steve Bland, Port Authority CEO. “This situation truly underscores the importance of finding a dedicated and sustainable funding model for public transit in our region and state. If we can achieve that, our 35% service reduction can be avoided.”

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The District is taking deliberate steps to better manage resources while continuing the progress we have seen in our classrooms. Phase III of the District’s Sustainable District work includes additional central office workforce reductions, increasing the efficiencies of centralized programs, as well as savings through contracted services, technical services, supplies, and travel.

“We will no longer save money on student transportation for the coming school year. However, because we still are facing financial challenges down the road, we may have to revisit the student transportation plan in the future. I am pleased that we could come up with an alternative that is cost neutral for the 2012-13 school year,” said Dr. Lane.

The Superintendent added, “I want to express appreciation to our charter schools as well as private and parochial schools for their cooperation as we work toward more efficient transportation solutions.”

2012-13 Transportation Plan

Beginning with the 2012-13 school year:

- Most high schools will start at 7:36 a.m.;
- Pittsburgh Perry will start at 7:11 a.m. which is its current start time this year;
- Due to its downtown location, Pittsburgh CAPA’s schedule will differ from other schools with students in grades 9-12; CAPA high school students will attend from 7:45am - 3:45pm, and CAPA students in grades 6-8 will attend from 8:25am - 3:50pm.

2012-13 School Start and End Times

Group 1– 7:36am Start Time 2:46pm End Time	Group 2– 8:10am Start Time 2:51pm End Time	Group 3– 9:10am Start Time 3:51pm End Time
Allderdice	Banksville	Allegheny K-5
Brashear	Beechwood	Allegheny 6-8
Carrick	Brookline	Arlington K-8
Obama 9-12	Colfax	Arsenal K-5
SciTech 6-12	Concord	Arsenal 6-8
UPrep 6-12	Fulton	Carmalt
Westinghouse 6-12	Greenfield	Dilworth
	Grandview	Faison
	Langley K-8	Liberty
	Lincoln	Linden
	King	Mifflin
OTHER	Manchester	Minadeo
CAPA 9-12	Miller	Obama 6-8
7:45am – 3:45pm	Morrow K-6	Pittsburgh Montessori
	Phillips	Pittsburgh Classical
CAPA 6-8	Roosevelt K-5	Schiller
8:25am – 3:50pm	Spring Hill	South Brook
	Sunnyside	South Hills
Perry	Westwood	Sterrett
7:11am – 2:16pm	Whittier	Weil
		West Liberty

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