

For Immediate Release

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District Recommends Renovation of Closed Murray Facility to Support Relocation of Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8 for the Start of the 2016-17 School Year

PITTSBURGH August 10, 2015 –At this evening’s Joint Board Committee Meeting, Chief Operations Officer Ronald Joseph presented a recommendation to renovate the currently vacant Murray facility to accommodate the relocation of Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8 for the 2016-17 school year. The move will provide the Arlington school community access to a larger newly renovated facility in one year instead of the three years it would take to renovate both Arlington buildings. A Board vote to close both Arlington facilities and reopen the Murray facility will allow the District to also gain operating efficiencies. The earliest the Board can vote on this evening’s recommendation is at its December 16th Legislative Meeting.

“Tonight’s recommendation allows us to provide our Pittsburgh Arlington school community with the facility it needs in a shorter time period, said Ronald Joseph. “It also provides an opportunity to consolidate the school into one facility.”

Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8

Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8 serves students and families of the Arlington, Knoxville and Mt. Oliver areas of the city. The school’s primary building serves students in grades PreK-2, while students in grades 3-8 attend classes in the school’s intermediate building. The primary building has a library and a multi-purpose room. The intermediate building, has a library, cafeteria, and a gymnasium.

At a combined 71,982 square feet, needs at both facilities include American Disability Act (ADA) compliant elevators and bathrooms, roof replacements, masonry work, new windows and flooring, paving work, new electrical and lighting systems, and air conditioning. Renovation costs for both facilities are projected at \$15.2 million and will take at least three years to complete.

Murray Facility

Located approximately 1.3 miles from the Arlington facilities, the closed Murray building is best-suited to accommodate the relocation of Pittsburgh Arlington. With approximately 78,168 square footage, the Murray facility has a library, a cafeteria, an auditorium, a gymnasium, and a playground. Renovation needs at the building include ADA compliant bathrooms, roof replacement, masonry work, new windows and flooring, a new boiler, paving work, and new electrical and lighting systems, and air conditioning. Projected renovation costs for Murray total approximately \$13.7 million. If approved, completion of the renovation is expected July 2016.

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Public Commentary Period – Closure of Arlington Facilities

The Board is expected to vote to open the Public Commentary Period for the closure of both Arlington facilities at its August 26th Legislative Meeting. If approved, a special public hearing will be scheduled in September.

Regular Public Hearing

Public commentary can also be submitted through the Board's regular monthly public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak at a public hearing must register by calling 412-529-3868. Dates for upcoming regular public hearings are August, 24, September 21, October 26, and November 23.

Public feedback can also be provided to the **Parent Hotline at 412-529-HELP.**

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