



# NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Superintendent Postpones Start of Para2Teacher Program to Seek New University Partner**

PITTSBURGH October 15, 2019 – Today, Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D., announced Pittsburgh Public Schools will postpone the start of its Para2Teacher Program as it seeks a new university partner in lieu of Grand Canyon University.

“We are committed to moving our Para2Teacher program forward. We remain steadfast in our efforts to increase the diversity of our teacher workforce and provide opportunities for our paraprofessionals to grow in their practice. However, concerns raised by District Solicitor Ira Weiss and information received after the October 1<sup>st</sup> presentation to the Board have convinced me that postponing the start of our program is the most prudent decision at this time,” said Superintendent Hamlet.

Most notably, the Solicitor cites Grand Canyon University’s lack of disclosure of existing litigation and the University’s relationships with for-profit affiliates.

Looking ahead, the Superintendent noted, “We will continue to pursue our program and will work non-stop this school year to develop an agreement with a regional partner that allows us to begin our first cohort next Fall. We welcome the continued support of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers and the Heinz Endowments in these efforts.”

Paraprofessionals, who applied for the first cohort of the program have been notified of the Superintendent’s decision.

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