

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

440 NORTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 301

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

WILLIAM R. HITE, JR., Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE (215) 400-4100
FAX (215) 400-4103

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VIA EMAIL AND HAND-DELIVERY

Honorable Darrell L. Clarke
President, City Council of Philadelphia
Room 494, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke:

I am writing to follow up on several topics raised in advance of and during City Council's hearing on The School District of Philadelphia's budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY18). We remain appreciative for the opportunity to share progress made and lessons we have learned throughout the past year. The following are those responses.

1. **Intended outcomes of PennAssist** - Will students get into jobs or apprenticeships without an additional test from unions through PennAssist?

PennAssist is a unique opportunity for Philadelphia youth to enter into an apprenticeship of a skilled building trade after completion of the School District's Career and Technical Education program. Over a 12-month period, students participate in an on-site job placement, receive skills training and one-on-one mentoring in hopes of removing any barrier to admittance into an apprenticeship.

Students who pass the apprentice test will join the union and continue employment in that building trade. Students who fail the test, or choose not to take a test within the 12-month period, will cease to be in the program, but can be assessed for other opportunities at Penn Medicine or referred to Philadelphia Works or Career Links for employment assistance.

2. **Green schoolyards criteria for selection schools** - What is the criteria for selecting schools and can we get an update on green schoolyards?

In August 2011, the School District of Philadelphia was contacted by the City of Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss an opportunity to create a unique partnership aimed at meeting goals established in the "Green 2015" Action Plan. One of the goals identified in the plan was to initiate a citywide schoolyard greening project in neighborhoods not well served by park space. Parks and Recreation introduced the School District to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national

nonprofit organization with extensive experience in building city parks, community gardens, and playgrounds across the country.

The School District, Parks & Recreation, and TPL began to engage in a series of meetings to discuss how to leverage resources to green District schoolyards. The team looked at several factors to identify a potential cohort of schools for this initiative. These factors included:

- School/site location (to ensure sites were equitably distributed across the city)
- Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) Storm water Analysis (PWD has identified watershed boundaries that would qualify for storm water credits) Existing Site Conditions (size of schoolyard and area available for construction)
- Existing Community Partnerships/Levels of Engagement (For TPL it was important that the immediate surrounding community was supportive of the project and willing to commit to the renovated site's long term care)
- Proximity to City Recreation Centers
- Principal Tenure/School Willingness to Participate in Partnership (schools had to demonstrate how they would integrate the TPL design process into the school day and curriculum. Schools that have had their Principal in the building for 3 yrs. or more were prioritized).

3. Capital Improvement Projects. Can you provide examples of capital improvement projects at schools?

There is a capital improvement project that began at Dobbins High School. This project will drastically improve the conditions of classrooms and hallways as well as provide employment opportunities for CTE students. The community, alumni, parents, staff and students have all been a part of these renovation plans and the timeline around completion.

Additionally, work on the new Media Lab at Overbrook High School will begin this summer. We have informed alumni, staff, students and parents as well as shared copies of the architect's design.

4. Camelot School and Special Needs - How many students in Camelot Schools have Special Needs?

There are four Camelot schools with a total enrollment of 1,157 students and 131 special education students. This is 11.3% of the student population in Camelot schools that are considered special need students.

5. Total number of charter schools in Philadelphia and their stranded costs - What is the total number of charter schools in Philadelphia compared to the rest of the state? What are stranded costs for renaissance vs traditional charter schools?

There are 180 Charter Schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia has 88 of those Charter Schools.

In 2015, the School Reform Commission contracted with Afton Partners to update the stranded cost analysis, look at school funding within the District, and how Philadelphia public schools use the funds they receive. The report was designed to be a financial analysis of the impact of charter schools and it does not address the academic performance or legal compliance of charter schools.

According to the Afton report, regular Charter stranded costs are about \$4,824 (per student?); Ren Charter stranded costs are about \$1,688 per student. For additional information, please visit the School District's website to access the full Report:

https://webapps.philasd.org/news-files/pr-files/20170306_SDP_Summary_Outcomes.pdf

6. Maintenance of Effort relating to school playgrounds - PENDING. We have not gotten a final answer on this question and are continuing to get a definitive response.

7. Non-Philadelphia residents attending District schools - How many students from outside of the city are attending public schools and paying tuition?

SDP Non-Resident Students

There are 41 total students in 24 district run schools.

School Name and Reason	Counts
202 CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS	7
School Choice-Tuition Pay	7
120 BARRY, COMM. JOHN SCHOOL	4
Foster Care	4
640 WIDENER MEMORIAL SCHOOL	3
Children with specialized disabilities. (SDP bills home district for tuition)	3
253 PHILA JUV JUSTICE SVCS CTR	3
Court Placement-State Reimbursed	3
625 HENRY, CHARLES W. SCHOOL	2
Foster Care	2
123 BRYANT, WILLIAM C. SCHOOL	2
Unknown	2
144 PENROSE SCHOOL	2
Foster Care	2
403 H.S. OF ENGINEERING & SCIENCE	2
Foster Care	1
Unknown	1
200 SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
621 EDMONDS, FRANKLIN S. SCHOOL	1
Unknown	1

727 FINLETTER, THOMAS K. SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
803 WASHINGTON, GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
149 BLANKENBURG, RUDOLPH SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
820 ALLEN, ETHAN SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
720 BARTON, CLARA SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
856 THE WORKSHOP SCHOOL	1
School Choice-Tuition Pay	1
731 FELTONVILLE INTERMEDIATE	1
Foster Care	1
102 WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL	1
Homeless-Unaccompanied Youth	1
804 ARTS ACADEMY AT RUSH	1
School Choice-Tuition Pay	1
428 GOMPERS, SAMUEL SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
854 PENNYPACK HOUSE SCHOOL	1
Court Placement-State Reimbursed	1
432 LAMBERTON, ROBERT E. SCHOOL	1
Foster Care	1
544 WILLARD, FRANCES E. SCHOOL	1
Unknown	1
601 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	1
School Choice-Tuition Pay	1
Grand Total	41

Reasons non-resident students enrolled in School District schools are as follows:

- a. School Choice-Parent Pays Tuition (10 students)
- b. Foster Care – placed by Philadelphia DHS in a home outside the city (18 students)
- c. Homeless (McKinney Vento Act) – homeless (1 student)
- d. Delinquent Court Placement (Pennypack House, Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Center) (4 students)
- e. Children with disabilities in Specialized School (Widener) (3 students)

f. Unknown Reason (5 students - additional research pending)

Changes since May 18, 2017

The parents of the student attending Masterman presented documentation proving they moved into the city and are now residents.

8. Building Sales - Total school sales completed or currently on the market?

SOLD	29
AOS - Agreement of Sale	1
Vacant - Listed w/ Flynn Co.	7
Demo	1
TOTAL	38 (\$74.525M)

School Name	Address	Zip Code	Date Closed	Status	Date Sold
Alcorn Annex	1325-49 S. 33rd Street	19146	6/30/11	Sold	1/6/15
Beeber Wynnfield Annex	1818 N. 53rd Street	19131	6/30/05	Vacant	Listed-Flynn
Bok, Edward	1901 S. 9th Street	19148	6/30/13	Sold	7/7/15
Carroll, Charles	2826 Salmon Street	19134	6/30/13	Sold	5/19/17
Childs, George	1501 S. 17th St	19146	6/30/10	SOLD	2/5/15
Clemente, Roberto (old)	3921-61 N. 5th Street	19140	9/20/16	SOLD	9/21/16
Communications Tech	2900 S 81st Street	19153	6/30/13	Vacant	Listed-Flynn

Douglas, Stephen	2700 E. Huntington Street	19125	6/30/13	Sold	6/10/14
Drew, Charles	1183 N. 38th Street	19104	6/30/12	Sold	6/16/14
Fairhill	2800-62 N 6th Street	19133	6/30/13	Vacant	Listed-Flynn
Fels, Samuel	1001 W. Devereaux Avenue	19111	6/30/13	Vacant	DEMO
FitzSimons, Thomas	2601-31 W. Cumberland St.	19132	6/30/13	AOS	Listed-Flynn
Fulton, Robert	56-86 E. Haines Street	19144	6/30/13	Sold	5/19/17
Germantown	5901-41 Germantown Ave.	19144	6/30/13	Sold	5/19/17
Gillespie, Elizabeth	3901-61 N. 18th Street	19140	6/30/10	Sold	4/30/15
Harrison, William	1012 W. Thompson Street	19122	6/30/12	Sold	6/10/14
Jones (Annex) Maisland	Amber & Willard Streets	19134	6/30/10	Sold	4/7/14
Leidy, Joseph	1301-59 Belmont Avenue	19104	6/30/13	Sold	1/9/15
Lewis, Ada	6199 Ardleigh Street	19138	6/30/07	Vacant	Listed-Flynn
Monroe Annex	427 Monroe Street	19148	6/30/10	Sold	10/7/13
Muhr, Simon	3150 Germantown Avenue	19133	6/30/09	Sold	1/31/14
Peirce, William	2400 Christian Street	19146	6/30/07	Vacant	Listed-Flynn

Penn, William	1301 N. Broad Street	19122	6/30/12	Sold	6/30/14
Pepper, George	2801 S. 84th Street	19153	6/30/13	Vacant	Listed-Flynn
Reynolds, John	2300-52 Jefferson Street	19121	6/30/13	Sold	10/22/15
Shaw, Anna	5500 Warrington Avenue	19143	6/30/13	Sold	6/2/14
Sheridan West Academy	3701 Frankford Avenue	19124	6/30/13	Sold	8/15/16
Smith, Walter	1300 S. 19th Street	19146	6/30/13	Sold	5/19/17
Stanton, M. Hall	1523-49 W. Cumberland St.	19132	6/30/13	Sold	4/4/06
University City	3601 Filbert Street	19104	6/16/13	Sold	6/16/14
Vare, Abigail	1619 E. Moyamensing Ave.	19148	6/30/13	Sold	5/19/17
Vaux, Robert	2300 W. Master Street	19121	6/30/13	Sold	5/18/17
Walnut Center	3/25 Warren Street	19104	6/30/13	Sold	6/16/14
Walton, Rudolph	2601-31 N. 28th Street	19132	6/30/05	Sold	10/22/15
West Philly HS	4700 Walnut St.	19139	6/30/11	Sold	2/19/05
Whittier, John	2600 W Clearfield Street	19132	6/30/13		Listed-Flynn
Willard, Frances (old)	1920 E. Orleans Street	19134	6/30/10	Sold	9/21/16

Wilson, Alexander	1300 S. 46th Street	19143	6/30/13	Sold	7/9/15
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9. Course offerings in financial literacy - Yes. We will expand offerings in financial literacy in our curriculum. Chris Shaffer, Deputy Chief of Academic Supports, will work with Councilman Domb's coalition to analyze school readiness for implementation and we will work with the team from the Federal Reserve to outline the content.

10. Nurse ratio - What is the student to nurse ratio?

There is an average of 1 nurse for every 725 District students.

11. Improving Trauma Informed Care - What is your comprehensive strategy to improve trauma informed care and better integration with CBH?

To ensure that every child has a successful school experience, the School District of Philadelphia collaborates with the Department of Behavioral Health, the Department of Human Services, and all of their providers to create a continuum of behavioral health services and supports. Today, 40 elementary and middle schools are implementing Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems (PBIS). PBIS handles school-wide discipline with school-wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments.

Implementing PBIS is progress toward becoming a Trauma Informed School. By shifting mindsets on what motivates behavior, school-based staff will be better equipped to understand, recognize, and respond to students experiencing social/emotional suffering.

Currently, we are refining an evidence-based trauma informed care model that will be tailored to schools and their specific needs. Until then, we continue to offer professional development in areas such as understanding teens, understanding anger and essential communication skills to all school-based staff.

12. ICE entering Philadelphia Schools - Will the SRC introduce policy regarding ICE officials entering schools?

Commissioners will not take formal action on this request. The SRC continues to support Dr. Hite and the District in their efforts to support students, teachers, and families. The School District of Philadelphia remains committed to protecting the rights of all students including, documented, undocumented, new Americans, and multi-generation Americans. Our schools will remain safe havens for many students who seek support, advice, direction, and refuge.

Additional meeting requests:

A. **Can you explain best practices on using best value within procurement?** A meeting has been scheduled with Councilman Green and Chief of Operations Fran Burns and her team for June 21st on the topic of best practices on using best value within procurement.

B. **Provide examples of capital improvement projects @ schools and information provided to public?** A meeting is scheduled with Councilman Green and Chief of Operations Fran Burns and her team for June 16th to provide examples of school communities are engaged prior to, during and after completion of capital improvement projects at schools.

C. **What are leading indicators for year-to-year SPR movement for schools in the 7th District?** There is a meeting tentatively scheduled with Councilman Bobby Henon, Chief for District Evaluation, Research and Accountability, Dr. Tonya Wofford and Network 9 Assistant Superintendent Dr. Richard Rhodes on June 15th to discuss leading indicators for year-to-year SPR movement for schools in the 7th District.

The School District has a clear vision. Our Anchor Goals in Action Plan 3.0 lay out an unyielding focus on early literacy; improving academic growth for stronger college and career readiness; supporting principals and teachers who can bring out the best in our students; and working to ensure our finances are stable and fiscally responsible. Our continued partnership with City Council is vital to creating great schools within Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.

WRH/dpw

cc: Members of the School Reform Commission