

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Bryce W. Bayer [REDACTED]
Subject : Board Comments
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

Fri, Jan 21, 2022 09:43 PM



WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

Bryce Bayer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Bryce Bayer and I'm an educator, a public health worker, and a member of Resource Generation. Now more than ever, we need to protect and care for our school communities. I stand in solidarity with students, parents, teachers, staff as they demand safe and healthy places to learn and work.

*In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. **We receive mixed messages about when our students need to go home and isolate and when they can return.** We get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving us with little time to plan. **We don't know if our students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.***

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working.** But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, **our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

- 1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols*
- 2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools*
- 3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school*
- 4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members*

*[*further details on each demand*](#)*

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening

COVID-19 pandemic. *Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet [the district's current health and safety plan](#) was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.*

Sincerely,

Bryce Bayer

--

Bryce W. Bayer
pronouns: she/her
call or text: [REDACTED]

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Claire Fondrie-Teitler [REDACTED]
Subject : Board Comments
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 09:34 PM



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Claire Fondrie-Teitler
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Claire Fondrie-Teitler and I am a community member.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. They receive mixed messages about when students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. They get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving them with little time to plan. They don't know if students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols (criteria to return after period or remote instruction, who will administer covid-19 tests, criteria for school closing with sufficient notice to families and teachers)
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools (up to date tracking of cases and cleanings, thresholds for school closure or shift to remote instruction, inform students when close contacts test positive)
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks (KN95 or N95s), provided for free to all students & school staff members
5. Vaccine clinics in schools
6. No penalty for non-attendance due to fear of risk of COVID

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet the district's current health and safety plan was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Thank you.

January 23, 2022

TO: The Philadelphia Board of Education

FROM: Jane Uptegrove, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Board Comments

I am writing today to urge you to enact the district-wide Voter Education and Registration Policy guaranteeing that all eligible Philadelphia public school students are informed of their voting rights and given the opportunity to become registered voters. Not only would this program bring more voters to the polls, but it would help students learn and understand how candidates and ballot questions impact their daily lives.

There has been no testimony *against* such a policy. In fact, over many years, city leaders, civil rights activists, and students have testified *in support* of such a regulation. A “Yes” vote on this matter would demonstrate to all students that the Board listens to these concerns and supports them to become fully-engaged, voting Philadelphians.

The youth of our city are on the front lines of the city-wide issues and risks of our time, including education funding, safe neighborhoods, job training, minimum wage rates, tobacco and firearms regulation, and access to health care and quality child-care programs. We need their involvement to work toward solutions. Enacting the Voter Education and Registration Policy would be a powerful way for their voices to be heard.

We know that civics classes have disappeared from school curricula across the country. Small wonder that our numbers of voters have also declined. The Voter Education and Registration Policy is a slam-dunk for re-energizing civics education and civic involvement in our city. There is no down-side.

I do not understand why the Board has not enacted this program already. We know that democracy is under attack in our country. We need to educate our youth and support them to be voters while we have a chance. This is not for one person, but for the well-being of our city and our country. Inaction from the Board is a no-vote. In the words of Eldridge Cleaver, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." This is an urgent concern. Can you explain to me why this is a bad idea? I cannot see how or why.

In closing, please consider how universal suffrage among eligible students protects our democracy. The proposed non-partisan voter education and registration policy is a guardrail in preventing mis-information and false narratives from influencing these future voters' choices on the ballot and in their lives.

Sincerely,

Jane Uptegrove

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Emma Cohen Westbrooke [REDACTED] Sun, Jan 23, 2022 09:37 PM
Subject : Board Comments 
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

Emma Cohen-Westbrooke
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Emma Cohen-Westbrooke and I am a community member and teacher in the Philadelphia community.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. They receive mixed messages about when students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. They get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving them with little time to plan. We don't know if our students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. **As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety do not matter.**

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

Updated plans and quarantining protocols

Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools

Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school

Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

[*further details on each demand*](#)

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet the district's [current health and safety plan](#) was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Warm regards,

--

Emma Cohen Westbrooke

My pronouns are: she/her/hers

Want to learn more about pronouns and why they matter? [Click here!](#)

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Mallika Bender [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 09:47 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

Mallika Bender
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Mallika Bender and I am a family member of students attending Philadelphia public schools.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. We receive mixed messages about when our students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. We get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving us with little time to plan. We don't know if our students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet [the district's current health and safety plan](#) was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Mallika Bender

mallika.bender@gmail.com

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Public Testimony: Councilor and Social Worker Funding

From : Maggie Reeder-Thornton
[REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 08:15 PM

**Subject :** Public Testimony: Councilor and Social Worker Funding**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Hello! I am a Philadelphia community member and educational researcher, and I am asking you to make the decision to fund all counselors and social workers in our Philadelphia public schools from the central budget rather than force principals to allocate them from their individual school budgets.

You state you are aware of the challenging social and emotional tolls this pandemic has caused our children, yet we don't see much meaningful action that could help schools, students and families move forward together. If it is important that students be in school buildings (and we believe that it is) then it is equally as important that they get the care they need to support them in those buildings.

When you believe the oft-repeated prevarication that "principals can choose what positions to fund", you give into a half-truth that shades over the real situation of school budgets: principals have impossible choices to make, (as our CASA siblings note last year), and those impossible choice are there because you fail in your obligation to give all schools what they need.

In your hearts you know that budgets are moral documents, but you resist thinking of them that way because—if you did—the truth would be laid bare: you value some school communities more than you value others, you value furniture and computer testing programs more than you value giving tangible help to children.

If we have mistaken or misunderstood your intentions, please make that clear by making adequate (not bare bones) numbers of counselors and social workers available to all schools from the centrally allocated budget.

Very sincerely,
Maggie Reeder-Thornton

--

Maggie Reeder-Thornton, Ph.D.

Check out CHS's classroom projects: <https://www.donorschoose.org/school/charlottesville-high-school/34678/?teachers=true>
she/her/hers ([What is this?](#))

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 24, 2022 04:41 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

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ILIANA PAGÁN
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Iliana Pagán and I am a parent of twins in 5th grade at Penn Alexander School. I am very upset at having to send my kids to our school in spite of there being 50 covid cases in the last 2 weeks. I am terrified and angry to think that we will only shift to virtual if 7 more students or staff get sick! 57 sick people would be 10% of the school, to cross the increased threshold to virtual learning. I am aghast that instead of preventing any more kids and teachers from getting sick, we are waiting for more of them to become infected before taking the safer virtual option.

A week ago our kids received a covid close-contact letter. Their whole class got the letter. When we asked our school nurse if they would test the students in the class that had been exposed to covid, she said that unfortunately there were not enough tests to do that! All vaccinated kids were expected to return to a class that had been exposed to covid without any testing whatsoever, without knowing how many other children were infected! This is so unsafe. Especially since only 15% of children aged 5-11 in Philadelphia have been vaccinated. While my kids are vaccinated, I still don't want to risk them getting covid because of incorrect or outdated school covid policy.

With 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school

4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

[*further details on each demand*](#)

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet [the district's current health and safety plan](#) was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. School cases keep rising but we got a school district phone call saying everything is getting better, what a disconnect from reality.

Please listen to school nurses and school teachers when they ask to go virtual for a few weeks until the Omicron surge has passed.

Sincerely,

Iliana Pagán

--

Dr. Iliana Pagán

Associate Professor of Languages and Cultures

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

<https://wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/languagesCultures/iPagan.aspx>

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Lindsay McCormick [REDACTED] Tue, Jan 25, 2022 01:42 AM
Subject : Board Comments 
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Lindsay McCormick
[REDACTED]

Dear Board Members,

My name is Lindsay McCormick and I am a community member.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. It is clear, with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers, and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philly's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students and school staff members

Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet the district's current health and safety plan was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Thank you,
Lindsay

Zimbra**[REDACTED]@philasd.org**

Board Comments

From : Yannatos, Isabel [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 24, 2022 05:27 PM

Subject : Board Comments **To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

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Isabel Yannatos



Dear Board members,

As a community member in the school district of Philadelphia, I am very concerned about the District's lack of a coherent and functional COVID response plan. The district's health and safety plan has not been revised since August, despite drastic changes in the COVID-19 situation and community spread of the omicron variant. As a health researcher, I see a clear need for schools to update their policies to be transparent, consistent, and stringent. It is also clear that we need to be providing more resources towards protecting the health of students, educators, and families.

I echo demands from the community to:

1. *Update plans and quarantining protocols*
2. *Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools*
3. *Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school*
4. *Increase testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members*


It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. There is no acceptable level of illness or death in our school community due to COVID-19. It is past time for decisive action.

Sincerely,
Isabel Yannatos

--

She/her

PhD candidate, Neuroscience Graduate Group, University of Pennsylvania
Bioinformatics in Neurodegenerative Disease (BiND) Lab
Lenni-Lenape land, Philadelphia PA



Zimbra**[REDACTED]@philasd.org**

Action Items 20, 21 and 22

From : Horace Clouden [REDACTED]
Subject : Action Items 20, 21 and 22
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

Mon, Jan 24, 2022 04:40 PM

  3 attachments

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Here are written testimony for three action Items.
See attached.
Thankyou
Horace Clouden
PCAC

 **Vaux action item 20.docx**
20 KB

 **Access and Equity action item 21.docx**
23 KB

 **Sayre pool action item 22.docx**
22 KB

Horace Clouden

Monday, January 23, 2022

Subject: Action Item – 21 Vote No duplication of services preform by School District

To: Board of Education

Action Item 21

Board of Education Meeting Date: 1/27/2022

Action Item - 21.

Title: Contracts with Various Vendors - Access and Equity Supports (\$2,800,000)

Board of Education Meeting Date: 1/27/2022

Action under consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform a contract, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Steppingstone Scholars

UnboundEd

Purpose:

To provide equity-based professional development and in school student supports

Start date: 1/28/2022

End date: 6/30/2025

Compensation not to exceed: \$2,800,000

Separate Compensation by Vendor:

All entities will be paid out of the aggregate amount not to exceed \$2,800,000.

Location:

All Schools; Administrative Office(s)

Renewal Options: Yes

Number of Options: 2

Duration of each option to extend: Years: 1 Months:

Maximum compensation authorized per option period: 110% of first year amount

Description:

In alignment with Board of Education Guardrail 4: Addressing Racist Practices and the District's Statement on Anti Racism, the District has identified a need for support in building an infrastructure of equity across the District with a focus on increasing the number of our most marginalized students who are eligible to attend criteria-based schools.

The two vendors were identified through a RFQ process and both have demonstrated ability to (a) advance learning around dismantling institutional bias, (b) provide pathways for active outreach and recruitment, and (c) support the retention, graduation/promotion of students with diverse backgrounds in criteria-based schools. Additionally, both organizations have demonstrated the ability to provide yearlong support to cohorts of students, teachers, and school leaders while building capacity and providing culturally responsive professional development opportunities, including but not limited to coaching and

feedback sessions, and/or affinity groups or caucuses.

There are four Key Areas of Focus in our approach:

1. Create integrated models of high school prep enrichment for students from underserved communities focused on increasing the number of underserved, socioeconomic communities at criteria based schools.
2. Work in collaboration with the Office of Academics to create supplemental programming to assist with the acclimation of attending a criteria-based school.
3. Work in collaboration with District program offices to provide professional development that supports school leaders, teachers, and students in dismantling institutional biases in schools.
4. Provide success and inclusion based tools and practices to develop and amplify District expertise in partnership with District program offices. This focus will provide District personnel with dedicated support aligned with the Board of Education's guardrail number four. The model will support District-wide services and expertise to support equity-based teaching, learning, and school climate improvement.

The success of this project will be measured by the assessment and progress monitoring tools that are developed as part of this work, in addition to the District's progress toward the indicators outlined in Guardrail 4:

- Indicator 4.1: Among 8th grade students who are qualified to attend Special Admission High Schools, the percentage who are Black/African American or Hispanic/Latinx will grow from 33.8% in August 2020 to at least 52.0% (making progress towards being proportional to population as a whole) by August 2026.
- Indicator 4.2: The percentage of suspensions received by Black/African American students will decrease from 72.6% in August 2020 to no more than 48.3% (proportional to population as a whole) by August 2026.

To the Board:

Below is a list (2018-2019) of your Special Admits/Criteria Base Schools. By looking at the list, 17 out of 20 are at an F per the academic scale. To pay close to \$3 million dollars to improve admission to a failing school is pointless - any school fewer than 60% Achievement ("F" academically).

It doesn't make sense for students to have to fit a criteria to get into a failing school. It seems your jumping over and not identifying the real problem.

Indicator 4.1. The Board should have the District check into the policies and procedures of these programs. Also the Board in previous meetings heard from the Chief Safety Officer that they would decrease the numbers of in- school suspensions stated in the indicator 4.2 a duplication in school operation.

School Name	Student pop.	Teacher attd.	Teacher observation	Student attd.	Climate	Progress	Achievement	SPR
Central High School	2405	82%/81%	62%/38%	85%/86%	91%/90%	97%/71%	96%/95%	95%/85% (SA)
Masterman	463	73%/69%	70%/30%	92%/87%	92%/88%	51%/54%	100%/100%	78%/78% (SA)
Engineer & Science	822	85%/83%	74%/26%	77%/77%	92%/92%	84%/76%	72%/75%	82%/80% (SA)
Girard Acad. Music	264	68%/66%	37%/63%	63%/69%	82%/87%	60%/64%	62%/59%	68%/70% (SA)
Science Leadership Acad. C.C.		66%/81%	23%/73%	70%/65%	93%/89%	49%/29%	59%/55%	65%/57% (SA)
Acad. at Polumbo	1066	80%/90%	43%/57%	74%/68%	93%/93%	68%/68%	66%/51%	74%/69% (SA)
Parkway C.C.	499	72%/65%	17%/83%	55%/51%	75%/72%	73%/58%	34%/50%	61%/61% (SA)
Phila. H.S. for Girls	856	63%/47%	63%/38%	61%/53%	85%/69%	85%/84%	48%/46%	61%/61% (SA)
CAPA	751	63%/69%	12%/79%	82%/75%	93%/87%	35%/27%	46%/32%	55%/46% (SA)
Arts Acad. at Benj. Rush	621	76%/87%	20%/80%	68%/68%	86%/92%	27%/32%	46%/49%	52%/56% (SA)
Bodine	541	75%/70%	42%/58%	64%/60%	88%/83%	29%/48%	29%/48%	46%/55% (SA)
Hill-Freeman Wrld.	422	63%/62%	5%/93%	69%/64%	86%/86%	43%/68%	33%/38%	50%/58% (SA)

Acad.

Lankkenau	357	89%/65%	0%/100%	53%/64%	79%/89%	85%/77%	9%/16%	58%/63% (SA)
Franklin Learning Ctr 968		52%/50%	4%/96%	58%/49%	82%/70%	54%/70%	21%/20%	48%/52% (SA)
SLA-Beeber	496	79%/73%	36%/64%	76%/66^	85%/84%	54%/47%	33%/23%	55%/50% (SA)
Saul	497	75%/73%	0%/100%	57%/34%	79%/59%	23%/24%	10%/7%	35%/31% (SA)
Motivation	417	54%/64%	0%/71%	68%/78%	82%/83%	23%/39%	3%/8%	30%/38% (SA)
Parkway N.W.	277	67%/50%	8%/92%	54%/64%	74%/82%	21%/22%	3%/1%	28%/33% (SA)
Parkway West	335	78%/57%	5%/95%	51%51%	66%/72%	10%/52%	5%/8%	21%/40% (SA)

Stop throwing good money after bad. These are internal problems which the administration has to do a better job. The name was changed, I believe, from Special Admit to Criteria Base because of the number of schools that aren't producing academically. Again the Star Assessment does not support School Board policy 101 like what is shown here. Vote **NO**. The District has to do a better job with their Criteria Base schools before making an effort to increase the numbers of admission.

Respectfully,

Horace Clouden

West Philadelphia Parent and Community Advisory Council Representative

Horace Clouden

Monday, January 23, 2022

Subject: Action Item – 20 To consider a co-location with Constitution High School

To: Board of Education

Action Item 20

Board of Education Meeting Date: 1/27/2022

Action Item - 20.

Title: Contract with Big Picture Philadelphia- Vaux Big Picture High School (\$21,000,000)

Board of Education Meeting Date: 1/27/2022

Action under consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform a contract, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Big Picture Philadelphia

Purpose:

To continue management and operation of educational programming for up to 500 students at Vaux Big Picture High School

Start date: 7/1/2022

End date: 6/30/2025

Compensation not to exceed: \$21,000,000

Location:

Vaux High School - Big Picture

Renewal Options: Yes

Number of Options: 1

Duration of each option to extend: Years: 2 Months:

Maximum compensation authorized per option period: \$14,000,000

Description:

Vaux Big Picture High School (BPHS), a school in The School District of Philadelphia's Innovation Network, opened in September of 2017 as the City of Philadelphia's first public, neighborhood contract school. In 2016, Members of the School Reform Commission authorized the School District to enter into a contract with Big Picture Philadelphia (BPP) for its program, based on selection from the competitive process: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 143. Vaux BPHS is managed by Big Picture Philadelphia through a four-way contract with the School District, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. The current contract term with the School District is December 16, 2016-June 30, 2022.

This contract is needed to continue educating students through innovative learning models. Vaux BPHS's educational model is designed to engage students through small class sizes, an advisory model, student-centered project-based learning, and real-world internships. Students at Vaux BPHS are drawn primarily from the Sharswood community. Authorization of this

contract allows the School District to keep its commitment of providing a quality system with fresh and innovative models and options. Vaux BPHS's educational model aligns with the District's plan to achieve Goals and Guardrails as articulated below:

To The Board:

This is an opportunity to co-locate Constitution High School with Vaux BPHS. You can use lease fees and operation cost from Constitution HS of up to \$2 Million to help support compensation with Vaux (BPHD). In return, you can use space at Vaux a school that has a capacity for over 1000 students.

Constitution HS currently has 394 students. ***High School students can travel anywhere in the city. The building was sold for \$2 million dollars in 2017.***

School Name	Student pop.	Teacher attd.	Teacher observation	Student attd.	Climate	Progress	Achievement	SPR
Vaux BP HS	258	80%	No Data	21%	40%	23%	0%	19%
Constitution	394	81%/86%	6%/94%	60%/49%	79%/70%	47%/65%	14%/13%	46%/50% (CW)

I must remind the Board of Education about policy 101

101 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Purpose: The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students have access to high quality academic instruction in safe, supportive, and welcoming schools. Authority: The school board has the authority to annually assess individual public school quality and performance and establish a process to identify schools that require support, prioritize school improvement efforts, and provide students, families, and the public with information to compare school quality and performance across the district.[1][2][3][4][5] Therefore, it shall be the policy of the District to establish an accountability tool to annually assess school quality, performance, and school environment. The accountability tool shall be used to identify and celebrate successes, strategically focus resources for the greatest impact, track student group progress and school performance against district goals, and provide students, families, and the public with the ability to compare school quality and performance across the district. It shall also be the policy of the District to establish a process to evaluate school quality and performance to prioritize areas needing interventions and supports, enable evidence-based decisions about school intervention, support continual school improvement and efficient operation, and make recommendations to ensure the greatest access to high quality opportunities. The school assessments and interventions shall be consistent with federal and state laws and rules as designed and implemented by the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania. Delegation of Responsibility The Superintendent or designee shall establish an accountability tool to annually evaluate individual school quality and performance, identify schools for priority action, create academic improvement plans, and publish information to provide students, families, and the public with information to compare school quality and performance across the district.[6][7]

There is no accountability for school year 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 as it relates to policy 101. Vaux (BPHS) is starting off with 0% in achievement for 2018-2019 does this fall in line with the Board's Goal and Guardrails? Your Star Assessment does not fall in line with policy 101. How can the Board know if Vaux (BPHS) meets any of the Goals and Guardrail?

Respectfully,

Horace Clouden

West Philadelphia Parent and Community Advisory Council Representative

Horace Clouden

Monday, January 23, 2022

Subject: Action Item – 22 To add additional text to the description to be considered and vote yes

To: Board of Education

Action Item - 22.

Title: William L Sayre High School Pool Project (\$10,000,000) - Added 1.12.22

Board of Education Meeting Date: 1/27/2022

Action under consideration

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform one or more contracts, subject to funding, as follows:

With: Contractors to be determined through a public advertisement and competitive procurement process

Purpose: Request for additional capital funding of \$10M for the William L Sayre High School Pool Project

Start Date: 8/15/2022

End Date: 6/1/2023

Compensation not to exceed: TBD pending procurement process

Location(s):

Sayre, William L. High School

Description:

This action item is seeking approval of additional capital funding to increase the scope of work for the William L Sayre High School Pool Building Project. The Capital Budget for FY22 was approved and adopted at the May 27, 2021 Board Meeting. The budget included a roof replacement project at the William L. Sayre High School Pool for \$775,000.

Additional scope and budget requests have been received to expand the pool building project to include the following: a new roof, structural repairs, electrical, and fire alarm upgrades, mechanical and ventilation improvements, new exterior doors, new lighting, and bathroom renovations. The additional scope request is estimated to be in the range of \$9-\$10M and would require a minimum of \$8,725,000-\$9,725,000 of additional capital funding to cover the additional project request.

To The Board:

As a former Building Engineer, stationed at Sayre Recreation Center for five years, I'm well versed on the needs of the facility. I also attended a site visit a few months ago to gain further insight into what may also be needed to improve Sayre Recreation Center. In addition to the items mention in the description, I believe what is also needed is for the pool:

1. To be resurface and painted.
2. The diving boards need to be replaced.
3. New chemical pumps for the pool.
4. Cleaning equipment for the pool.
5. New interior lighting in the pool area.
6. Shower renovations
7. Pool chair lift for special needs children and adults.

The rest of the building:

1. The main office space on the first floor be redesign to accommodate two offices

2. *If it could fit into the budget, an elevator located on the north wall of the building or a chair lift to accommodate a wheelchair accessibility to the second floor.

❖ In a previous meeting, Chief Operating Officer had responded to a question with - “It’s understood that things are considered”.

The above items are too many to be considered and not be listed in the description of the action item.
If the Board chooses to have these things implemented, could these things be added to the **written** description.

This pool is vital to the **School Community** and the **Community** at large. They and we have been waiting for over four years to bring this pool back in operation. Please vote **YES** for this action Item.

Respectfully,

Horace Clouden

West Philadelphia Parent and Community Advisory Council Representative

Action Item 22 **vote yes**

In response to the Board of Education **line-of-questioning** in regards to Sayre
Recreation Center/Pool

1. Why are we doing this project at this time?

The community has been waiting approximately five years beginning with Fran Burns the Chief Operating Officer and continuing with Danielle Floyd. Both chiefs in office approved for the work to be done. Reference below.

Funding source(s):

Capital Funding \$775,000

TBD Funding -\$8,725,000- 9,725,000

Related Resolution(s) /approval(s):

May, 27, 2021; A-2

2. Will the pool be used for programming?

We hope that the District will utilize the unique opportunity to create a true relationship/partnership with the community. In the past, Sayre recreation programming consisted of Life Guard Training, Aqua aerobics (students up to seniors), Philadelphia High School swim team (SLA Beeber) Diving, Swim Lessons (all ages), Family swim, Water therapy plus other programming for the rest of the facility such First Aid Recue Breathing and CPR and after school programs such as Martial Arts, Gymnastics , Civil Air Patrol (intergenerational).

3. Do we have the additional funds to support the operations of the pool?

No additional funds are needed because the current building engineer is licensed to run and operate the pool at no additional cost and currently is staffed at the location. When it pertains to maintenance, the pool comes under the school district work order system like any other facility.

4. Why is this a stand alone item given the anticipated larger comprehensive plan?

The community is requesting immediate action because of the neglect that has been allowed to occur for years, by the school district. Please don't hold the community

hostage by the district willful neglect. Things have been approved, like the roof and other things pre covid but the work was never done and the money was there.

7. Are other pool sites currently operating at this time

The other locations mentioned are not in the catchment area of **Sayre Pool** which has **37 schools and the Community**. The pools mentioned, one is in the **far Northeast and far North Philadelphia**. There is nothing in the West Philadelphia area. Where is the **equity and equality in that?**

We the community recognizes that the district is finally taking ownership through this action item and we hope, with **your approval**, the work will get done. We also acknowledge that the scope of work need to change and reflect what I, Horace Clouden , sent to you in my written testimony. Once again, a few things can be handle through the district in the maintenance department at no cost only materials.

Our Community is deserving of the \$10 million for renovations especially at a time when you have, in that neighborhood 36 out of the 37 schools are operating at a F in Achievement. There is a direct correlation to achievement and crime. **Crime is at an all-time high across the city**. The city is calling out for **programs and interventions to deterred the violence**. The district response can't just be mental health supports. **Be the change in the landscape and narrative**.

Respectfully,

Horace Clouden

West Philadelphia Parent and Community Advisory Council Representative

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Amy Faulring [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 09:53 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

Amy Faulring
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Amy Faulring and I am a parent of two children at Powel Elementary.

The Board of Education and school district leadership's recent response to the spike of covid has been absolutely appalling. Families and school staff members dealt with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. We receive mixed messages about when our students need to go home and isolate and when they can return, and there were several times that we were informed after 8pm that school would switch to virtual the next day -- leaving us with little time to plan. To be clear: Our school administrators and teachers have done and continue to do amazing work.

It is entirely unclear if students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

Despite an unprecedented spike in covid cases, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

- Updated plans and quarantining protocols
- Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
- Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
- Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic.

Amy Faulring

--

Amy Faulring (she/hers)



Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Irene Lin [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 01:06 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

Dear Board members,

My name is Irene Lin (residence: [REDACTED]), and I have two young children at Sadie ("Penn") Alexander School. I want to start by saying that, at a time when the voices of families need to be heard more than ever, it's unacceptable that the Board changed the speaker policy to reduce the number of voices heard at its monthly meetings.

I am once again dismayed by the School District's haphazard approach to this pandemic. We knew that omicron was coming since around Thanksgiving. Yet there appeared to be little or no planning for how to prepare our schools for the inevitable rise in cases. The reopening of schools after the winter break was a mess. Overall, I agreed with and appreciated the School District's goal of keeping as many schools/classrooms open as safely possible. But it was inevitable that some classrooms and schools would need to go virtual, and there was not enough transparency and information about how that was going to be determined, not enough notice given to families, and not enough resources provided to families who suddenly had to juggle their kids learning remotely again.

For schools like my kids', which has not had to close, the situation hasn't been much better. It's clear that the staff are strained and aren't given the tools they need -- enough tests, high-quality masks, and reliable information to pass on to families. It's been chaotic and stressful for all involved, not to mention dangerous. Where has the federal relief money gone, if not to prepare for situations like this? We should have stockpiled tests and masks, improved ventilation, and continued to consult with experts to keep our health and safety plans up to date with the latest science and developments. Our city is filled with such expertise - why have you not tapped it?

Now that we've been through the first month+ of omicron, it's time to learn from these repeated mistakes and equip our schools to handle the next variant or wave -- because there is no guarantee that this will be the last. We demand:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols that are easy to understand and follow for all people, with details and resources to back them up so people can actually follow them. These should be continually updated as circumstances require.
2. Transparency and communication around what's happening in schools (vague notifications about cases aren't enough -- indeed, they make matters worse sometimes).

3. Modern, functioning and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school (the bogus purifiers you wasted money on last year will do little to help and may actually make air quality worse, according to experts. There are cheaper and better alternatives!)
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, free and available to all students and staff who need/request them.
5. A stronger commitment to vaccination -- the vaccination rate among staff needs to be well above 90% (if city colleges and universities can do it, so can you), boosters should be heavily encouraged if not mandated for all who are eligible, and we need more vaccination clinics for students, plus trusted information about the benefits of vaccines to reach parents so they can understand the very low risk and very high reward of getting their kids vaccinated. Put some of that federal money to work educating folks and getting shots into arms.

It's time for the School District, the Board of Education, the Mayor, City Council, and the wealthy corporations and institutions in our city to step up on behalf of the students and staff at our public schools. They deserve to teach and learn in a healthy, safe environment free from preventable chaos and uncertainty around a virus we have been dealing with for almost 2 years now.

Thank you,
Irene

Zimbra

[REDACTED]r@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Andrea Moselle [REDACTED] Tue, Jan 25, 2022 05:05 PM
Subject : Board Comments 
To : schoolboard@philasd.org

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Andrea Moselle
[REDACTED]

Dear Board Members,

My name is Andrea Moselle and I am a grandparent, a retired child development specialist and parent educator and a long time community member who is active in school advocacy.

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic.

It's time to offer parents a lifeline after 2 years they are STILL trying to raise children and do their jobs to feed their families by not asking them to deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis from the District. **WHERE IS THE UPDATED PLAN FOR DEALING WITH COVID?**

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia to work with city government and the health department to make sure there are enough COVID tests available at each and every school to test students and staff, enough masks for all who need them, and nurses in every building. **WHERE ARE THE COVID TESTS, MASKS AND SCHOOL NURSES IN EVERY BUILDING?**

It's time for transparency and communication around what is happening in schools. Last minute closings, mixed messages about when students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. Questions about how children in Philadelphia school buildings can safely return from quarantine in 5 days to buildings lacking ventilation and modern, functioning, well-maintained HVAC systems? **WHERE ARE THE UP -TO - DATE QUARANTINING PROTOCOLS PARENTS NEED?**

It's time to do the right thing for the children, parents and staff in Philadelphia schools!

Sincerely,

Andrea Moselle

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Jamie Song [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 01:24 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Jamie Song, MPH
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Jamie and I am a concerned community member and public health advocate.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. We receive mixed messages about when our students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. We get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving us with little time to plan. We don't know if our students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet the district's current health and safety plan was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Sincerely,
Jamie Song

ASK: Fund all counselors and social workers centrally

As Racial Justice Organizing Committee, we are dedicated to the equitable funding of all our schools—not just the favored few. Therefore, we are asking you to make the decision to fund all counselors and social workers in our Philadelphia public schools from the central budget rather than force principals to allocate them from their individual school budgets.

You often state that you are aware of the challenging social and emotional tolls this pandemic has caused our children, yet we don't see much meaningful action that could help schools, students and families move forward together. If it is important that students be in school buildings (and we believe that it is) then it is equally as important that they get the care they need to support them in those buildings.

When you believe the oft-repeated prevarication that “principals can choose what positions to fund”, you give into a half-truth that shades over the real situation of school budgets: principals have impossible choices to make, (as our CASA siblings note last year), and those impossible choice are there because you fail in your obligation to give all schools what they need.

In your hearts you know that budgets are moral documents, but you resist thinking of them that way because—if you did—the truth would be laid bare: you value some school communities more than you value others, you value furniture and computer testing programs more than you value giving tangible help to children.

If we have mistaken or misunderstood your intentions, please make that clear by making adequate (not bare bones) numbers of counselors and social workers available to all schools from the centrally allocated budget.

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Christina Rosan [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 03:03 PM

Subject : Board Comments 1 attachment**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org**Cc :** Hannah Jane Sassaman

[REDACTED], Amy Faulring

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=====

Here is a petition Eli Munkelwitz (4th grade) collected of 3rd-5th graders at the Penn Alexander School.

Thank you,
Eli Munkelwitz

[REDACTED]

**vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe..pdf**4 MB

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments: Memorandum of Agreement with The Trustees of The University of Pennsylvania - Henry C. Lea School

From : Abby Reisman [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 03:52 PM

Subject : Board Comments: Memorandum of Agreement with The Trustees of The University of Pennsylvania - Henry C. Lea School**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Dear Members of the Board,

I'm writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the Memorandum of Agreement with The Trustees of The University of Pennsylvania - Henry C. Lea School.

I wear two hats with regard to this arrangement: I am a soon-to-be parent of a Lea student (my son will start kindergarten in the fall) and I am a PennGSE faculty member whose work focuses on teacher education, specifically in social studies.

As a parent, I am excited about what this agreement will mean in terms of increased support for teachers, additional staffing, and educational services for students. I see this commitment as a continuation of a long-standing partnership between Penn and the Henry C. Lea School.

As a teacher educator and former classroom teacher, I'm excited about what this partnership could mean for the preparation of future teachers, who are hungry for models of community-based schools that engage in project-based learning.

Though it's been no secret to anyone who's worked in schools, the past few years have laid bare the crises of school underfunding, and the extraordinary burdens that teachers and school leaders in underfunded schools must shoulder. Especially in this context, I find it difficult to understand how anyone could oppose this proposal for *this school*, while continuing to fight for equitable school funding more broadly.

Sincerely,
Abby Reisman
[REDACTED].

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Christina Rosan [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 02:40 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org**Cc :** Amy Faulring [REDACTED]

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.

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=====

Dear Philadelphia School Board,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern about the School District of Philadelphia's failure to protect our students, faculty, staff, and families from Covid-19.

I am a mother of 3 SDP children. I am immunocompromised so I have been very careful to protect myself and my family during Covid-19. My children are all vaccinated and I am boosted and vaccinated. However, when we returned from Winter break, my children were sent into an unsafe school environment without testing, proper masks, and a raging pandemic. Instead of allowing for a brief pause to get the virus under control, the SDP gave parents no choice but to send their kids into unsafe conditions. Almost day we received a Close Contact notice and sure enough after a week, my 10 year old had Covid. Then his twin sister and I got it. We are only recovering now. It was terrible and scary. I had to go on Paxlovid, an anti-viral, to avoid being hospitalized. I am only now regaining my strength more than a week later. It is absolutely outrageous that the SDP is not taking Covid-19 seriously. It is not the FLU and there are many immunocompromised families and unvaccinated families in the city. We need strategies to keep people safe. I want my kids to be in SAFE schools. I do not want other families to have to go through what we did! Who knows what the long-term impacts of Covid-19 are? I wanted to protect myself and my family, but the SDP made that impossible.

Now, please make a plan! Make sure everyone and their families are boosted and vaccinated. Get the right masks for everyone. Get asymptomatic testing. Invest in filtration and whatever else is needed to make schools safe. When schools are not safe, pivot to virtual. Offer hybrid options. Listen to parent/ family concerns, student concerns, principals, and faculty and staff. Be flexible! Don't threaten parents and students with truancy court when they are trying to protect themselves.

The pandemic is not over! Please prioritize our health in whatever way you can.

Sincerely,
Christina Rosan



This petition is for
your safety in this
community

! Save your community!

Sign this petition if you feel unsafe with the school conditions right now
and would like to have free, safe N95/KN95 masks, testing in schools,
vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

EMILY

JOSEPH

Hafsa Elrhazi

Celia Richman

Zaferra Alter

Khadija

Scarlett Munoz Arnold

Ava DiMartino

Lera Gantzy

Eli Sattler

Tommy Born

Isaac Aguirre

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Name

ASHER

Name

Charles Moore

Name

Zobara Tulant

Name

Eli Polich

Name

Zivah

Name

Hadasah

Name

Mitchell

Name

Brooklyn

Name

Ayaan

Name

Ida

Name

Cece

Name

Maya

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Name	Adrian Ralston
Name	Giulia Spafford
Name	Vy Truong
Name	Mohamed Comora
Name	Solomon Bellin
Name	Charlie Bellin
Name	Fury Beris*
Name	LOTELE
Name	Beatrice Bowers
Name	Flyas Rushdie
Name	Xavier Nix-kale
Name	Henry Mulcahy

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Name Ramatoulaye Barry

Name Ananya Kumar Quinn

Name Constantine Paschos

Name Sophia Gaines

Name Baya Schumanns

Name Lily Brimfield

Name Chadin Luo

Name Amelia Chapman

Name Sonya Suzanne Selfridge

Name Violet Mills

Name Emily Trenchard

Name Eve Devon

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Name

Amel Khabard

Name

E. Lallara Guzman

Name

Alexander Ojeda

Name

Leslie Garcia-Merino

Name

~~Heather Johnson~~ Heather Johnson

Name

Shirley J. Mendez

Name

Zoya Tevari

Name

Bella Diller

Name

~~Ryan Johnson~~ Ryan Johnson

Name

Stella Chen

Name

Zach Reed

Name

Drew Myers

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Name James Gray

Name Kareline Dieckmann

Name Targen Sultana

Name Gigi Skidmore

Name Irene Guzmán

Name Molly O'Brien

Name Imogen Budick

Name Mabel Kayser

Name Milo Hayes

Name Sara Belal Marcus

Name Emily Akhramova

Name Md Chowdhury

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vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

Name Josie McCallum

Name Alexander O'Keefe

Name Astin Negrete

Name Lucas Schiffman

Name [Signature]

Name Gabriela

Name Luca Bolander

Name St. C. Dennis-Butler

Name Sam W

Name David Golestani

Name Byron Scassano

Name Hannah Daniel

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Name Mich Miller-Bosse
Name Anya Murrelutz
Name Marie-Rose C. Scott
Name Leo Spenda
Name Matilda Miller-Bosse
Name Ian Erdman
Name Artina Mahoud
Name Benjamin Bosse
Name Brady O'Brien
Name Eddie Bendov
Name Naomi Silverman
Name Satya Levy-Stieb

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community

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Name

Zoe Shorrock

Name

Khalid Esmedly

Name

Evangeline Liu

Name

Fariha Begum

Name

Talat Akbar

Name

Sophia Karakashova

Name

Selwa Mackinty-wu

Name

Jeesh Malik

Name

Ayia Engler

Name

Ashna Ihu

Name

Roy Kearney

Name

Mohammed Ktes

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community

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vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

Name ~~Pipray~~ Diprayit Woth
Name Suri Quin
Name Koi John Ngon
Name Zeldy Bhajoo
Name Nitishal Simha
Name ~~Hope~~ Evan Wu
Name Brandon Jaw
Name Devan Exigunbor
Name Eli Munkelwitz
Name Alex Adams
Name Zach Wiscourt

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your safety in this
community

A Save your community!

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vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

Name Katherine Yu

Name Elizabeth Peng

Name Lilacius

Name Laila Walker

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

! Save your community!

Name _____

De mba Digi'ra

Name _____

ada r'igena Eosten

Name _____

Johns River

Name _____

Willy Stark-Corday

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

**This petition is for
your safety in this
community**

! Save your community!

Sign this petition if you feel unsafe with the school conditions right now and would like to have free, safe N95/KN95 masks, testing in schools, vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

Name Mohammed Hasan

Name Charlotte Bears

Name Mehammad Iqbal

Name Daisy Bloodell

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This petition is for
your safety in this
community

! Save your community!

Sign this petition if you feel unsafe with the school conditions right now
and would like to have free, safe N95/KN95 masks, testing in schools,
vaccinations in school, and virtual learning until school is safe.

Name

AJ fraatz

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Yian Wei

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Finbar Curry

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Calder M-A

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Abed Hosain

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Evan Hopkins

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Alexander Zhao

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Name Lucia Nasrallah

Name Sam Dexon

Name Sullivan Whipple

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Name

Elizabeth Smy

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Pahlia Shashaty

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Alison Maier

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Ava Sura Galeari - Hunt

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Name Nysaiba Radwa

Name Kabir Mekay Anand

Name Betanica T Woldegi

Name Allison B Cervantes

Name

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Name

Name

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Written remarks for January 27, 2022

From : Diane Payne [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 01:09 PM

Subject : Written remarks for January 27, 2022

To : schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Diane Payne, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

This is the one-year anniversary of the Board's audacious and shameful act to silence members of the public and successfully build a wall around 440 shielding the Board from accountability. It is as shocking today as it was one year ago. Suppression is a tactic used to undermine Democracy which allows for the public to participate fully in their government. It is no accident that the Board flexed its muscles in the middle of a pandemic. The cover provided by severe in-person restrictions was the perfect venue. The chorus of voices rising in fear, anger, and despair over District decisions is only growing so it makes perfect sense to suppress participation when accountability and public engagement are not the Board's end game.

The lack of action or even acknowledgement by the mayor and city council makes one wonder if they are using this as a test for their own speaker considerations.

The PA Sunshine Act protects the public's right to participate in their government and capping speakers is a violation of the Sunshine Act. The Board is comfortable letting the legal case brought by the ACLU slog its way through the courts without concern for district legal fees that may accrue.

The Board's cap of 30 speakers was reached way before the speaker registration deadline. No one knows how many have been denied their ability to publicly address this governmental body. I was at least one of them.

Adding to the Board's disgraceful response to transparency and public engagement in the middle of a pandemic is the two-tiered response to pandemic safety. As Omicron surged, the Hite administration stubbornly refused to close schools through the worst of the surge. Instead, the district was on a roller coaster of school closures. But those closures were only the tip of the chaotic iceberg. Staff and families struggled mightily to maintain open and safe conditions for students only adding to the trauma of all.

Meanwhile Board meetings are barely hybrid. Board members are not required to be in person (as all school-based personnel are), and there is no socially distanced guidance for allowing members of the public into the building. So once again, the Board uses the cover afforded by the pandemic to take advantage of the people you represent while throwing your own staff and students under the Omicron bus. No wonder you have capped speakers at 30.

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Lizzie Rothwell [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 01:47 PM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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I testified at School Board meetings in September and November, on the first occasion presenting evidence of insufficient ventilation in my third grade son's classroom and cafeteria and on the second occasion presenting evidence of similar problems at five more district schools. The evidence that I presented is consistent with findings from a CDC-NIOSH study of Philadelphia school buildings conducted between 2011 and 2016 which found that many classrooms have no mechanical ventilation at all and rely entirely on opening windows for air exchange. It's also consistent with the District's own ventilation reports conducted during the 2020-2021 school year which show fresh air supply to numerous classrooms throughout the District. It is unacceptable to ask our staff and students to teach and learn in buildings without fresh air at any time. During a pandemic, it is unconscionable.

My son contracted COVID in his school sometime between Monday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 22, likely when he removed his mask to eat lunch in his under-ventilated cafeteria as there were several other third graders across different classes who also contracted covid that week. After Saturday, December 18, he was the only member of my household who occupied an indoor space outside our home and he tested negative on a PCR test on Thursday, December 23 before becoming symptomatic and testing positive on an at-home rapid antigen test on Sunday, December 26. Several days later, his grandfather who had been mostly isolated the previous week, had tested negative on a PCR test on Friday, December 24, and had seen only my immediate family since then, also developed symptoms. His symptoms became progressively worse throughout the week, culminating in a trip to the emergency room and the administration of a rare dose of the monoclonal antibody sotrovimab on Friday, December 31. My family was very fortunate to have been able to access this medication, and I am grateful that it worked and that he has substantially recovered over the course of this month.

I did not want to give spoken testimony at the School Board meeting today, because I did not trust myself to recount these events calmly and I did not trust every member of the School Board to believe my account. Indeed, I could scarcely believe myself that my greatest fear of the pandemic -- that my family would somehow pass on the virus to my immunocompromised father despite our precautions -- had come true. My father could have contracted covid elsewhere, and there is no mitigation we can adopt in our schools that will stop all transmission, but the fact is that there is a straight line from my father's life-threatening infection to my son's unventilated school building, where essential mitigations were lacking.

I spoke with PSD's Director of Facilities in November regarding my concerns about the substandard ventilation in our schools and the insufficiency of the Aerus Pure & Clean ionizing

air purifiers that have been supplied to classrooms that have no mechanical ventilation. He was unable to tell me what the Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) was for these units or why the decision was made to purchase these particular units. He did not make that decision himself. So here are my questions: 1. Who made the decision to purchase these units and can that person tell me the CADR? 2. On what basis was it made? 3. Does anyone care to defend this purchase on a scientific basis when aerosol scientists are overwhelmingly calling for high-volume HEPA filtration instead? 4. Would the District consider building cheap and simple HEPA filtration devices (ie: Corsi-Rosenthal boxes) for all classrooms and cafeterias to use instead? Instructions for and information about the utility of these boxes, which can be found in classrooms all over the country, can be found here:

- <https://schools.forhealth.org/diy-air-cleaners/>
 - <https://cleanaircrew.org/box-fan-filters/>
 - <https://www.brown.edu/academics/public-health/news/2021/11/school-public-health-builds-and-installs-corsi-rosenthal-air-cleaners>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7027e1-H.pdf>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html#refphf>
-

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Maggie Reeder-Thornton
[REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 10:05 AM

Subject : Board Comments**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Margaret Thornton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Board members,

My name is Margaret Thornton, and I am an educator and community member.

In the absence of a plan, families and school staff members deal with confusion and chaos on a daily basis. We receive mixed messages about when our students need to go home and isolate and when they can return. We get texts and emails about school closures late the night before the school closes, leaving us with little time to plan. We don't know if our students are getting tested for COVID-19 because schools are running out of tests or don't have people able to administer tests.

It is clear: with 100 schools closed and counting, the current plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our schools is not working. But despite that, we see no updated plans from the leaders entrusted to navigate a path forward. We are told to wait and see what happens. As leaders sit on their hands and watch the cases in schools rise, our students, families, teachers and staff members hear the message loud and clear that our health and safety does not matter.

We demand the following from the District and the city to keep everyone in Philadelphia's public schools safe:

1. Updated plans and quarantining protocols
2. Transparency and communication around what is happening in schools
3. Modern, functioning, and well-maintained HVAC systems in every school
4. Increased testing and high-quality masks, provided for free to all students & school staff members

[*further details on each demand*](#)

It's time for the School District of Philadelphia, the Board of Education, the Mayor, and City Council to step up and ensure that Philadelphia's public schools are safe for students in the midst of the continuing and worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are at an all-time high in the city, and yet [the district's current health and safety plan](#) was last revised in August, months before the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Sincerely,
Margaret Thornton

--

Maggie Reeder-Thornton, Ph.D.

Check out CHS's classroom projects: <https://www.donorschoose.org/school/charlottesville-high-school/34678/?teachers=true>
she/her/hers ([What is this?](#))

Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments

From : Max Weiss [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 11:48 AM

Subject : Board Comments

 1 attachment

To : schoolboard@philasd.org

Cc : [REDACTED]

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Attached please find comments from Kirsten Britt of [REDACTED] on Action Item 22 (Sayre Pool) for tomorrow's Action Meeting.

Best,

Max Weiss
Max Weiss, Esq. (He/Him)
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Jamie R. Gauthier, 3rd District
City Hall, Room 586
215-686-0460 (office)
[REDACTED]

 **Action Item 22 Sayre Pool.pdf**
33 KB

Good Afternoon Members of the Board,

Today I would like to express my support for action item 22 (Sayre Pool). My name is Kirsten Britt and I am the president of Sayre Recreation Advisory Council. I am also a long time member of the Cobbs Creek community.

The recreation center has been a staple in our community for long before my existence. It's greatest feature has been that it has been home to one of the only indoor pools on our side of town, which in itself is a sad statement. Nonetheless it is something that we took pride in.

For the past at least five years that pool has been closed. This has meant that young people who would normally gather to swim as an extracurricular activity or learn to swim to prepare for a job as a lifeguard couldn't. This has meant that our seniors who couldn't afford gym memberships no longer had a space to go to for water aerobics.

The closing of this pool means that in a section of the city where violence continues to tear our neighborhood apart at an alarming rate, we have lost another tool to save and transform lives. Having a pool in a community gives people access to ways to treat trauma, decrease health issues, increase opportunities for employment and even scholarships.

Having a recreation center that is safe and habitable for healthy, innovative and creative programming is a must in a community that has lost hope for its youth.

We can't continue to accept less but be expected to do more. Our neighborhood not only needs 10 million dollars to improve the entire center but it deserves it. What started out as a mission to save a pool has led to the district seeing the need to save an entire center which has in turn pulled together an entire community.

Hundreds of signatures collected prove that this isn't a request of just a few. Those signatures show the impact that this center and particularly the pool has meant to so many. Whether it was where you played in the summer, learned how to swim or where you received your lifeguard certification the memories go back for generations.

Currently, we have another recreation center less than a mile away from this one closed due to plumbing issues. Some of the programs from Cobbs Creek recreation center were sent to Sayre which caused increased usage on an already very worn building. This 10 million will help not only restore Sayre Recreation but restore hope to a neighborhood that has already lost so much.

Out of all the lives lost in Cobbs Creek over the last few years, I wonder how many that pool could've saved. How many young people could have been employed? How many people would be a little healthier? If people's value is reflected in the make up of the entities in their community then ours would be low. Our schools, recreation centers, and stores don't reflect the year that we live in but rather the ones they were built in. We deserve better. We deserve to

reflect our true worth. If you find us to be valuable human beings please vote yes to Action Item 22.

Kirsten Britt



Zimbra

[REDACTED]@philasd.org

Board Comments 1/27/22, Jenny Aiello [REDACTED]

From : Jennifer Aiello [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 26, 2022 12:08 PM

Subject : Board Comments 1/27/22, Jenny Aiello [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]**To :** schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.
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Dear Board of Education Members,

At the Action Meeting on 12/9/21, the need for an appeals process was discussed by Board Member Fix Lopez and declined by Ms. Karyn Lynch. Dr. Hite relented and said an appeals process could be discussed and Chair Wilkerson asked for clarity since she would be hearing from parents as a result of that immediate discussion.

An appeals process **was created** and was slipped onto the District's website on 12/30/21 over winter break with a deadline of 1/10/22, **without any direct communication** to District families. How can you claim the new process provides equity when not all families involved in the process received the information many may have benefitted from? Another opportunity to allow families to make an informed decision about the selection process was lost by a lack of communication.

Yesterday, 1/25/22, the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement sent the following letter regarding the release of School Selection decisions on Friday, 1/28/22. It appears families whose children are in the special admission middle schools didn't receive the letter, I know no one at Carver did. Again, **where is the equity in a process when not all families are receiving direct communication or the same communication from the District?**

Historically, the District has sent emails partnered with robo calls when announcing important information to families. Considering the testimony from parents, students, community leaders, and experts at both Action Meetings and the City Council Education Hearing since the terrible rollout of this new process, **school selection is important to families.** Why doesn't a high-stakes process warrant a high level of communication?

The difficult process of deciding where your child will attend high school was made even more so by this incredibly flawed process that ambushed parents during an already stressful two years of schooling during a pandemic. I look forward to participating in the town halls allegedly happening in March to discuss what worked and what didn't in school selection this year - I can only hope I'll receive notice to do so.

Thank you,
Jenny Aiello

8th & 10th grade Parent, Carver Engineering & Science

Received by some district 8th grade parents yesterday, 1/25/22:

As we prepare for the release of School Selection decisions on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 5:00pm, we wanted to provide you with information that will assist you and your families. Please see the below important items we would like to highlight.

1. The writing sample scores for 8th grade students applying to 9th grade for SY22-23 has been updated to include the following rounded scores:

Central High School - 21.5 - 21.9

Julia R. Masterman High School - 21.5 - 21.9

George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science - 16.5 - 16.9

The Academy at Palumbo High - 16.5 - 16.9

Parkway Center City Middle College - 16.5 - 16.9

Students who receive the above score and meet the other established criteria will be included in the lottery.

2. Please click [HERE](#) for detailed instructions that will be provided to students and families when they access the school selection system to make their decisions. Please feel free to familiarize yourself with this document. We are working on an additional document designed to be more visually friendly and less text heavy to distribute to families as a resource. As in the past, accepting an approval does not remove a student from a waitlist at another school.

3. The deadline for students and families to have decisions in the system is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2022, AT 11:59 PM. All decisions must be made before the deadline.

4. More information will follow on reports that will be available for counselors regarding school selection decisions for students.

As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact us via email

at schoolselect@philasd.org. Thank you for all that you do in support of this process and our students.

Executive Director

The School District of Philadelphia | Student Enrollment and Placement