Tribune-Review

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Pittsburgh mayor runs down progress, plans

100 days in, Peduto says city 'poised for greatness'

BY **BOB BAUDER**

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto is looking to spur manufacturing, help poor residents open bank accounts and offer free Internet in the City-County Building, according to a report on his administration's first 100 days.

Peduto reiterated many of the initiatives he has touted since taking office on Jan. 6, but among his achievements listed in the report, he offered a glimpse of some of his plans.

"While we have accomplished a lot in our first 100 days, we have a long way to go to realize our potential as a city poised for greatness," Peduto said in a statement.

Gerald Shuster, a professor of political communications at the University of Pittsburgh, said Peduto didn't "go overboard" in patting himself on the back.

"He may be posturing a little bit, but I think he's pretty much said what he's done," Shuster said.

The report notes that Peduto is seeking a designation as a "manufacturing community." It could compete with up to 12 cities for $1.3 billion in federal grants aimed at accelerating U.S. manufacturing.

Sustainability Manager Grant Ervin said Pittsburgh has established a partnership with Morgantown, W.Va.; Youngstown, Ohio; and universities in all three cities to apply for the designation. The focus is on developing robotics and high-tech industries in the tri-state region, he said.

"It will be a pretty competitive process," Ervin said. "I hope to hear something by late summer."

Peduto wants to provide free Wi-Fi Internet access in the City-County Building, Downtown, and in 24 recreation and senior centers. Peduto spokesman Tim McNulty could not provide a cost for the service.

The city also is working with the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh to help residents establish accounts at banks. Deb Squires, the Urban League's acting program manager, said about 14,000 poor families in Pittsburgh do not have bank accounts, according to census data.

"Our hope is we can help individuals to stabilize their finances and at some point that could lead to opportunities to buy a house," Squires said.

The report notes that Peduto promoted government transparency by publicizing his daily schedule. It says he has established city departments to help revitalize neglected neighborhoods and diversified city authorities and commissions by appointing new board members, half of whom are women and 25 percent of whom are minorities.

Bob Bauder is a staff writer for Trib Total Media.

*Confirmed


Rob McCord*


Kathleen McGinty*


Invited Candidate
Allyson Schwartz


Invited Candidate
Thomas W. Wolf

Governor Candidates Forum

A conversation with the African American Community

April 22, 2014 @ 6 PM

Sponsored By: African American Governors Forum Coalition

African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA, African American Leadership, Alleghenians, LTD, Association, Alliance for Police Accountability, Black Political Empowerment Project, African American Women for Political Change, Community Empowerment Assoc., Hill District Ministers Alliance, Pittsburgh Black Political Convention, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Western PA Black Political Assembly

Central Baptist Church

2200 Wylie Avenue. the corner of Kirkpatrick St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Contact: 412.600.6090

Teacher Evaluation Reform Series Part One: A Deep History in the Midst of a New System

From: UrbanMediaToday
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 6:45 AM

Nearly every profession possesses an evaluation tool that is utilized to reveal the effectiveness of its professionals in the workforce. The field of education is no exception, yet what sets teacher evaluation systems apart is the controversy that arises. Oftentimes there is an inability for all those involved to come to a mutual consensus as to what teacher evaluations should look like, and what affect the results should have on an educator's career. The past 10+ years have witnessed some of the most revolutionary attempts to revamp a system that is in desperate need of becoming a more applicable resource for educators and school districts. In fact, one of the nation's school districts that is on the cutting edge of teacher evaluation reform is right in our backyard - Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Certainly, the history of teacher evaluation is both extensive and multi-layered. The field of education was not considered a professional discipline in the 1700's, however it was clear that there was a need to monitor the quality of instruction. As school systems became more complex, the teacher evaluation system also became a more intricate endeveaor, with the focus shifting to improving instruction. Throughout the beginning of the 20th century, there were conflicting views on which educational approach should be valued – a scientific method that focused on standardized test, or a holistic pedagogy that aimed to inspire students to become active and productive citizens. Nonetheless, there was a consensus that teacher observation was a critical component to the ultimate educational goal – effective teaching. Several decades later, the era of Clinical Supervision spawned one of the most influential movements in teacher supervision and evaluation, entailing a more specific, multi-step process intended to involve teachers and supervisors in a reflective dialogue. While the intention was well-placed, what resulted was a rigid process, often absent of rich dialogue. Today, the Danielson Model, which was introduced in the 1990's, seeks to capture the complex and dynamic process of classroom teaching and has become the reference point for most teacher evaluation systems.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 brought about much controversy and awareness to the condition of our nation's educational structure and effectiveness. There was a rallying call for education reform on many levels, including evaluation practices. Teacher evaluations were seen as short and scarce, being conducted by untrained administrators and failing to differentiate performance among teachers with the minimal feedback of "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory." Such a generic evaluation tool generates much frustration from all those involved. For teachers, very little constructive feedback was given therefore there was very little substantive advice on which to make explicit improvements upon. Furthermore, parents were given very little information as to the quality of teaching their children were receiving. Clearly, it is time for a change and Pittsburgh Public Schools has heeded the call.

Pittsburgh Public Schools is one of few districts across the United States to make a bold attempt to reform a teacher evaluation system that has been deemed ineffective by many. During the 2008-09 academic year, Pittsburgh Public Schools set out to collaborate with The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers and a team of over 400 teachers and principals to produce a genuinely valuable system for teacher observation and evaluation. The outcome was RISE (Research -based Inclusive System for Evaluation). RISE has been the official evaluation system for teachers in the school district since 2010-11. This new evaluation tool is based on the Danielson model previously mentioned. The Danielson model contains twenty-four components that are organized within the following four domains: Planning & Preparation, The Classroom Environment, Professional Responsibilities and Teaching & Learning. School administrators and teacher leaders visit the classrooms for informal observations and conduct a formal observation at the conclusion of the school year. The formal observation includes both a pre-conference and post-conference where educators are rated on four levels (distinguished, proficient, basic, or unsatisfactory), while receiving feedback which is essential to teacher improvement.

Since its inception and implementation, RISE has received both national and local acclaim. Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh President, Esther L. Bush, is one of the supporters of RISE. She has had the

pleasure of being the "cheerleader" for both the process and the outcome of the new teacher evaluation system, speaking across the country in varying capacities. "I am extremely supportive because it has four levels, and not just 'satisfactory' and 'unsatisfactory.'" President Bush views RISE as an excellent opportunity for teachers to improve their skills with support from the school district. "We need to have a better education system, and the 'satisfactory' and 'unsatisfactory' has been used for so many decades, through so many eras of our progress as a country, so I believe it is truly time. It's a win for the kids, it's a win for the teacher, it's a win for our school system and for being a model in the country." Indeed RISE gets a lot of praise for its collaborative efforts, incorporating the active participation of hundreds of teachers. The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers President, Nina Esposito-Visgitis, echoes this sentiment. "I'm really proud of the work our teachers have done on the evaluation system. I think Pittsburgh has been on the forefront of the new teacher evaluation system. I'm really proud of the product. It's very rigorous." In addition, A+ Schools, Pittsburgh's Community Alliance for Public Education, is in strong support of the new teacher evaluation system and has taken on the task of informing the community of its implementation and outcomes.

While nearly all persons involved are generally pleased with RISE, The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers and A+ Schools strongly believe that still has plenty of room for improvement, but for different reasons. In part two of this series, those differences will be covered in depth, revealing some staggering statistics that have emerged as a result of RISE's thorough collection of data. The implementation of RISE is not just a school issue; it is a community issue, and organizations like A+ Schools and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh aim to inform, enlighten and empower communities on the effects teacher evaluations have on our children and society. Urban League President Esther L. Bush made this powerful point by stating, "Anything that goes on in our public school system may positively or negatively impact all of our lives and lifestyles. The school system is an important engine in determining the culture and the economic survival of the city. I don't have any kids in the public school, yet all of the kids in the public school must be supported." It is essential that our community finds value in knowing that the teachers standing in front of our children are of the highest quality, and have the students' best interests and well- being at heart. May this series bring awareness and spur action for everyone to get involved on what is happening in our schools.

By Denise LaRosa
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Teacher Evaluation Reform Series Part Two: RISE Uncovers Key Areas of Concern

Carey Harris's passion is contagious. As she speaks on the subject of closing the achievement gap and the issues surrounding such a vast topic, one cannot help but to reflect on what kind of action he or she can take to ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education. Carey Harris is the Executive Director of A+ Schools, and it is very evident that this work motivates her every move. In fact, Ms. Harris is more than an executive director of "Pittsburgh's Community Alliance for Public Education;" she is a mother of three children – all of whom are students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS).

Ms. Harris views Pittsburgh Public Schools' new teacher evaluation system, known as RISE (Researched-based Inclusive System of Evaluation), as a work in progress. While it is a nice start to growing and supporting teachers, there are many other components that must be in place in order to guarantee all students are provided a high-quality educational experience. A+ Schools sites some of these components as being high quality teacher training and professional development programs, positive school learning environments, nurturing leaders who create strong instructional cultures and systems that make teaching quality count when deciding who teaches and where they teach.

Perhaps the most critical work of A+ Schools to-date is based on the recent findings that arose from RISE's rigorous evaluation process. Here's the good news. According to Pittsburgh Public Schools' data, 85% of PPS teachers performed at Proficient or Distinguished levels during the 2012-13 academic year. Only about 15% of educators in PPS were identified as either 'Needs Improvement' or 'Failing.' What's more, there is a 98.7% retention rate among the teachers performing at the highest level. While these statistics appear to put students in a very positive position for receiving a high quality education, Pittsburgh Public Schools produced more numbers that delve even deeper into the quality of instruction taking place.

"If you are in a high-poverty school, you are twice as likely to have a 'Needs Improvement' or 'Failing' teacher standing in front of you." The frustration and drive for change becomes palpable as Ms. Harris makes this statement, and the statistics that Pittsburgh Public Schools' has provided indeed support what she is saying. PPS revealed that in 2012-13, schools with 95% low income and/or students of color had on average 16% of their teachers performing at the failing level, compared to only 7% performing at that level in other schools. This means students in a high poverty/high minority school are twice as likely to have a failing teacher as students in other schools. So, how did this all come about? Carey Harris states, "Pittsburgh Public Schools used to not do a good job hiring or supporting new teachers, or even filtering out teachers that weren't going to cut it early in their careers. Those are all things that the system has been responsible for, and things they have been trying to change over the past four years. Now they've changed who they hire and how they hire them, and they've been doing much more careful induction work with new teachers, and trying to grant tenure as not just a guaranteed thing. They are really trying to use that tenure mark as a way to say, 'If you've made it then we believe you can do this work.'" Ms. Harris also mentions another challenge is that most of the low-income, minority schools serve as a starting position for new teachers and as teachers gain more experience and become more seasoned, they tend to desire to relocate to other schools. This leaves vacant teaching spots that often get filled at the last minute by teachers who have little time to prepare and may not even want to be there, according to Ms. Harris. "Pittsburgh Public Schools also needs to make sure we have really good principals in all of the high-poverty schools," she adds.

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's President and CEO, Esther L. Bush, is a veteran educator and administrator, who also advocates strongly and fervently for high quality education for all students. "I am not surprised to hear that the teachers who ranked at the lower levels are at the schools that have the highest number of African American or low-income students. I think what RISE does is provide the truth to what we (educational advocates, those concerned with the achievement/opportunity gap) have thought all along. This now allows us to measure and put the data with our concerns so we can say, 'This is a true statement. Now how are we going to better appropriate the distinguished and proficient teachers with the other teachers that need help?'"

On the other hand, there is someone who is on the front lines of this issue that passionately disagrees with Pittsburgh Public Schools' data. The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers President, Nina Esposito-Visgitis, works directly with the educators who are at the center of this matter. Ms. Esposito-Visgitis argues that the only difference between some of the teachers in the low-income, minority schools can be found in the observation portion of RISE's measures of effective teaching. The Classroom Observation component of RISE accounts for 50% of the teacher's evaluation score. The remainder components are allocated as follows: 30% Teacher-Specific Data; 15% Elective Data (Student Survey); 5% Building-Level Results. "I would disagree that the less effective teachers are in the more challenging schools. That has not been a factor that we have seen. The research has shown that there is more variation within a school than across schools." Ms. Esposito-Visgitis believes that there are other, more pertinent factors that have the potential to negatively affect the education of low-income, minority students. "We should put more focus on the teaching and learning environment, to make sure all of our schools are even in that across the district. That is something we have not put enough emphasis on. Equity is not about equality. It's about making sure that the schools that need more paraprofessionals, for example, are getting them. We need to make sure that the supports for kids are equitably distributed so that they are getting what they need in each school. We also need to work on school leadership more." Nina Esposito-Visgitis is also concerned about the performance ranges being so much more "severe" than those of other Pennsylvania school districts. "I worry that our teachers are getting a double-whammy in that not only is their evaluation system more estringent, but the performance range is also way higher than any anywhere else in the state."

Indeed it is vital that not only are teachers allocated throughout the district in an equitable fashion, but that those teachers who are experiencing challenges be given the resources and supports they need to try to overcome the obstacles they face. President Esther L. Bush noted that "the good news is the teachers that are scoring in the lower two brackets have about a year and a half to make improvements with support from the Board of Education, and I'm hoping they take full advantage of that." Carey Harris adds, "We know that these high-poverty schools can be difficult places to work; it's a challenging job and it's not for everybody." For an educator to truly be successful in such an environment, one really must have a deep desire to make a difference in the lives of the children they teach, determination to overcome a great number of obstacles as well as have access to resources and support from his or her school and school district.

Regardless of what side a community member, especially a parent, is on this issue, the good news is there are organizations like A+ Schools and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh who work diligently to inform, inspire and assist people to get involved and become an active participant in the discussion. A+ Schools has several ways it engages the community. Carey Harris explains, "Our job is to make sure that parents, students, community members are informed and engaged in trying to make our schools great." The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh has also encouraged community engagement in regards to quality education for all by recently writing a piece in a local newspaper, collaborating with other coalitions, holding press conferences, attending community meetings and doing other outreach initiatives. The President has even gone as far as to host dinners in her home to engage guests in a conversation about this very issue. Certainly, there are many ways parents, students and other community members can get actively involved in an issue of such great importance as this. It's not a matter of pointing fingers, but rather an opportunity to take a stand, take action and work together for the good of our children.

By Denise LaRosa
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Note: Pittsburgh Public Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Linda Lane, was not available for comment at this time.
For more information on A+ Schools and The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, please visit www.aplusschools.org and www.ulpgh.org.

NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER

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Doss named associate publisher Who's Who in Black Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Pa.— Who's Who Publishing Company, the nation's largest annual directory focusing on African-American achievement, proudly announces Rod Doss as the Associate Publisher for the Inaugural Edition of Who's Who In Black Pittsburgh. Who's Who Publishing Company celebrates achievement in more than 25 markets including Columbus, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Houston and more.

"We are so very excited that Rod has agreed to take on this role," said Chief Operating Officer Carter D. Womack. "We know that under Rod's leadership this edition will be a major success and first of many to come."

Doss has been the editor and publisher of the New Pittsburgh Courier since 1997. The New Pittsburgh Courier relays news, but also seeks to uplift and enlighten by positively portraying and representing the African-American community. Under his editorial direction, the newspaper has received over 100

SEE **DOSS** A3

NNPA Merit Awards including the John B. Russwurm Trophy and the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award. In 1997, The Allegheny County Board of Commissioners and Pittsburgh City Council honored him for his 30 years of service with the New Pittsburgh Courier; he has recently completed his 40th year of service. Doss currently serves on the NNPA Board of Directors, the Rivers Club Board of Governors, and the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania.

Doss has received many professional and community service awards for his diligent work including the 2003 Press Club of Western Pennsylvania Service to Journalism Award, 2004 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year Award, 2005 Duquesne Light African American Leadership Award, 2006 Homer S. Brown Law Association Spirit Award, 2008 Urban League of Pittsburgh Ronald Harmon Brown Corporate Leadership Award, 2008 Minority and Women Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Hall of Fame Award, and the 2009 City of Pittsburgh Business Legacy Award.

"I am thrilled to represent Who's Who Publishing Company in this exciting venture," said Doss. "This represents a unique opportunity to showcase the astounding array of professional talent that exists in the Pittsburgh region."

Who's Who Publishing is a subsidiary of Real Times Media founded in 1989, a leading source in celebrating African American related news, entertainment, and lifestyle information.

ROD DOSS

Account: 10811 (1396)
PA-438

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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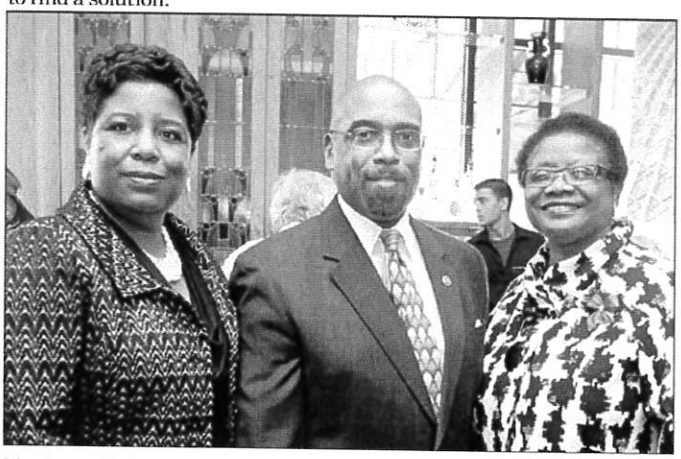
B-PEP Jazz 'FUN'-Raiser

When and Where: Monday at Bridges in the Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center

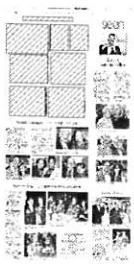
What's B-PEP? The Black Political Empowerment Project was launched in 1986 by chairman and CEO Tim Stevens. The primary goal of B-PEP is to increase political awareness and encourage voting in every election within the African-American community.

Quite a crowd: Seen enjoying the six-hour jazz marathon — including performances by Roger Humphries & the RH Factor, Etta Cox and Michele Bensen — were Jon Burnett, Bob Allen, Debbie Norrell, Larry Davis, David Spurgeon, Lorraine Scarsky, Marlene Bransom, Sherry Taylor and Chris Moore.

A Moment with Tim Stevens: "If we are able to mobilize the African-American community and make our voices heard through our votes, we will see changes to many of the problems plaguing our communities. I believe that with every complaint brought, there is a possibility to find a solution."



Monique McIntosh, Dr. Quintin B. Bullock and Esther Bush



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PITTSBURGH CITY PAPER

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GALLERY CRAWL
in the Cultural District

Friday, April 25 5:30-9pm
FREE ADMISSION TO CRAWL EVENTS
All information and locations are subject to change.

Visit **TRUSTARTS.ORG/Crawl**
on your mobile device for a new experience

A Production of: PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

Sponsors: CityPaper

Text "CRAWL" to SMASH (76274) to receive special exclusive offers and more!

CAR FREE FRIDAYS Walk, bike, bus or carpool to the Gallery Crawl and celebrate another Car Free Friday with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Port Authority, and BikePGH.

Venues with an * are open until 10pm.

1. Wood Street Galleries*
601 Wood Street
ELECTRIFIED | Alexandre Burton and Edwin van der Heide
Artists Edwin van der Heide and Alexandre Burton pay homage to Nikola Tesla's pioneering work in electricity, X-rays and wireless communication. Their installations are North American premieres.

2. SPACE*
812 Liberty Avenue
The Secret Life of Robots | Toby Fraley
Music by **DJ Gordy**
Purchase treats from Sweet Peaches and The Pittsburgh Pie Guy.

3. Urban League
610 Wood Street
Celebrating the Urban League in Pittsburgh | Leslie Ansley

4. Social Status*
717 Liberty Avenue
Impe'kyoonees | applecubed

5. Tito Way
Memento Mori | Mary Mazziotti
Cell Phone Disco | InformationLab

6. Shaw Galleries*
805 Liberty Avenue
Historic Pittsburgh, 1900-1920
Painstakingly re-produced digital prints by Mark Muse.

7. Trust Arts Education Center
805-807 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh Public Schools 2014 All-City Showcase of Arts & Cultures

8. Harris Theater
809 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh Filmmakers presents regionally made short films.
The Way | Sarah VanTassel

9. Arcade Comedy Theater
***open until 9:30pm**
811 Liberty Avenue

10. Catholic Charities Susan Zubik Welcome Center
212 Ninth Street
Process Masters| High School Students from the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

11. 937 Liberty Avenue
First Floor: Bricolage
Echoloco, an immersive experience for one, 6 to 8:30pm. Sign up begins at 5:30pm.
2nd floor:
The Orange Experience
Sound Elevator explores the psychological effects of color through music.
3rd floor: Pittsburgh Playwrights Gallery:
Therapy and The Muse | Ernest McCarty

12. August Wilson Center
980 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh: Reclaim, Renew, Remix
Teenie "One Shot" Harris
The August Wilson Center Collection

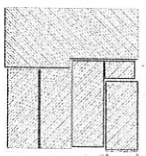
13. Tonic
971 Liberty Avenue, 2nd floor Gallery
NOT UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE
The Art Institute of Pittsburgh Alumni & Student Show
Live music by **The Willful Souls**

14. Urban Pathways 6-12 Gallery
914 Penn Avenue
symbols of self | Urban Pathways Students
Live music by **The Sounds of Steel band.**

15. CAPA Gallery
111 Ninth Street
Print Power | Pittsburgh CAPA 9-12 Visual Art Students

16. Future Tenant
819 Penn Avenue
Scene and Song Revue
In partnership with Pinnacle Productions, Point Park University.

17. Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council*
810 Penn Avenue, 7th floor
Reflective Locations
An Art on the Walls exhibit curated by D.S. Kinsel.



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18. Bend Yoga
808 Penn Avenue, 2nd floor
Craft Market at Bend Yoga

19. Penn Avenue & 8th Street
Come complain with the Office of Public Art as we collect complaints for the Complaints Choir, a public art program of the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival. 5:30 to 7:30pm.

20. Night Market VIII
***open until 11pm**
Penn Avenue & 8th Street
Presented by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

21. 709 Penn Gallery*
709 Penn Avenue
Digital Hand | Penn State University School of Visual Arts

22. 707 Penn Gallery*
707 Penn Avenue
The Occasional Market | Tom Sarver

23. Katz Plaza
7th St. and Penn Avenue
Live Music by **Formula 412**, 6:30 to 9pm
Carnegie Library Button-making and Books
WYEP Music Station

24. Backstage Bar
655 Penn Avenue
People Who Live in Tin Houses Shouldn't Throw Can Openers | Robert Villamagna
Live music by **Jevon Rushton**, 5:30 to 7:30pm

25. PNC Legacy Project
600 Liberty Avenue
The PNC Legacy Project is celebrating Black History Month.

26. Dream Cream Ice Cream
539 Liberty Avenue
Dream flavor of ice cream for the month of April is banana cream pie, benefitting G3 Entertainment USA.

27. Boutique 208*
208 Sixth Street
Meet Your Makers
Live Music by **Jonathan Dull.**

28. Verve Wellness
142 Sixth Street, Third floor
New contemporary dance works in progress.
7:30, 8:30 & 9:30pm

29. Arthur Murray Dance Studio
136 Sixth Street
(above Melange Bistro)
NOT UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE
Free Dance Lessons and Demos: Swing at 7:30pm, Bachata at 8pm, Salsa at 8:30pm.

30. Renaissance Hotel
107 Sixth Street
Live Music by **James Graff**, 6 to 8pm.

crawl after dark

Dane Vannatter, Jazz at Andy's
8pm-12am, No Cover
Fairmont Hotel, 510 Market Street

Whiskey Tasting, 9pm, 21+, No Cover
August Henry's Saloon, 946 Penn Avenue
Tasting and the history of local whiskeys, gins, and rums, with Eric Meyer, co-owner of Wigle Whiskey.

Reading & Book Signing, *The Bend of the World* by Jacob Bacharach
9:30pm, No Cover
937 Liberty Avenue, 2nd floor

Keep It Moving | Official After-Crawl Dance Party, 10pm, $5, Cash Bar
Trust Arts Education Center, Peirce Studio, 805-807 Liberty Avenue
Music by **J. Malls.**

Meeting of Important People and The Telephone Line, 10pm, $5
SPACE, 812 Liberty Avenue

Interloractive, 10pm, $5
Wood Street Galleries, 2nd floor,
Party inside a live exhibit with interactive artworks. Desserts by Bluebird Kitchen. Music by **DJ Pete Butta.**
Uber will provide free rides (up to $20) with promo code: WOODSTGALLERIES. New users only.

Electric Slidez: PowerPoint Throwdown
10pm, $10 or $5 Student Rush, BYOB
Arcade Comedy Theater, 811 Liberty Avenue

Salsa Fridays
10pm Free Lesson; 10:30pm-1:30am
No Cover, Cash Bar
Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue
Dancing with **DJ Paul Mitchell.**

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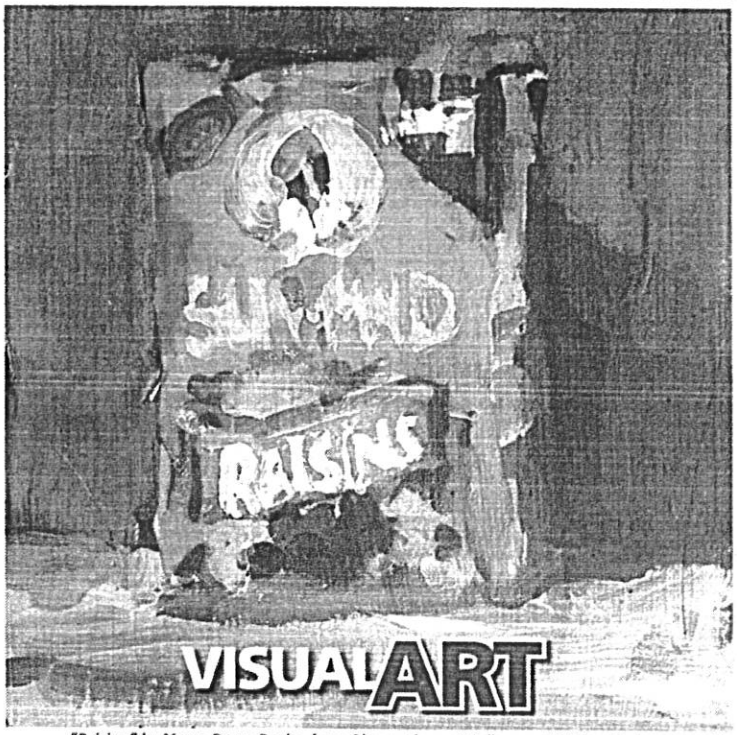

"Raisins," by Maura Doern Danko, from *Observations*, at Gallery on 43rd Street in Lawrenceville

NEW THIS WEEK

707 PENN GALLERY. The Occasional Market. *Work by Tom Sarver. Opens April 25. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

709 PENN GALLERY. Digital Hand. *Digital fabrication works by students at the Penn State School of Visual Arts. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

937 LIBERTY AVE. The Orange Experience. *Sound Elevator explores the psychological effects of color through music feat. work by 20+ local artists. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

CAPA GALLERY. Print Power. *Work by CAPA 9–12 visual art students. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUILDING. Process Masters. *Art in various mediums by students from the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-456-6999.*

CHRISTINE FRECHARD GALLERY. Antonio Puri. *Large-scale contemporary pieces. Opening reception: April 26, 5-8 p.m. Squirrel Hill. 412-421-8888.*

CLUB ZOO. Spectrum. *Local artist showcase feat. Jess Paul, Madeleine Crawford, Elody Gyekis, Ricky Pirozzi, Bruce Reynolds, Brinx, Nathan Doverspike, more. Opens April 24, 7 p.m. Presented by RAW:natural born artists. Strip District. 412-339-0917.*

CULTURAL DISTRICT. Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District. *Free, festive showcase of arts & entertainment at galleries & arts spaces. April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

GALLERY ON 43RD STREET. Observations. *Paintings by Maura Doern Danko. Opening reception: April 25, 7-10 p.m. Lawrenceville. 412-683-6488.*

GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL. Reflective Locations. *Feat. work reflecting modern black masculinity. Curated by D.S. Kinsel. Gallery Crawl: April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

HARRIS THEATER. The Way. *Photographs by Sarah Van Tassel. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-682-4111.*

PHOTO ANTIQUITIES. The Life & Times of Abraham Lincoln. *Photographs following Lincoln's rise to the United States presidency from 1847-1865. Opens April 30. North Side. 412-231-7881.*

PITTSBURGH PLAYWRIGHTS THEATRE. Therapy & The Muse. *Paintings & sculpture by Ernest McCarty. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

SOCIAL STATUS. impe'kyoonees. *Contemporary work by NY-based photographer Applecubed. Part of the Downtown Gallery Crawl, April 25th, 7-10 p.m. Downtown. 412-456-2355.*

THE SOCIETY FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT. Transformation 9: Contemporary Works in Ceramics. *Feat. work by 31 artists. Opens April 25. Strip District. 412-261-7003.*

TONIC BAR & GRILL. The Art Institute of Pittsburgh Alumni & Student Show. *Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-456-6666.*

TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER. All-City Visual Art Exhibition. *300+ works by Pittsburgh Public School students. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown.*

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER PITTSBURGH. Celebrating the Urban League in Pittsburgh. *Paintings & murals by Leslie Ansley. Opens April 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Part of the Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-227-4802.*

WILLOW STREET DEVELOPMENT. Art All Night. *All-night community art show. Starts on April 26 at 4 p.m., ends on April 27 at 2 p.m. Lawrenceville. 412-235-1950.*

WOOD STREET GALLERIES. Electrified. *Interactive installations by Edwin van der Heide & Alexandre Burton. Opening reception: April 25, 5:30-10 p.m. Part of the*

CONTINUES ON PG. 51

Gallery Crawl. Downtown. 412-471-5605.

ONGOING

AMERICAN JEWISH

PITTSBURGH CITY PAPER

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Location: PITTSBURGH, PA
Circulation (DMA): 63,881 (22)
Type (Frequency): Newspaper (W)
Page: 49,51
Section: Main
Keyword: Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

MUSEUM. Synagogues of Prague & Budapest. *Photographs by David Aschkenas. Squirrel Hill. 412-521-8011 x 105.*

ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM. I Just Want to Watch: Warhol's Film, Video and Television. *Long-term exhibition of Warhol's film & video work.* Permanent collection. *Artwork and artifacts by the famed Pop Artist. North Side. 412-237-8300.*

ARTDFACT. Timothy Kelley. *Paintings & sculpture. North Side. 724-797-3302.*

ASSEMBLE. The Drop Project. *Interactive exhibit designed by Kristen Reynolds, Ann Payne, & Molly Mehling to personify aquatic ecosystems in order to create relatability to our everyday lives. Garfield. 412-432-9127.*

BACKSTAGE BAR AT THEATRE SQUARE. People Who Live in Tin Houses Shouldn't Throw Can Openers. *Assemblage & metal collages by Robert Villamagna. Downtown. 412-325-6768.*

BE GALLERIES. Pittsburgh Evolves: Looking Back, Looking Forward. *Work by Cynthia Cooley. Lawrenceville. 412-687-2606.*

BLUE OLIVE GALLERIES. Pittsburgh Panoramas/Metals. *Tarentum. 724-275-7001.*

BOULEVARD GALLERY. Hot Paint & Cold Glass. *Multimedia exhibit by Patti & Al Middlemiss. Verona. 412-828-1031.*

BOXHEART GALLERY. Panoptic Landscape. *Work by Box Heart Gallery's 2014 Artist of the Year, Irina Koukhanova. Bloomfield. 412-687-8858.*

THE BREW HOUSE. Walls that Soak. *Large scale installation by Caroline Record & Leah Wulfman. South Side. 240-793-8935.*

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART. Architecture + Photography. *Feat. works from the Heinz Architectural Center & Carnegie Museum of Art's photography collection, demonstrating the symbiosis between architecture & photography.* Teenie Harris Photographs: Baseball in Pittsburgh. *Feat. an inside look at some of the greatest moments in Negro League, Major League, & sandlot baseball in Pittsburgh. Oakland. 412-622-3131.*

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY. Culture in Context. *African Art from the Olkes Collection. Shadyside. 412-365-1232.*

CHRISTINE FRECHARD GALLERY. Between Abstraction & Realism. *Work by Bettina Clowney. Squirrel Hill. 412-421-8888.*

EAST OF EASTSIDE GALLERY. In Anticipation of Spring. *Work by Kevin O' Toole, Constance Merriman, Karl Mullen, more. Forest Hills. 412-465-0140.*

ECLECTIC ART & OBJECTS GALLERY. *19th century American & European paintings combined with some of the world's most talented contemporary artists & their artwork.* The Hidden Collection. *Watercolors by Robert N. Blair (1912- 2003).* Hiromi Traditional Japanese Oil Paintings The Lost Artists of the 1893 Chicago Exhibition. *Collectors Showcase. Emsworth. 412-734-2099.*

FILMMAKERS GALLERIES. Palimpsests: Ghost Signs of Pittsburgh. *Photographs by Kelly Bogel. Oakland. 412-681-5449.*

FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER. An American Odyssey: The Warner Collection of American Painting. *Feat. American artists from the nation's early years of independence through the dawn of the 20th century.* Permanent collection of European Art. *Point Breeze. 412-371-0600.*

GALERIE WERNER, THE MANSIONS ON FIFTH. City Scenes: Finding Harmony in Pittsburgh's Changing Colors. *Paintings by Claire Hardy. Oakland. 412-716-1390.*

GALLERIE CHIZ. Rejuvenate. *Work by Baron Batch & Terry Wise. Shadyside. 412-441-6005.*

THE GALLERY 4. Salon Show 2014. *Group show. Shadyside. 412-363-5050.*

GLENN GREENE STAINED GLASS STUDIO INC. Original Glass Art by Glenn Greene. *Exhibition of new work, recent work & older work. Regent Square. 412-243-2772.*

LA PRIMA ESPRESSO. Paintings/Prints of Italy. *Prints of Vince Ornato's oil paintings of Italy. Strip District. 412-281-1922.*

LAKEVUE ATHLETIC CLUB. Pop-Up Gallery. *Work by a variety of artists. 724-316-9326.*

LAWRENCE HALL GALLERY. Visions & Revelations. *Work by members of the National Association of Women Artists. Downtown. 412-392-8008.*

MALL AT ROBINSON. City by the Bay. *Photography by PTI students. Robinson.*

MATTRESS FACTORY. DETROIT: Artists in Residence. *Work by Design 99, Jessica Frelinghuysen, Scott Hocking, Nicola Kuperus & Adam Lee Miller, Russ Orlando, Frank Pahl.* Chiharu Shiota: Trace of Memory. *Site-specific installation focusing on the body wl relation to place & space.* Ongoing Installations. *Works by Turrell, Lutz, Kusama, Anastasi, Highstein, Wexler & Woodrow. North Side. 412-231-3169.*

MODERNFORMATIONS GALLERY. STRUCTURE. *Work by Ron Copland, Steve Ehret, Megan Herwig, Joseph Mruk, Gian Romagnoli, Andy Scott, & Megan Shalonis. Garfield. 412-362-0274.*

MORGAN CONTEMPORARY GLASS GALLERY. teapots! *Work by Ceres Rangos, Rae Gold, Meryl Ruth, Ronit Dagan, more. Shadyside. 412-441-5200.*

THE MR. ROBOTO PROJECT. MASH: Mansion Apartment Shack House. *Paintings by Megan Shalonis. Bloomfield.*

PERCOLATE. Traveling Souls. *Paintings by Samir Elsabee & Bob Ziller. Closing reception: April 27, 3-6 p.m. Wilkinsburg. 412-606-1220.*

PHOTO ANTIQUITIES. 19th Century Photographs in the USA. *Showing the largest collection on display feat. Civil War, historic persons, Cowboys & Indians. North Side. 412-231-7881.*

REVISION SPACE. Art is Violent. *Work by Courtney Cormier & Miss Dingo. Lawrenceville. 412-735-3201.*

SHAW GALLERIES. Historic Pittsburgh. *Photographs by Mark Muse. Downtown. 412-281-4884.*

SPACE. The Secret Life of Robots. *Installation by Toby Atticus Fraley. Downtown. 412-325-7723.*

SPINNING PLATE GALLERY. Waterworks 2014. *Pittsburgh Watercolor Society annual member show. Friendship. 412-441-0194.*

SWEETWATER CENTER FOR THE ARTS. Wild Things. *Exhibit feat. 2D, 3D & kinetic artworks. Juried by Cynthia Shaffer. Sewickley. 412-741-4405.*

THE TOONSEUM. Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 Years of Golden Books. *Collection of original illustration art from the Little Golden Books series. Downtown. 412-232-0199.*

TRUNDLE MANOR. Vex Kelpie's Fairy World. *Sculptures of mythical creatures & hidden beasts. Swissvale. 412-916-5544.*

TULA ORGANIC SALON & SPA. One Cloud Per Sky. *Work by Amy DiPlacido. Squirrel Hill. 412-521-2230.*

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS. The Marriage Project: Faces of Equality. *Traveling photographic exhibit of local same-sex couples in long-term committed relationships who would like to marry one day in PA or have their existing out-of-state marriage recognized by our state. On view Sun. mornings, & Tues. through Fri., 9-4, by appointment. 412-366-0244.*

WESTMORELAND MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART. Born of Fire: The Valley Work. *Greensburg. 724-837-1500.*

MAY HAPPENINGS

CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATIONS ALL AROUND! THIS MONTH MARKS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES, RECORD-BREAKING FUNDS RAISED, AND GOOD DEEDS OF DONORS

Bank On Greater Pittsburgh chair Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., Huntington Bank Regional President Susan B. Shipley, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh CEO Esther L. Bush, and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald kicked off Bank On Greater Pittsburgh. The initiative encourages individuals to strongly consider opening accounts with traditional financial institutions.

Dan Burda and Erin Michel-Mullen of Stud RAW at Pittsburgh Global Connection's M Diamond Bash, benefiting the Cystic Fibro Foundation. Held at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, the bash unveiled the Pittsburgh's 50 Finest Class of 2014, a honored event co-chair and 2012 50 Finest alumnus Rohn Neugebauer, Burda's partn who passed away unexpectedly six days

On hand for Sunny Bridge Natural Foods' 12th anniversary celebration were Sunny Bridge employees Vicky Thompson and Jennifer Johnson; Mary Newman; Melissa Migliaro, owner of Metamorphosis Wellness Center in McMurray; and Alicia Newman.

Crushed Grapes co-chair Meg Gleason and sponsor Brian Horvath of Horvath Dermatology Associates wined and dine Sisters Place's annual wine tasting. Held the Wintergarden at PPG Place, the even raised more than $72,000 for the organiz

COMPILED BY ANDREA BOSCO, RACHEL JONES, + LIZ PE
PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HUNTINGTON BANK, ROBERT HESTER ENTERTAINMENT, JOE MILNE, BETH INSALACO PHOT

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

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Page: 33
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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

▸ Engineering

John Trant Jr.

Trant has been named civil regional service group manager at Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc.

▸ Logistics

Loren Dworakowski

Dworakowski has been promoted to president at Beemac Trucking LLC.

▸ Nonprofits

Monique McIntosh

McIntosh has been named vice president of programs and services at Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

▸ Organizations & Associations

Jessica Stickle

Stickle has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as special events advisor.

John Quayle

Quayle has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as public relations advisor.

Aaron Plitt

Plitt has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as past president, nominating advisor.

Monica O'Donnell

O'Donnell has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as social committee board advisor.

Sam Mudrick

Mudrick has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as community outreach advisor.

▸ Organizations & Associations

Qun (Trin) Gu

Gu has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as professional development advisor.

Thomas Dufour

Dufour has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as Web/technology advisor.

Kevin Carter

Carter has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as scholarship board advisor.

Ryan Richardson

Richardson has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as administrative secretary/ membership advisor.

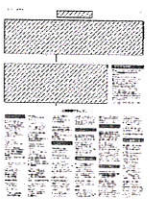
Christopher Driscoll

Driscoll has been named to the board of directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals as recording secretary.

▸ Technology

Christine Locklin

Locklin has been named vice president at Computer Enterprises Inc. Locklin's role is to help execute CEI's growth strategy and strategic initiatives.



NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER

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Closed-door AWC meeting introduces developer/community

by Christian Morrow
Courier Staff Writer

After being instructed by Bankruptcy Judge Lawrence O'Toole to delay the sale of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture to developer 980 Liberty Partners, receiver Judith Fitzgerald held a closed-door meeting to introduce the developer to the community.

Last week, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald (no relation) and Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto asked O'Toole to remove Fitzgerald as receiver after she announced her preference for 980 Liberty Partners, which offered $9.5 million for the bankrupt August Wilson Center. All the other bids for the property, including one from a consortium of local foundations, came in at $4.5 million or less.

980 Liberty Partners' plan calls for building a 200-room hotel above the center, preserving the architecturally unique building and its mission. The company's bid would pay off a $7.5 million mortgage owed to Dollar Bank, more than $500,000 in URA loans, back taxes and fines.

In exchange, 980 Liberty Partners would receive the building, the air rights, and a liquor license. The partners would provide the Wilson center free gallery, storage and exhibit space and use of the 486-seat theater for a minimum of 120 days out of the year.

Some of those attending the April 29 meeting included Black Political Empowerment Project Chairman Tim Stevens, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church Pastor William Curtis, Urban League of Pittsburgh President and CEO Esther Bush, Pittsburgh Councilman R. Daniel Lavelle, County Councilman Bill Robinson, and former board members Nancy Washington and Aaron Walton.

Walton told Pittsburgh Urban Media last week he favored the 980 Partners bid.

(More details in next week's Courier.)

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Teachers' absences called 'startling'

City schools studied by national group

By Eleanor Chute
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

While Pittsburgh Public Schools has been pushing to improve student attendance, the National Council on Teacher Quality has taken a look at teacher attendance.

In a report released Thursday, the council found that city teachers were out of the classroom an average of 12 days in 2012-13.

About a quarter of days counted are ones approved by the district — not sick or personal days — including professional development and designing the district's teacher evaluation system.

About 11 percent of teachers missed class three or fewer days.

The analysis does not count absences of more than 10 consecutive days.

The contract provides 12 sick days and two personal days.

School superintendent Linda Lane said she found the teacher absentee numbers "pretty startling."

She said, "Clearly, we have to address that."

The report, which covered a

SEE **TEACHERS,** PAGE B-4

wide range of teacher issues, was sponsored by A+ Schools and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

The 12-year-old National Council on Teacher Quality, based in Washington, D.C., advocates for changes in teacher policies and is aimed at increasing the number of effective teachers.

School districts across Pennsylvania are putting into effect new teacher evaluation systems. Pittsburgh received a one-year waiver to use some of its own criteria, which are generally regarded as more difficult.

Kate Walsh, council president, said, "Pittsburgh is among a handful of pioneering districts sincerely grappling with teacher quality and the issues that have contributed to the poor health of the profession and demoralization of teachers.

"The district appears to be heading in the right direction, but it needs to double down, with a particular focus on placing its greatest talent in the classrooms serving children who depend the most on a high quality education."

Nina Esposito-Vigisits, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, said that teachers don't want to be out of their classroom, noting they are held accountable for results.

Carey Harris, executive director of A+ Schools, said it will take both policy and cultural changes to provide excellence and equity for all students. She said her board will be reviewing the report.

Of the teacher absences for professional development, she said, "We have to deliver it in ways that don't take teachers out of the classroom.

"The best professional development is delivered in the classroom while teachers are teaching."

The report criticizes Pennsylvania for requiring principals only in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to interview teacher candidates from the top 10 percent of an eligibility list.

Coupled with district policies, the report found principals are "unusually constrained in their ability to successfully staff their schools."

It noted that high-needs schools have "a particularly hard time filling positions." It said that teachers who received the lowest rating were disproportionately assigned to the highest-need schools.

Education writer Eleanor Chute: echute@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1955.

[NEWS]

NEWS+FEATURES » NEWS May 28, 2014

Tough Subject: PPS, union differ on usefulness of teacher-quality report

"What the district can do is look for more inventive ways to get teachers into high-needs schools."

By Rebecca Nuttall @PghReporter

A recently released report from the National Council on Teacher Quality lists Pittsburgh Public Schools' ability to work with the local teachers union as a critical component in improving teacher quality.

That relationship, however, has become more and more strained over the past school year, following the district's implementation of a new teacher-evaluation system that the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers says is too harsh. Now the NCTQ report is just one more thing the district and the union disagree on — and, says the union, it's being used as another tool to blame teachers for poor student performance.

"We did not endorse [the NCTQ report]," says PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis. "We discouraged members from participating, based on the NCTQ's track record. They continue the over-focus on teacher quality and what we want is a broader effort to strengthen schools."

As an advocate for teacher-policy reforms, NCTQ has completed reports in nearby school districts including Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia and Dayton, Ohio. The Pittsburgh report recommended ways for improving the "recruitment, development and retention of effective teachers."

Among the findings is the difficulty the district has in staffing high-needs schools. According to a report, high-needs schools tend to have a higher number of low-income students and lower state test scores.

On a central office survey of teachers who attempted to transfer voluntarily for the 2013-2014 school year, nearly half of the respondents said they would not move to a hard-to-staff school.At the NCTQ presentation on May 22, Superintendent Linda Lane found this statistic especially troubling.

"If you're coming to us saying, 'I don't want to go to your most challenging schools,' then maybe you should go to [another school district]," Lane said. "Those are not the teachers we need."

Esposito-Visgitis, who declined to attend the report presentation, told *City Paper* that the district is responsible for these teachers' responses.

"If the district would address the teaching and learning environments in these schools, we have shown that not to be the case," Esposito-Visgitis says. "Put a good principal there and people would flock there."

But Lane says some teachers' aversion to working in high-needs schools comes from the challenges of working with students of diverse races and those living in poverty.

[LISTINGS]

EVENTS | MUSIC | DINING | BARS

Friday, May 30

-All Categories-

-All Neighborhoods-

go

Submit an event

LATEST IN NEWS

Short Honeymoon: With the ban on same-sex marriage removed, nondiscrimination is the next battle for "full equality"

"If you go across the border, you can be fired for putting a marriage photo on your desk."

by Alex Zimmerman

In new exhibit of after-hours gay clubs, local historian unearths the city's LGBT legacy

"It's a Pittsburgh history of gayness; you just can't separate the two."

by Charbe Dedch

Expert panel recommends technology, cultural changes at Port Authority

"The customer must be the focus of the entire strategic plan. The riders here feel a little bit left out."

by Alex Zimmerman

More »

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"We have to be honest about the fact that there are professionals who don't want to deal with either of those issues [race and poverty]," Lane said.

According to NCTQ, a recent study by Mathematica — a public-policy think-tank — found that teachers can be incentivized to transfer to high-needs schools when they are given a combination of increased compensation and support.

"It's not necessarily racism; it's not that teachers don't want to work with poor kids," says Kate Walsh, NCTQ president. "I think what the district can do is look for more inventive ways to get teachers into high-needs schools. It's not money that's getting these teachers into high-needs schools."

The report was funded by local education-advocacy organization A+ Schools, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Overall, it recommended removing state-imposed restrictions on hiring and school staffing.

"There are a number of policy barriers working against getting the most effective teachers in front of the most vulnerable kids," says Carey Harris, executive director of A+ Schools.

Some of these state restrictions include use of the eligibility list, which is a state-required ranking of teacher applicants, in hiring and staffing decisions. According to NCTQ, the list keeps administrators from interviewing candidates who might not be at the top of the list, but would still be a good fit for a high-needs school.

Other recommendations include having Pittsburgh continue to use its new evaluation system and allowing performance to be a factor in determining which teacher will be laid off.

PFT President Esposito-Visgitis sees these recommendations as yet another attack on her members, and another way for the district to place blame on teachers without looking at additional factors that impact student performance.

"It's always the same," Esposito-Visgitis says. "It doesn't address poverty; it doesn't address school leadership. It's the same old, same old for years."

COMMENTS

MORE BY REBECCA NUTTALL

City partners with Nextdoor neighborhood social network
by Rebecca Nuttall

Coalition continues fight for Medicaid expansion
by Rebecca Nuttall

More »