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For Immediate Release

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**Chartwell Education Group LLC Recommends Revamp of
District's Career and Technical Education System**

District Names David J. Malone Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee Chair

PITTSBURGH February 5, 2007 – At tonight's Education Committee Meeting, Chartwell Education Group LLC presented recommendations to the Board regarding key changes needed to improve the District's current Career and Technical Education (CTE) system. Chartwell, requested by Superintendent Mark Roosevelt to evaluate and recommend changes to the District's current CTE program, serves State education boards, individual schools and local school districts that are in academic transition. Chartwell assists in the areas of evaluation and assessment and strategy and support throughout the transition process.

"We need to insure that the education taking place in our schools is relevant to the skills necessary to succeed in today's workforce," said Superintendent Roosevelt. "One of the key results of our high school reform work must be that Career and Technical Education be dramatically upgraded to prepare our students for life beyond high school."

In October 2006, Chartwell sent a team of professionals with expertise in career and technical education to assist with the District's High School Reform efforts. The Chartwell team, led by Susan Sclafani, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, completed four days of site visits and interviews in order to provide a high level review of the District's current CTE program.

One of the key recommendations in the Chartwell report was the formation of a Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee comprised of high-level corporate, higher education, government and workforce leaders, to communicate the need for change and review the future education, economic and workforce development needs of Pittsburgh.

This evening, Superintendent Roosevelt announced the appointment of David J. Malone, President and CEO, Gateway Financial, as Chair of the District's Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee. Mr. Malone serves as Chairman of PA Workforce Investment Board and currently serves on the District's High School Reform Task Force. Additional members of the Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee will be announced shortly.

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The District’s Current CTE Program

According to the Chartwell report, the main finding of the review team is that there are no systems in place to develop, implement, evaluate and refine the career and technical education programs found in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Chartwell found a disconnect between the responsibilities of central office staff, principals, teachers and counselors in the development of CTE programming. The current supervision and evaluation of District personnel lacks accountability for results leaving little incentive for improved performance.

Currently, CTE fails to connect careers to academic coursework and does not encourage students in grades K-8 to investigate future career options. The current guidance and counseling systems are not focused on encouraging students to explore, enter or complete career and technical education programs.

The Chartwell team acknowledged that “nearly all the teachers we met had credentials and also industry experience...a strength for PPS.”

Recommendations from Chartwell Education Group LLC

Chartwell recommends the District develop a K-16 strategic plan for CTE developed in collaboration with business and post-secondary education that addresses the need for key changes in the following areas.

- Business, Industry and College Involvement
- Pre-K-12 Guidance and Counseling System
- Program Offerings

Business, Industry and College Involvement

In order to improve the District’s current relationship with local businesses, industries and colleges, Chartwell recommended the formation of a Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee and Blue Ribbon Working Committee.

The Blue Ribbon Working Committee would be responsible for the development of a short and long-term community strategic plan to address the issues identified by the Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee.

In addition, Chartwell recommends conversations begin between the District and the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (TRWIB) about career education and approaches for its delivery at the high school level. TRWIB is currently working with local school boards and community colleges around workforce trends.

Pre-K-12 Guidance and Counseling System

An effective CTE program infuses CTE principles consecutively throughout grades K-12. Chartwell recommends that the District establish career awareness, career exploration and a career connections system that runs from elementary through high school.

In order to improve the District's CTE program, Central Office needs to analyze the current career counselor system, develop professional development sessions for counselors and principals on labor market forecasts and develop a tool kit with CTE policies and procedures that provides information sequences of CTE courses.

Program Offerings

Chartwell offered recommendations for possible program design including, the design of a centrally-located academic and technical high school that operates as a four-year, full-day institution. Student offerings would include career pathways, core academic and advanced courses. Based on research of Allegheny County's top employment sectors, Chartwell recommends the District develop CTE programs in the areas of science, technology, health and medical services. Additional recommendations for reconfiguration include the development of career academies, smaller learning communities and spreading CTE programs among the four quadrants of the city.

The public can review all the recommendations provided by the Chartwell Education Group LLC by visiting the Pittsburgh Public Schools website at www.pps.k12.pa.us, visiting the Division of Communications and Marketing, Room 204. Public feedback can be provided to the Superintendent via email to superintendentoffice@pghboe.net or via mail.

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