

# **The Academies at Westinghouse**

Young Men's Academy  
Young Women's Academy

Pittsburgh Public Schools Board of Directors  
Education Committee Update  
January 4, 2011

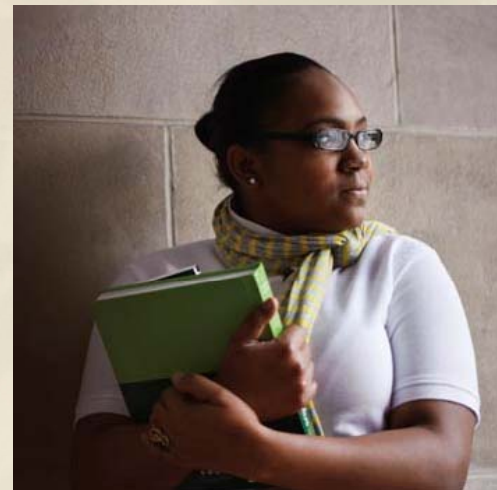


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Note: This Presentation contains  
Attachments A, B, and C.

# Contents of the Update

- Review of Board Action to Date
- Update on the Implementation Process
- Presentation by Student Ambassadors of both the Young Men's Academy and Young Women's Academy
- Update on the Outreach and Marketing Campaign



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Board Actions have occurred to facilitate the opening of the Academies at Westinghouse in the Fall of 2011.

- On August 25, 2010, the Board approved the establishment of the Academies at Westinghouse.
  - The closure of Pittsburgh Peabody 9-12
  - The closure of Pittsburgh Westinghouse and the opening of two schools at the Westinghouse facility
    - The Young Men's Academy 6-12
    - The Young Women's Academy 6-12
- On November 23, 2010, the Board approved the magnet designation for the Academies at Westinghouse

# Following Board Action, planning has proceeded.

- A Project Manager was hired to facilitate a community process.
- The Principals of Pittsburgh Peabody and Pittsburgh Westinghouse meet with the Assistant Superintendent weekly to plan the opening of the Academies.
- Student Ambassadors have been engaged in the planning process since September.



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Working Groups led by community members have identified four areas for planning and action.

- Parent and Community Engagement
- Transition Planning
- Full-Service School Construct
- Culturally Relevant Education



- **See Attachment A.**
- **January 11, 2011 Meeting at Westinghouse to share with community at large**



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# A “trimester” calendar change is recommended for the Academies.

- Original recommendation of the East Region Advisory Committee sought an extended day and year.
  - Extended Day of 45 minutes for all students grades 6-12.
  - Extended Year of 20 days for students in grades 6-10.
- Within the five-year period, a student will receive approximately one year of additional schooling.
- **See Attachment B for Trimester Calendar**
  - **Note: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at the Academies will conclude their academic year with other seniors within PPS.**
  - **Note: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at the Academies will participate in the Voluntary Internship Program (i.e. Junior V.I.P.) during the six-week period in the summer of 2012.**

# Many advantages to the flexible calendar exist.

- The trimester calendar embeds the opportunity to remediate challenges of students while accelerating learning for others
- Fewer classes per trimester permits a student to focus upon the core academic subjects and is more representative of a college or university schedule.
  - Typically, students have 8 classes in each of two semesters.
  - The Trimester schedule focuses students on three core and two electives every 12 weeks.
- Full weeks for intensive learning and experiential learning off-site are scheduled to allow students to utilize “the world” as our classroom.



The Administration is working with PFT leadership regarding collective bargaining issues.

- Working conditions
  - Trimester Calendar
  - Alternate use of Time
  - Class load
  - Use of collaborative planning for curriculum and lesson design.



The Trimester Schedule does result in an increased budget allocation for the Academies.

- The increase in cost is due largely to the extended day and extended year for students and teachers.
- The cost is approximately \$300,000/academy per year.
- **See Attachment C.**

## The Young Women's Academy



**The Vision:** *A Place to Succeed*

**The Mission:** *Where young men and young women develop their IDENTITY, cultivate their INTELLECT, and INSPIRE the transformation of the communities in which they learn and live.*

## The Young Men's Academy



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# The Academies at Westinghouse: “Identity”



- The Young Men and Young Women will develop a strong sense of self and will define themselves in the context of the world as their classrooms
- The Academies, the Parents and the Community will work together, partnering to build up and to educate the “whole” student.
- Teachers work closely with students, not simply focusing upon academic subjects, but also advising and helping them to assess their individual strengths and areas for growth; to identify their passions and dislikes; and to set goals and objectives for their success.

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# The Academies at Westinghouse: “Intellect”

- Teachers will challenge our Young Men and Young Women to engage in habits of mind to not simply master the tasks in front of them, but to also become life-long learners.
- Students at the Academies will be challenged to master the essential literacies: active “listening”; the “spoken” word; the “written” word, which includes “reading,” “analyzing,” and “writing about” complex texts; and “cultural literacy,” which includes the impact of dress, attitude and behavior on individual success.



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# The Academies at Westinghouse: “Inspire”

- Leadership and Social Justice are interwoven into the fabric of the school.
  - Morning Meetings with the entire student body to set the tone for the day to establish and reinforce the culture and climate for the Academies.
  - Leadership classes will be taught in collaboration with the CORO Center for Civic Leadership and those skills will be fostered by teachers from whom they learn everyday.
  - Service Learning Opportunities, Internships and Externships with community partners transform their worldview and serve as motivation for others.



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Many partnerships have arisen as a result of our efforts to engage our community in the work of the Academies.

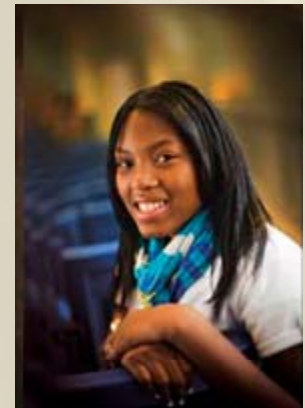
Formalized or Formalizing Partnerships with:

- Homewood Children's Village
- The Ellis School
- Community College of Allegheny County



Exploring Partnerships with:

- CORO Center for Civic Leadership
- The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board



Outreach to community and student recruitment will continue throughout the winter months.

- Participation in PSCC meetings at Peabody, Westinghouse, Faison, Lincoln, Arsenal
- Door-to-door canvassing of neighborhoods will occur in the East Region
  - Working with the Homewood Children's Village, Operation Better Block, the East End Collaborative and other community organizations
- Engagement of organizations that work with youth
  - Community Athletic Leagues
- Meetings with Neighborhood Groups



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# Student Ambassadors are a major part of this work.

- Student Ambassadors traveled to visit single gender schools in October:
  - Young Men Ambassadors traveled to New York to visit Eagle Academy and Urban Assembly for History and Culture and to Philadelphia to visit Boys Latin.
  - Young Women traveled to Chicago to visit the Young Women's Leadership Academy.
- Ambassadors will travel with teachers selected for the Academies at Westinghouse in late April and early May to schools in those locations.
  - Young Women Ambassadors to New York and Philadelphia
  - Young Men Ambassadors to Chicago

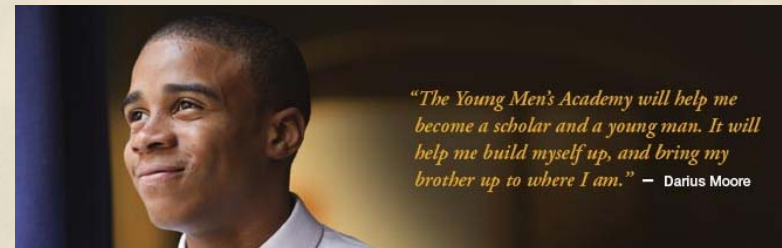
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# Ambassadors have joined us here this evening for a short presentation.

- We have asked them to
  - Talk about the experience of coming together as ambassadors
  - Talk about the visits to the single gender schools in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.
  - Talk about their presentations to the students at PPS schools over the last two months.



# The formal marketing campaign is underway.

- Letters have gone home to parents explaining the process for enrollment into the Academies at Westinghouse
- Dr. Lane has sent out an ALERT NOW message to the schools in the East Region of the City of Pittsburgh.
- Our Ambassadors participated in a photo shoot, and our marketing campaign will utilize our students, the faces of the young men and young women we seek to educate.
- The Profile of the Academies can be accessed through the PPS website at [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us).



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# Board Action requested for the month of January for the Academies at Westinghouse.

- Adopting the trimester calendar
- Formalizing Partnerships with
  - The Ellis School
  - The Community College of Allegheny County
- Authorizing Ambassador Excursions
  - The October 2010 Excursion- Retroactively
  - The April and May 2011 Excursion- Prospectively





## **The Academies *at* Westinghouse**

**A Place *to* Succeed.**



The Young Women's Academy



The Young Men's Academy

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