

Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
September 22, 2025

#1

Shirley Ann Hill

Retired PPS Teacher

September 22, 2025

I have followed the public hearings regarding the unfair treatment of former Montessori teacher Ms. Stephanie Lapine by principal Kellie Meyer. Throughout my 41-year career with PPS, I too was subjected to toxic principals like her. In December 2023, Ms. Stephanie Lapine was removed from her classroom by Kellie Meyer. Ms. Stephanie Lapine was cleared in February 2024 but was “conveniently transferred” to another school that does not have a Montessori program. Because you chose to completely ignore Kellie Meyer’s toxic behavior, Ms. Stephanie Lapine will be starting her own Montessori school. Once again, another awesome teacher leaves PPS because you continue to enable this type of toxic leadership which has been extended to the parents/guardians and staff.

I am appalled that the Student Achievement Center is on the chopping block. This school offers our kids so much that credit recovery can’t come close to it. When is the last time you observed a credit recovery class? While at Carrick, I can say credit recovery was dismal. The students log on and they are basically on their own. This also goes on at other schools. Take off the blinders and keep SAC open.

Carrick High School has a very small percentage of Black teachers. “Research has shown that Black teachers have a direct positive impact on Black and non-Black students.” (The Power of Black Teachers, Kaci Wright, February 26, 2025) **BLACK STUDENTS AT CARRICK MATTER!!**

What is the rationale behind virtual public hearing speakers going after in person speakers? Please return to the original format where it did not make a difference which option you selected to speak at the public hearing.

#2

Anne Farris

Parent

Hi, I'm Anne Farris, a PPS parent living in the North side.

I want to congratulate Orli Trumbull and Chris Graves, the district's first student board representatives. I am always energized to see our students engaged and curious and it is my hope this Board of Directors embraces that and takes great care to give in return by amplifying their voices. Chris Graves talked about the student voice coming from someone, "Actually learning and being in an environment, instead of just being an adult who's kind of a spectator and not fully experiencing what's going on, how the policies actually affect students." I am excited to have the opportunity to listen to these students, and learn how I can do better as an advocate for transparency, responsibility, and accountability from our district policymakers. Thank you Director Udin for your efforts to give these students a seat in the room. May we all be aware of our role as spectators in this process and the responsibility we have as adult members of the community to set our students up to succeed.

I understand you all are tired of hearing from parents with students in magnet programs pleading for these programs not to end when there are students who don't have access. But I am confused when I hear Director Wilson say in a legislative session that Dilworth has this wonderful morning program, why don't other schools have one? If this was one of the largest issues of inequity facing the district, I would count us lucky.

It has been very important to me that I not deliver "save my school testimonies". I believe the PPS magnet program has a history of offering incredibly successful programming to a diverse student population. I also understand the inherent inequities and support change that would make world languages, specialized instruction, and a thematic focus accessible to all students who would thrive in those learning environments. Yes, let's keep working on this.

I am also confused by the administration's high priority to end the elementary magnet programs this year. Dr. Walters has made this priority clear by postponing both the magnet fair and magnet lottery last year, giving less than a week's notice of these changes to PPS families. This year those events are not included in the digital and printed 25-26 calendar as if the board has already voted to authorize the end of these programs. Right now, the magnet school parents I speak with understand this to be the district's plan and we are asking for transparency in the process to prepare our students for the transition. My question is, how much notice (in months) will families have ahead of elementary magnet closures and school reassignment? I understand that until the facilities plan is voted on, the district cannot notify PPS families with an official timeline. However, if the facilities plan is not about budget but about equity, then is it possible for the timeline in the plan to be written to account for closures to occur x months or years after board authorization. This would greatly reduce confusion.



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#3

Shannon Striner

Parent



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#4

Katy Rank Lev

Parent



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#5

Lauren Stuparitz

Teacher, Staff, Parent, Organization, Community Member



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#6

Kim Daelhousen

Teacher, Staff, Community Member



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#7

Lily Allman

Student



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#8

Valerie Webb-Allman

Parent



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#9

Anita Penn

Parent

I feel transferring my grandson that is in the 11th grade and he plays varsity basketball to a district school would disrupt his life at this time.



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#10

Emily Sawyer

Parent