

#1

Shirley Ann Hill

Retired PPS Teacher

PUBLIC HEARING - SHIRLEY ANN HILL

October 20, 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. To add to Kellie Meyer's toxicity, she informed her staff not to communicate with a parent regarding their child but to communicate with another family member. Keep in mind, this parent has always been the contact person. The new change was not communicated to that parent nor was there a reason given. This is an insult to the education profession!!! Dr. Sacco - Have you talked to Kellie Meyer regarding her toxic leadership that has been going on for years?

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

Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

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.



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#2

April Clisura

Parent, School Bus Driver



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#3

Vanessa Dagavarian

Parent



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#4

Nina Louise Dagavarian

Student

#5

Anne Farris

Teacher/Staff, Parent

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

Due to the current spending freeze I am confused by agenda item 10.14 for the authorization of \$115,000 for a WPXI contract for hyper-local content related to DEI issues the citizens of Pittsburgh are facing in their everyday lives, plus 10 long-form segments with Dr. Walters. This expense is NOT a contractual agreement essential to the continuity of classroom instruction. We had in-school PSAT testing for 8th and 9th graders this week canceled with only a week's notice, not enough time for parents to register their students at an alternate testing location. We have an 8th grade science class at Sterrett unable to purchase the live fish to study for an already set up aquarium. If I am misunderstanding the phrase, "essential to the continuity of classroom instruction," I am happy to read a follow-up Peach Jar communication.

I would like to see or hear the Superintendent present analytics from previous rounds of long-form content like the In the Know - Students First With Superintendent...Walters series. In my searching I see that one received 13 views on the PPS YouTube channel which has 525 subscribers. Who is this content for? It is well known the average viewer will not get past the first 30 seconds, and a 2015 Microsoft study showed an 8.25 second attention span with Gen Z viewers. In addition to the question of why our Student Outcomes focused Board of Directors is spending any seconds authorizing this expense during a spending freeze is why this specific contract should even be considered at all.

There are still a significant number of families unaware of how the Future Ready Facilities Plan will impact them. Board of Directors, I hope you expect Dr. Walters' Implementation Plan presentation on October 30th to include a detailed timeline on any changes that will impact student school assignments and IEP services they receive, as well as an in-person communication plan to all families. Gene Walker has said, it is not the Board's responsibility to determine the "how". But it is very much under your authority to determine the "when."

This is a critical moment for PPS and the defining moment of how the nine of you choose to demonstrate your authority. The October 30th presentation allows the community one Public Testimony the day before you plan to vote to move forward with this plan. When everything is on fire, everything is a priority. The community expects you to protect them from harm the best you can. The attitude of "we all have to endure difficult situations" shouldn't apply here. We should see you all working with us to increase support and minimize harm. What you each decide next month will show us not what you were able to do to get things done, but what you were willing to do, knowing the consequences.



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#6

Emily Sawyer

Parent



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#7

Sarah Zangle

Parent



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#8

Lauren Stuparitz

Teacher/Staff, Parent, Organization, Community Member



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#9

Kim Daelhousen

Teacher/Staff, Community Member



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#10

Meg Booth

Organization

#11

Deepa Bardoloi

Teacher/Staff

My Testimony – October 20, 2025

I teach content English, English language development and a reading intervention class to high school ELD students at Brashear High School. It's clear many of my 9th grade students need reading intervention despite having been in our school system for at least 3 or 4 years. These students find it challenging to understand content knowledge in mainstream biology, chemistry, history and civics classes.

I want to strongly request that the PPS board members and other decision makers at PPS include the voices of all ELD teachers, including mine. So far, emails sent by us to decision makers at the school, department and board level have yielded very little response and an exchange of ideas. We have recommendations that can improve these issues, but we need engagement from our superiors. Our end goal is to enrich the educational experiences of ELD students at all PPS schools not just mine and eliminate learning gaps.

Please re-consider listening to us on how best we can support each other in different schools at PPS, so all ELD students have a learning experience that is equitable, and consistent.

Deepa Bardoloi
English | ELD Teacher
Brashear High School
590 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh 15216



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#12

Lily Allman

Student



Pittsburgh Public Schools Fulton Special Public Hearing Testimonies
October 20, 2025

#13

Valerie Webb-Allman

Parent