

#1

Shirley Ann Hill

Retired PPS Teacher

PUBLIC HEARING – SHIRLEY ANN HILL**July 20, 2026**

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. She was cleared in February 2024 but was “conveniently transferred” to another school that does not have a Montessori program. Why is Kellie Meyer not being held accountable for her unfair treatment of Ms. Stephanie Lapine (the only lead black teacher)? Per Kellie Meyer, Ms. Stephanie Lapine was not permitted to clear out her belongings. Various teachers dismantled her room. This resonates with me. When Angel Washington “conveniently transferred” me to UPrep, I was not permitted to completely clear out my room. In fact, someone from CTE boxed up all my belongings (six years) and shipped them to UPrep. She was never held accountable and the union was useless. How is it that an administrator can bar an employee from clearing out their room? Some Montessori teachers have filed grievances and still nothing has been done. Toxic principals like Kellie Meyer put fear in teachers who speak up by sabotaging their teacher evaluations which in turn can affect their salary. Pretending there are no problems at Montessori creates an unsettling work environment. Teachers should not have to adapt to this leadership style to keep their jobs. I question how students are first when toxic principals are not held accountable. With the new school year fast approaching, this needs to be addressed! Stop letting toxic principals get away with this behavior!!

I am disappointed that the Student Achievement Center will be closing. This school offered our kids so much that credit recovery can’t come close to. While at Carrick, credit recovery was dismal. The students log on and they were basically on their own. This also goes on at other schools.

Carrick High School has a very small percentage of Black teachers. Leon Smith was named 2026 National Teacher of the Year. He is a Black history teacher at Haverford High School in Havertown, Pennsylvania. “I think one thing that we can all agree on is that we want all of our students to be successful. Student achievement is

Pittsburgh Public Schools Public Hearing Testimonies

July 20, 2026

driving all of our work in education. The research is clear, that educators of color not only benefit students of color, but they benefit all students. And that's what we want. We want all of our students to be successful." **BLACK STUDENTS AT CARRICK MATTER!!**



Pittsburgh Public Schools Public Hearing Testimonies
July 20, 2026

#2

Kara Britanik

Parent



Pittsburgh Public Schools Public Hearing Testimonies

July 20, 2026