



**WE CAN DO BETTER,  
AND WE WILL!**

**ACT 141 FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN  
HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**CHIEF RECOVERY OFFICER GENE G. VENO  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 16, 2013

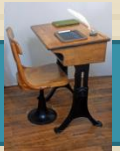
# Welcome and thank you for agreeing to serve on the HSD Advisory Committee!

2

- Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to the provisions of Act 141 for a Moderate Financial Recovery School District
- Four members appointed by the board of school directors:
  - Two members of the board of school directors
    - Jennifer Smallwood-President
    - James Thompson-Chair of Budget and Finance Committee
  - Principal employed by the school district
    - Donna Cheatham-Principal at Scott School & Act 93 Chair
  - Business official employed by the school district
    - Debra Miller, Business Manager



*We can do better, and we will!*



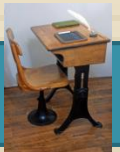
# Welcome and thank you for agreeing to serve on the HSD Advisory Committee!

3

- Six members appointed by the intermediate unit:
  - Employee of the intermediate unit
    - **Dr. Mary Jane Gales, Executive Director, CAIU**
  - Representative of a district charter/cyber school
    - **Dr. Kevin Moran, Director, Sylvan Heights Charter School**
  - Special education advocate
    - **Dr. Rachelle Bonfield**
  - Superintendent, school director or business official of an adjoining school district
    - **Dr. Mark Leidy, Superintendent, Mechanicsburg SD**
  - Two residents of the school district
    - **Karl Singleton and Merry-Grace Majors**



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Welcome and thank you for agreeing to serve on HSD Advisory Committee!

4

- A teacher appointed by the employee organization of teachers in the district
  - ▣ Teacher
    - **Sherri Magnusson, HEA President**
- Pursuant to the provisions of Act 141
  - ▣ The superintendent of the school district
    - **Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney**
- Additional members
  - **M. Nichelle Chivis, Staff Representative, AFSCME District Council 90**
  - **Terry Mathis, AFSCME President**
  - **Lisa Lyles, Director of Human Resources**

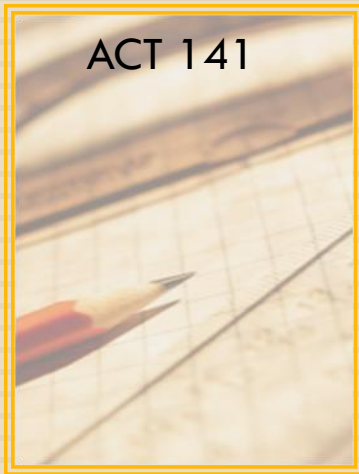


*We can do better, and we will!*



# What is Act 141?

5



- In July 2012, new state law enacted to help school districts facing financial challenges
- On Dec. 12, 2012, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, Ronald J. Tomalis, appointed Gene Veno to serve as Chief Recovery Officer for the HSD
- CRO has 90 days to develop financial and academic recovery plan with goal of quality education:
  - ▣ Restore district to long-term financial solvency
  - ▣ Raise student achievement
  - ▣ Develop high performing schools
  - ▣ Reach key goal: All students graduating
  - ▣ Ensure graduates are well prepared for college or trade schools



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Why we are here

6

- HSD deemed in “moderate financial recovery status” based on financial factors
- School district student achievement rankings demonstrate need for improvement
  - ▣ Academic performance
    - In 2011 HSD ranked 494 out of 501 school districts
    - In 2012 only 45% of Harrisburg students graduated high school (state average 83%)
    - In 2011-2012 only 35% of Harrisburg students were proficient in math
    - In 2011-2012 only 34% of Harrisburg students were proficient in reading
  - ▣ Long-term financial status review in process



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Chief Recovery Officer (CRO) Role

7

- Oversees the creation of the Financial Recovery Plan
- Submitted Entry Plan on December 17, 2012
  - Regularly meet and communicate with School Board, Superintendent, the Advisory Committee, financial advisors and other key stakeholders
  - Hold public meetings to explain the process and receive input
  - Get to know about the community and learn hopes/concerns
  - Develop sound financial and academic recovery plan
    - Working with financial experts, PFM
    - Academic experts, including Francis V. Barnes, academic advisor
- Decisions will be made after receiving input from school board, advisory committee, public, students, other stakeholders

□



*We can do better, and we will!*



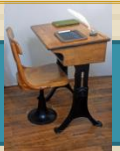
# Recovery Plan

8

- Will review current district finances and provide a projection up to five years into the future
- Will include a plan for academic improvement and stabilization of district finances
- Will look at all aspects of district operations, including academic spending, facilities, transportation, food service, revenues, workforce and other issues
- Will include innovations and changes suggested by stakeholders, the CRO and others



*We can do better, and we will!*





# Advisory Committee Role

9

- ❑ Required by law for Moderate Financial Recovery School District
- ❑ Representatives appointed within 10 days of declaration of financial recovery status
- ❑ Meet monthly
- ❑ Solely provide recommendations and feedback to the chief recovery officer on the development and implementation of the financial recovery plan
  - Brainstorm with me
  - Give me your insights, guidance
  - Help me communicate to your constituencies
    - About public meetings
    - Overall efforts



*We can do better, and we will!*



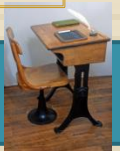
# Make education a priority

10

- Academics
  - ▣ Every child deserves opportunity to succeed
  - ▣ Equip every child with skills to graduate and go to college or trade school
  - ▣ Plan starts with financial baseline, with operations scaled to match available resources
  - ▣ Parents, educators & community leaders must work as partners
  - ▣ Students must buy into plan; it's their future
  - ▣ Everyone in community is accountable for success



*We can do better, and we will!*



# We can do better, and we will!

11



- Focus on improving student performance
  - Art, music and theater lead to higher achievement
  - Improve safety for students and staff
  - Improve technology
  - Ideas from the Advisory Committee
  - Ideas from the community at-large
  - Thinking outside the box



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Timeline

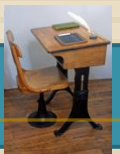
12

- School Board, Advisory Committee and Public Meetings through March 12, 2013
- CRO's recovery plan to be submitted March 12, 2013
- District's board of school directors approve or disapprove the plan by April 11, 2013.
- If not approved within 30 days, school district not eligible for a loan or technical assistance.
- If the board of school directors does not approve the plan within 365 days following the declaration, the Secretary shall file a Petition for Appointment of Receiver .

**While this may seem fast, our children  
can't wait for better schools**



*We can do better, and we will!*



# “State of the District” Breakout sessions

13

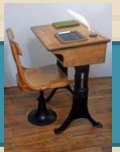
- Two groups
- 25 minutes to brainstorm current and desired state
- Return to group and share ideas

**Breakout Group 1**

**Breakout Group 2**



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Advisory Committee Comments

14

- Breakout Group 1
  - Discussion
- Breakout Group 2
  - Discussion

## Breakout Sessions Results



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Next Steps for Committee

15

- Next Advisory Committee meetings
  - Tuesday, Feb. 7 (Administration Building) – 6pm
  - Tuesday, Mar. 7 (Administration Building) – 6pm
- Continue advising with insights and feedback
- Communicate about the recovery plan and process to your constituencies
- Show your support in the community and help garner support for this very important initiative
- Public meetings
  - Tuesday, Jan. 29 (John Harris High School) – 6 pm
  - Thursday, Feb. 21 (Camp Curtain School) – 6 pm
  - Tuesday, Mar. 12 (John Harris High School) – 6 pm



*We can do better, and we will!*



# Thank You!

16

- I'll continue to keep you informed, and I look forward to hearing from all of you throughout this process.
- Our work is important not only to the financial recovery of the district, but most importantly for the children, parents and the community!
- Visit our website: **[www.hsdrecoveryplan.org](http://www.hsdrecoveryplan.org)**

*We can do better, and we will!*



*We can do better, and we will!*

