

**The Grable Foundation**

*Susan Brownlee  
Executive Director*

July 9, 2002

Members of the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education  
Superintendent John Thompson  
341 S. Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**The Heinz Endowments**

*Maxwell King  
Executive Director*

Dear Members of the Board and Superintendent Thompson:

We are writing to inform you that, effective immediately, our organizations, which together provide a majority of foundation support to the Pittsburgh Public Schools, are suspending all funding to the district indefinitely. We deeply regret having to take this step. We believe, however, that the sharp decline of governance, leadership and fiscal discipline in the Pittsburgh Public Schools compel us to seek constructive solutions to ensure that our investments in the school system realize our shared goals of enhancing student achievement and promoting fiscal discipline.

**The Pittsburgh  
Foundation**

*William Trueheart  
President & CEO*

We believe the children, parents, teachers and taxpayers of the City of Pittsburgh are entitled to a school system that is academically first-rate and financially healthy. Our foundations have enthusiastically supported efforts by the district to renew its focus in recent years on educational excellence and fiscal accountability. The programs funded by our organizations have included wholesale improvements in math and literacy instruction, computer training and professional development for teachers, summer reading tutors, the purchase of computers and software, support of preschool learning, career training for high school students, and numerous other efforts to increase student achievement.

Unfortunately, these improvement efforts—and many we don't fund—are put at risk by the bickering, distrust and chaotic decision making that now seem endemic to the top echelons of the Pittsburgh Public School system. In our work to support education, we have learned repeatedly that the single best indicator of whether an organization will succeed is the extent to which its board and administration share clear goals and are able to provide strong, committed and consistent leadership in pursuit of those goals.

The conditions for that sort of effective leadership are clearly absent in the district today. The board is divided, the administration is embattled, key personnel are leaving or under attack, and morale appears to be devastatingly low. Support for highly promising programs like Literacy Plus and Prime Plus has been wavering and inconsistent. Financial audits and reports designed to streamline operations and contain costs have not been acted upon. The district's 38,000 students, their parents and the many fine teachers and administrators who together do the daily work of teaching and learning, are all left wondering about the future direction of the district, while taxpayers have no reason to believe that costs will be contained and the reputation of the schools maintained.


No one is well served by a leadership and governance structure that has become so degraded. This includes our region as a whole, the reputation and long-term economic success of which is tied directly to the strength and vitality of the region's largest school district.

Like many other members of our community, we have voiced our concerns as relations between the school board's majority and minority members and between the board and the superintendent have grown increasingly dysfunctional. We have supported efforts at mediation and have offered to underwrite a process to clarify roles and responsibilities. To help the board and the administration get a better sense of those roles and provide an incentive for cooperation, we have made the mutual backing of both a condition of our support for key educational initiatives. Unfortunately, these efforts have produced little or no response.

As investors, we can no longer be confident that any funds we put into the district will be used wisely and to the maximum benefit of students. Therefore, it would be irresponsible for us to continue support for the district at this time.


We do not arrive at this decision lightly, and we want to be clear that we are not giving up on Pittsburgh's public school system, which was once one of the finest urban school districts in the country. For it to become that again, though, it will be necessary to create the organizational conditions under which strong, capable and coherent leadership is possible. Our organizations will remain engaged in efforts by the larger community to create an effective management and governance structure for the district. Until that happens, however, we will not fund the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Sincerely,



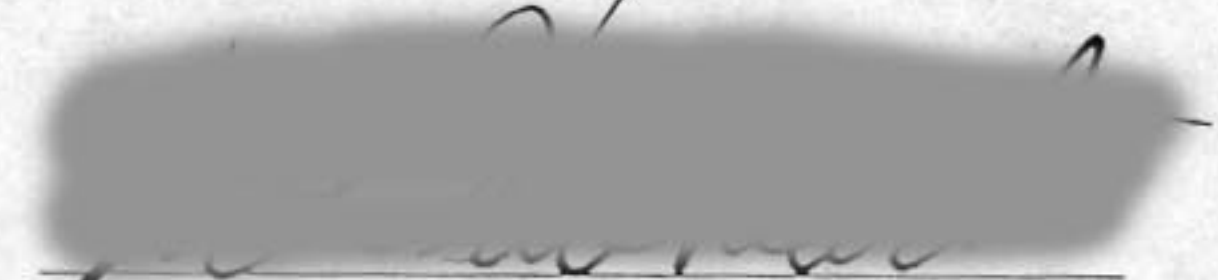
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Susan Brownlee  
The Grable Foundation



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Maxwell King  
The Heinz Endowments



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William Trueheart  
The Pittsburgh Foundation

**THE GRABLE FOUNDATION**  
**Grants Made Directly to Pittsburgh Public Schools**  
**Grouped by Year**

**1997**

Crescent Elementary School - After School Program	\$	11,505.00
Crescent Elementary School - Science Programs		500.00
Expo of Excellence		4,000.00
Oliver High School - Expansion of Arts Collaborative into 11th Grade		249,992.00
Reading Readiness Program		105,000.00
Summer Schools Initiative		66,967.00
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<b>Total 1997 Grants:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>437,964.00</b>

**1998**

Frick International Studies Academy - Summer Programs	\$	23,236.00
Friendship Academy - FACES Program		25,000.00
Greenfield Elementary School - Instructional Support Program		6,000.00
Reading Rally for K-3 Students		15,000.00
Report to the Community		3,500.00
Summer Schools Initiative		134,780.00
Think-a-Thon		5,100.00
Waterford Early Reading Program		166,643.00
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<b>Total 1998 Grants:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>379,259.00</b>

**1999**

All City Jazz Ensemble	\$	1,600.00
Carrick High School - Student-Designed Community Center		39,000.00
Frick International Studies Academy		20,000.00
Gladstone Middle School - Summer Enrichment Program		10,000.00
Manchester Elementary School - Summer Program		15,000.00
Miller Elementary School - Extended Year Program		40,000.00
Peabody High School - Information Technology Academy		35,000.00
P.S. Write		50,000.00
Start on Success Program		20,000.00
Student Bagpipe Band		9,600.00
Summer Literacy Program		50,000.00
Summer Schools Initiative		202,809.00
Superintendent Search		36,500.00
Superintendent's Fund for School Outreach Activities		1,000.00
Think-a-Thon		7,000.00
Waterford Reading Program		150,000.00
Westinghouse High School - Girls Basketball and Academic Enrichment		7,000.00
Westinghouse High School - Youth Leadership Academy		14,428.00
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<b>Total 1999 Grants:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>708,937.00</b>

**The Grable Foundation, continued****2000**

Academic Enrichment Program	\$	12,400.00
BizTech Writing Project		5,576.00
Carrick High School - After School Program		39,000.00
Early Childhood Education Planning		8,050.00
Extended Year Program		174,000.00
Frick International Studies Academy		10,000.00
Langley High School - Functional Life Skills Program		3,000.00
Miller Elementary School - Extended Year Program		40,000.00
National Board Certification for PPS Teachers		38,000.00
Peabody High School - Information Technology Program		65,000.00
Prime Plus Math Program		50,000.00
Report to the Community		4,000.00
Schenley High School - International Baccalaureate Program		7,000.00
Start on Success Program		10,000.00
Summer Arts Camp		20,000.00
Superintendent Search		57,780.00
Think-A-Thon		8,600.00

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Total 2000 Grants: \$ 552,406.00

**2001**

Carrick High School After School Program	\$	30,000.00
Extended Year Program		107,061.00
Information Technology Program		89,000.00
Literacy Plus - Research & Implementation		451,197.00
Prime Plus Math Program		50,000.00
Strategic Planning for CAPA		100,000.00
Miller Elementary School - Extended Year Program		40,000.00
Westinghouse High School Girls Basketball Program		11,500.00
Literacy Plus - Expansion		1,000,000.00

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Total 2001 Grants: \$ 1,878,758.00

Total Awarded Over 5 Years: \$ 3,957,324.00

Unpaid Balance: \$ 1,000,000.00

**THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS**  
**Grants Made Directly to Pittsburgh Public Schools**  
**Grouped by Year**

**1997**

Pittsburgh Writing Project	\$	125,000.00
Project Co-NECT, technology based curriculum initiative		312,000.00
Arts Collaborative at Oliver High School		75,000.00

Total 1997 Grants: \$ 512,000.00

**1998**

Computer-based teacher training initiative	\$	460,000.00
*Waterford Early Learning Project		260,000.00
Reading Rally project		15,000.00

Total 1998 Grants: \$ 735,000.00

**1999**

Pilot of the Extended Year Literacy Program	\$	100,000.00
Computer-based teacher training initiative		400,000.00
Pittsburgh Writing Project		100,000.00
*Waterford Early Learning Project		300,000.00
For leadership and team building for school performance initiatives		200,000.00

Total 1999 Grants: \$ 1,100,000.00

**2000**

Coordinator for the Summer 2000 extended year literacy program	\$	15,000.00
Leadership Transition Initiative		20,000.00
*Waterford Early Learning Project		1,000,000.00
Extended Year Literacy Program		200,000.00
Pittsburgh Writing Project		100,000.00
Evaluation of the Extended-Year Literacy program		29,000.00
Early Learning Initiative at Arlington Elementary School		75,000.00
Wireless Technology Lab at Schenley High School		80,000.00
Prime Plus - math instruction in elementary grades		200,000.00

Total 2000 Grants: \$ 1,719,000.00

**2001**

Planning for the CAPA High School in the Cultural District	\$	100,000.00
Literacy Plus		2,000,000.00
Health Careers Academy at Langley High School		75,000.00

Total 2001 Grants: \$ 2,175,000.00

Total Awarded Over 5 Years: \$ 6,241,000.00

Unpaid Balance \$ 2,075,000.00

\*Grants purchased software from the Waterford Inst. provided directly and exclusively to the PPS's

**THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION**  
**Grants Made Directly to Pittsburgh Public Schools**  
**Grouped by Year**

**1997**

Western Pennsylvania Writing Project	\$	75,427.00
Contribution to 'Footprints of a Legend'		1,000.00

**Total 1997 Grants: \$ 76,427.00**

**1998**

"Exploring Africa" presented by Safarace Sound of Africa Dance Company	\$	10,000.00
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**Total 1998 Grants: \$ 10,000.00**

**1999**

Resource Teacher/Coordinator position to assist in restructuring science education	\$	250,000.00
Community/Board Dialogues of the Leadership Transition Initiative		36,500.00

**Total 1999 Grants: \$ 286,500.00**

**2000**

Superintendent activities	\$	3,000.00
Health Career Academy at Langley High School		221,800.00
Transition costs of new superintendent		10,000.00
KSA-Plus, a marketing and communications consulting		5,000.00

**Total 2000 Grants: \$ 239,800.00**

**2001**

Senior students in the Keys2Work program.	\$	243,648.00
Revise and pilot the District's science and mathematics curriculums		196,000.00
Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School's Strategic Vision Project.		209,923.00
Toward the implementation of its three-year K-5 Literacy Plus Initiative.		200,000.00

**Total 2001 Grants: \$ 849,571.00**

**Total Awarded Over 5 Years: \$ 1,462,298.00**

**Unpaid Balance: \$ 481,414.00**

<b>TOTALS FOR THE THREE FOUNDATIONS OVER 5 YEARS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,660,622.00</b>
<b>UNPAID BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,556,414.00</b>