

General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 13, 2025
Arch Court, 7:00 pm

In Attendance (15)

David Charlton, Laurie Charlton, Larry DiCicco, Jessica Farrell, Nick Furar, Arthur James, Max Joffe, Jim Lawrence, Morgan Martin, Nathan Salamacha, Heather Stone Fletcher, Hallie Thyben, Erin Tobin, Charis Walker, Steven Williams

Introduction

The regular monthly meeting for the membership of Allegheny City Central Association was held on **Monday, October 13, 2025**, at **Arch Court**, located at *1310 Arch Street*. The meeting was presided over by **Jim Lawrence**, *ACCA President*, and minutes were recorded by *ACCA Secretary*, **Larry DiCicco**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A motion to Approve the Minutes from the ACCA General Membership Meeting that was held on [September 8, 2025](#) was made by Arthur James and seconded by Larry DiCicco. The motion passed unanimously.
- All Meeting Minutes can be found on ACCA's website:
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/meeting-minutes/>

Membership Dues:

- A reminder to all residents to join ACCA or renew their membership either at a General Membership Meeting or online. Membership Dues are \$5 per person, or \$3 for 60+.
<https://www.alleghenycitycentral.org/acca/join-renew/>

Allegheny City Central Association Announcements

Update on Light of Life Building on East North Avenue:

- A summary of the Light of Life Building on East North Avenue was provided by Mr. Lawrence.
- The Light of Life Steering Committee walked through the building on October 9th.
- Renovation and/or rebuilding of the existing building is likely not feasible. Rising Tide has said that there is a threshold related to affordable housing development subsidies at around 40 units. That many units poses some concern regarding parking.
- There will be a meeting to follow-up on the walk-through on October 14th.

Update on ACCA-Owned Lots on Alpine Street:

- *ACCA Development Committee Chair, Jim Lawrence*, provided an update on the ACCA-owned Alpine Lots.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) is in final stages of drafting and is expected to be issued to Developers in the 4th quarter. Land aggregation remains an open question. DevCom hopes to secure a defined path forward with a selected Developer during the next 2 business quarters.

Community Announcements

Update from District 1 Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office:

- **Morgan Martin**, *Legislative Aide from Councilman Wilson's Office*, provided updates on previous topics of discussion.
 - **North Avenue Traffic Calming Project**
 - On the south side of North Avenue (the park side) parking will be eliminated at points to allow for Emergency Vehicle pull-over lanes.
 - Bus Stops will be relocated to stops that can reduce delays.
 - Portions of the center islands will no longer be landscaped, but will be concrete instead. This will also assist Emergency Vehicle access through traffic.
 - The north side work (the Allegheny General Hospital side) will start in the Fall. This will include the pedestrian bump-outs.
 - North Avenue is scheduled to be resurfaced in the 2nd Quarter of 2026.
 - **Parking Lots at the Top of Boyle and Lorraine Streets**
 - Morgan Martin also reported that the Parking Lots at the Top of Boyle and Lorraine Streets will have signage added, per a previous request from ACCA.
 - **Clothes for Kids Event**
 - A Clothes for Kids (K – 5) event will be held on November 8, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Ironworkers Union Hall.



Update from Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:

- Erin Tobin, *Assistant Director Community Engagement* of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, provided updates to the meeting attendees.
- Allegheny Commons Feasibility plans are on-going. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy hired La Quatra Bonci to do a schematic design for the next phase of what is called the "circuit" in the Commons. This is the section of the park from the George Washington Monument to Lake Elizabeth. The improvements would include the same as the previous two phases with new pathways/lighting, planting of understory trees, new trash receptacles, and benches.
- Erin reminded people that if lights are out in Allegheny Commons, you can report them by calling **3-1-1**. The lights are numbered, so you can give the number during the report.

Presentation by One Northside Education Committee:

- A presentation was given regarding the activities of Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), including school closure plans. **Charis Walker** and **Hallie Thyben** spoke to the membership.
- The [One Northside Education Committee](#) has been hosting community engagement sessions to share information on the PPS Facility Utilization plan. Many Northside residents are still confused about the status of the PPS plan and what it means for our Northside schools.
- On the Northside several changes are being proposed, including changes to Allegheny, MLK, Schiller, Morrow, Northview, and Perry.
- Generally, PPS student population has decreased significantly in past years, demanding a reduction of the PPS facilities to support the school population.
See attached document provided by One Northside for proposed changes.
- It is anticipated that the PPS will vote on final school changes in the Fall.
- In addition to the school reductions, PPS must address a declining Student Performance. Schools are achieving results far below National and State expectations.
See attached document provided by One Northside that quantifies the substandard results.
- Ms. Walker and Ms. Thyben encouraged attendees to reach out to School Board Members to express their concerns and expectations.

Next ACCA General Membership Meeting: January 12, 2026:

Allegheny City Central Association will hold its next General Membership Meeting from **7:00 to 8:30 pm** on **Monday, January 12, 2026**. The meeting location has not yet been determined.

Reminder: ACCA does not hold a General Membership Meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned.

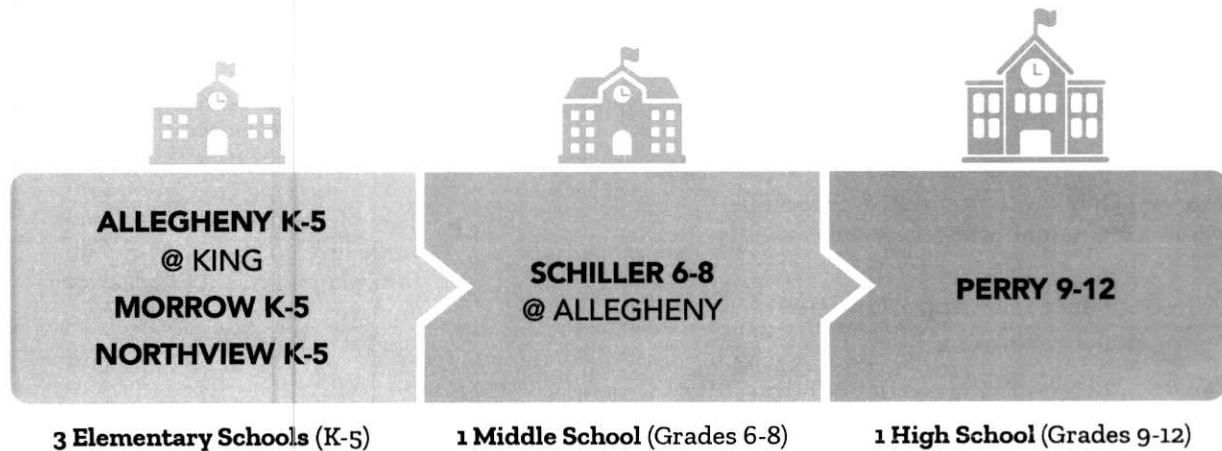


One Northside: Education Update

Accurate as of October 2025

Proposed Impact for Northside Pittsburgh Public Schools

In May 2025, PPS proposed closing four (4) Northside school buildings (Manchester, Morrow (Davis Ave), Schiller, & Spring Hill). The Northside PPS footprint will go from eight (8) schools to five (5).



*Pending Board Approval November 2025

Proposed Recommended Plan: Big Picture

- No changes for current school year 2025-2026. Changes to begin in 2026/27 school year if approved in November 2025.
- Align schools with children's developmental stages (K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade bands)
- High quality programming in every K-5 school including access to arts, music, Phys Ed., Science and World Languages and Literacy Coaches to support better reading instruction.
- Comprehensive middle schools with a focus on early adolescence with equal opportunities at every school.
 - ▶ Ron Clark Academy inspired House System for advisory
 - ▶ Each school has a core focus (International Baccalaureate (IB), Science, Technology & Arts)
 - ▶ All students will have Algebra, Arts, Music, World Language, Library, Tech Ed, English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Labs, Science and Social Studies
- Eliminate K-5 magnets, except Montessori program.
- High Schools will be a blend of neighborhood and magnet students with a focus on IB, SciTech, Performing Arts, CTE and STEAM.
- Every student has AC, fast internet and state-of-the-art facilities and equipment.
- A more "modern, joyful, and student-centered" learning experience. Provide teachers with updated training around cooperative and student-centered learning.
- Increase support for students and teachers. Bring more resources under one roof and expand English Language Development Centers.
- Gifted education to move to in school support at every elementary and middle school.

Scan code for PPS
Future Ready website.



One Northside: Education Update

Accurate as of October 2025

What's driving these proposed changes?

- **Too many buildings, too few students and many opting out.**

PPS lost 6,049 students (-25%) since 2014 with no school closures.

Of the 4,850 school-aged children living on the Northside, more than 2,900 leave the Northside or choose a private, parochial or charter school option. Only 40% attend PPS schools in Northside neighborhoods.

- **Unequal access to opportunities = gaps in achievement.**

In 2024, 10 schools with grades 6-8 didn't offer Algebra 1, including King, Manchester, Morrow and Schiller. Just 12% of 8th graders (27 out of 220) took Algebra I by the end of 8th grade.

- **Neighborhood schools are highly segregated with concentrated poverty.**

25 out of the district's 50 regular schools have student poverty rates of 80% or higher and the average size is 276 students.

- **School staffing becoming more challenging.**

Number of in-state teaching certifications in PA has dropped from 15,000 to 5,624 since 2010 (-60%).

- **Funding shortfalls are imminent.**

PPS is facing hard decisions about spending with federal funding cuts.

- **Northside student outcomes need improvement.**

▶ Only **21%** of students in grades 3-8 (276 out of 1,292) scored Proficient or Advanced on the state reading test.

▶ **45%** of 3rd graders scored on grade level in literacy and math. This is in part due to the lack of Algebra offerings at Northside middle or K-8 schools.

▶ **39%** of students (886 out of 2,183) missed 10% or more of school days. Missing just 2 days of school a month adds up to serious learning loss.

▶ Of the students attending Perry High School during the 2023-2024 school year, **33%** passed their literature exam— **10%** passed Biology — and **7%** passed the Algebra I Keystone exams.

▶ Of the students that graduated from Perry in 2018, **29%** enrolled in college or post-secondary training after high school and only **4%** of graduates completed college or trade school within 6 years.

**Get Engaged with
One Northside
Education Committee**

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ons@onenorthsidepgh.org

