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22 South 22nd Street, 2nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Tel: 215-665-9800  
Fax: 215-665-1973

April 10, 2017

Dr. William Hite, Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia  
Ms. Joyce Wilkerson, Chair, School Reform Commission  
440 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dear Dr. Hite and Commissioner Wilkerson:

We were encouraged this week to learn of an additional \$65 million in annual, recurring revenue for the School District of Philadelphia. The lack of funding has taken a significant toll on children, families, and educators over the past 5 years. While we are aware that a deficit looms, we must also remind you that educators in Philadelphia are long overdue for a new collective bargaining agreement.

**It is without question that the additional \$65 million in revenue must be utilized for the settlement of a fair contract for PFT members.**

Over the past 1,300 days, Philadelphia's educators have shown up, put in the work, and committed themselves to educating our kids. They often do so in adverse conditions—with facilities in need of repair, with a severe lack of supplies, and with understaffing that leaves individuals unable to provide the full cadre of support they would like to offer their students. But still, when we enter our schools, we are always greeted by engaged educators and learners. Quite simply, investing in a fair contract for educators is an investment in kids. It is no coincidence that the teachers' contract covers items like functional water fountains, school counselors, and class size limits. Our brothers and sisters in the PFT are in it for the kids, and any suggestion otherwise is simply absurd.

Their fight for a fair contract—including pay raises—does not mean they are any less committed

to our kids. It means that they have mortgages to pay, children to raise, car payments to make, and student debt to repay.

We are committed to supporting our educators, because we rely on them each day to give their all to our children. Collectively, we must recognize that our commitment to educators is a commitment to children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



PATRICK J. EIDING  
President, Philadelphia AFL-CIO



BOISE BUTLER  
President, ILA Local 1291



DAISY CRUZ  
Area Leader, Mid Atlantic Region, 32BJ SEIU



JAMES GARDLER  
President, CWA Local 13000  
Secretary Treasurer, Philadelphia AFL-CIO

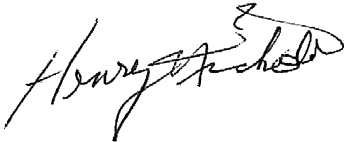


PATRICIA EAKIN  
President, PASNAP

Dr. Hite & Commissioner Wilkerson  
April 10, 2017



TED KIRSCH  
President, AFT Pennsylvania



HENRY NICHOLAS  
President, AFSCME District 1199C



STEPHEN F. PETTIT  
Business Manager, Insulators & Allied Workers' Local 14



JOE RODGERS  
President, Keystone Branch 157, National Association of Letter Carriers



FRED WRIGHT  
President, AFSCME District Council 47

cc:

Jerry T. Jordan, President, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers  
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