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PLAN PICKS 14 CITY SCHOOLS TO CLOSE

Final recommendations from consultant also would reconfigure 12 district schools

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fourteen Pittsburgh Public Schools would close and 12 others would see grade reconfigurations based on final recommendations presented Tuesday for a controversial school closure plan.

The recommendations by Massachusetts-based education consulting firm Education Resource Strategies made significant changes to an Au-

gust preliminary plan, which called for closing 16 schools and reconfiguring grade structures at 14 others. The changes were based on input received during weeks of public input sessions where community members heavily questioned which data was used to make decisions and why certain schools were slated for closure.

Release of final recommendations now puts the process back in the hands of Pittsburgh Public adminis-

trators and school directors who are tasked with deciding how they will proceed.

"What I think was most important between the first proposal and this one is it feels like our community was listened to, heard and taken into account. ... You should be applauded for the amount of time you spent kind of really listening to the people in our communities," school board President Gene Walker said. "And that listening will continue ... because there are still so many decisions to be made."

In all, the recommendations

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“Once we iron out all the details, I think that we will be able to look really carefully about the job we are doing for kids in our district, and I think we have a great opportunity to improve the quality of school experience for our children.”

Tracey Reed
School director

Election 2024

Sparks fly in Senate debate

McCormick, Casey clash again on policy

By Benjamin Kail
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PHILADELPHIA — Halfway through their second debate Tuesday night, the split-screen cameras caught a dramatic stare down that encapsulated the fiery hourlong back-and-forth between U.S. Sen. Bob Casey and Republican challenger David McCormick.

Mr. McCormick — yet again battered by the three-term incumbent Mr.

Casey over his former hedge fund's investments in a Chinese arms manufacturer linked to Iran — turned toward the senator and cited his military service, saying he was "not going to take any

INSIDE

Pa. attorney general candidates DePasquale, Sunday debate, A-2

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TRUE COLORS



Benjamin B. Braun/Post-Gazette

Lucia, 3, and Steelers linebacker Payton Wilson color together Tuesday at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville. Mr. Wilson joined the rest of the team's rookie class for a visit to the hospital to make bracelets, play games and spend time with the hospital's patients.

Developer presents majestic N. Side plan

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A developer is vowing to turn a "neglected piece of the city" into a riverfront destination filled with a giant Ferris wheel, apartments, a food emporium, a marina, an aquarium, and even floating houses.

Piatt Companies laid out its vision to the Pittsburgh Planning Commission Tuesday for the \$600 million Esplanade, a 15-acre development along the Ohio River on the North Side that it hopes will serve as a catalyst for even more growth.

The sprawling complex would be built just west of the West End Bridge on a brownfield that

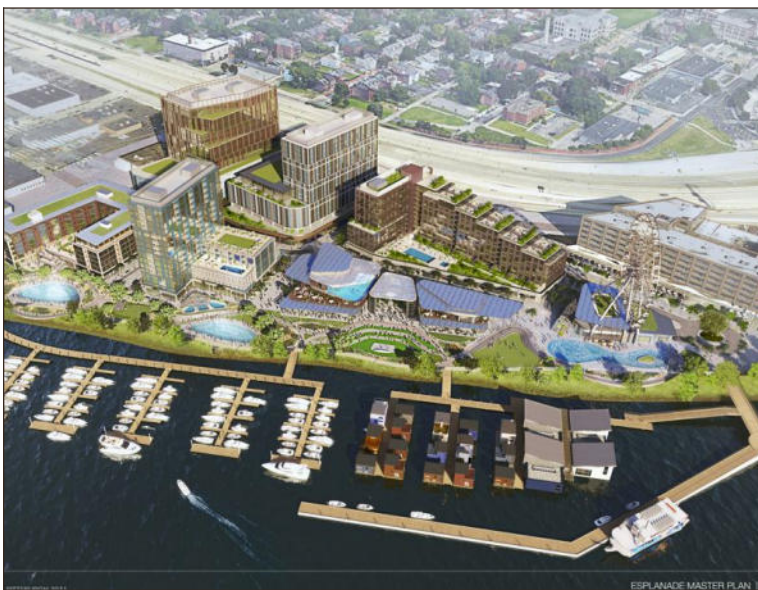
housed industrial ventures for more than 140 years and river transportation uses before that.

Some seven years in the making, Piatt is proposing to turn the forlorn stretch of real estate into a destination unlike any other the city has seen.

The attention grabber is the Ferris wheel with LED lighting, similar to those in Chicago, Seattle, Paris and other cities that reach heights of 200 feet.

It would anchor the east end of the site closest to Downtown and serve as the "point" of the development, officials told commission members during the first of two briefings on the Esplanade.

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AE7 architects rendering

The first phase of developer Piatt Companies' \$600 million Esplanade project on the North Side would include a giant Ferris wheel, a marina, a pavilion featuring a restaurant, a fresh food market and other amenities, and a 300-unit apartment building.

Walz rallies for support in Western Pa.

Acrisure Stadium final stop in daylong tour

By Adam Babetski
and Jonathan D. Salant
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Like the former high school coach he was, Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz rallied his team of supporters at Acrisure Stadium to get to the polls this fall.

With surveys showing Pennsylvania deadlocked three weeks before Election Day, Mr. Walz told hundreds of people gathered in the FedEx Great Hall at the Steelers' stadium that they can't hope to win without working to make it happen, just like the Super Bowl champions prepare long before they take the field on the day of the big game.

"You don't win the Super Bowl just on that day, you win the Super Bowl months before with the work that you do," Mr. Walz said. "Hope is great, but it's not a damn plan. We cannot hope we beat Donald



Walz

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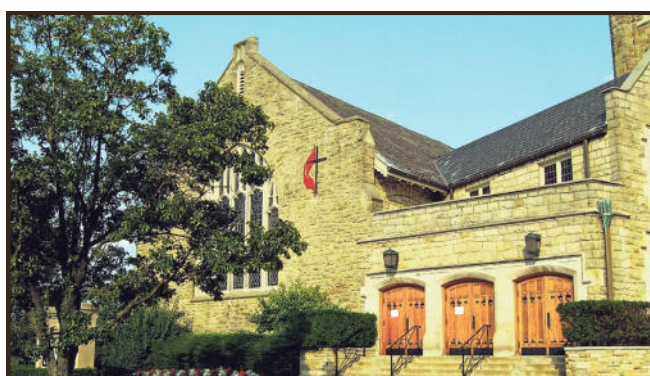
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Mostly cloudy and cooler,
Daytime high, 51;
tonight's low, 40.
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