

# Coach's Issues w PPS' swimming, aquatics, athletics and after school

ATTEND THE 2017 CITY LEAGUE

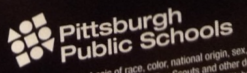
## Basketball Championships

**Sunday, February 19, 2017**  
**at the Petersen Events Center**  
3719 TERRACE STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA 15261

GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 1PM · BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 3PM

Show your PPS Pride! #WeArePPS

Purchase tickets at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). A family pass of 4 tickets is available for \$30. Final teams will be announced the week of February 13th.

 Pittsburgh Public Schools

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities, or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the PPS Title IX Coordinator at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or 412-529-HELP (4357).



# Foreword:

- Got credit!
- System ills, micro and macro
- Deeds, recover and thrive
- Expecting great things, mission connection.

A purple triangle pointing upwards.

Ugh

A green speech bubble pointing downwards.

Amen

A brown five-pointed star.

G



# History



- Every year to PIAA, city's first WPIAL Section Team Title, City's only WPIAL record breaker, college scholarships,







## VarsityXtra

## Swimming

## Swimming skills aren't just for dreamers

By Sarah K. Spencer  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It's amazing how much progress can happen in 27 days.

"You were scared to let go of the wall, and now you're motorboating and jumping in," Obama Academy swim coach Mark Rauterkus says to his campers, the majority of which struggle to stay afloat in the pool at the beginning of camp. Though he's usually coaching teenagers to lower their times and perfect their technique, he spends the summers with beginners.

Rauterkus led swimming and water polo classes for Summer Dreamers, a Pittsburgh Public Schools summer program, ensuring his signed campers build confidence in themselves and their ability to swim. Summer Dreamers aims to make an accessible option for the city's youth, no matter their socioeconomic background. The 5½-week summer program couples academic classes taught by PPS teachers in the morning with additional camp activities by community partner coaches such as us, in the afternoon. Learning to swim early on sets up for success,



Haley Nelson/Post-Gazette

Obama Academy swim coach Mark Rauterkus oversees youth at Allegheny Middle School swimming pool.

Rauterkus said, whether they want to pursue the sport in the future or just stay safe while in the water.

"We're teaching the kids a skill, a lifetime skill," Rauterkus said. "And we're also spending a lot of time in fitness, so they're getting stronger, more endurance. They're learning about exercising, kinetic movement, and their teamwork and sportsmanship."

The program is free for attendees and aims to combat summer learning loss.

"If you look at the avail-

ability of opportunities, there's just a lot more for middle class or upper student," James Doyle, coordinator of out-of-school time for PPS, said. "So I might be going on vacation, I might be going to a really expensive day camp, because traditionally when you think 'summer camp,' you think you're going to this place that's out in the woods and you're riding horses and doing all these things."

Summer Dreamers, which began in 2010, took place at Pittsburgh King PreK-8, Car-

malt and Pittsburgh University Prep, spread out so families don't have to travel far to a campsite, though the sites do occasionally rotate to other PPS schools. The program concluded Wednesday, allowing parents to watch a video of their kids' day-to-day activity at camp and tag along during activities to watch their progress.

Weaving through the halls at Pittsburgh King, Three Rivers Fencing employees challenge kids to bouts, using plastic foils. Attack Theatre staff leads an adventures in movement class, teaching dancing and encouraging the group to work as a unit.

The activity in every corner of the school stretches across the North Shore, with children going on miniature "safaris" outside to learn about nature, others practicing public speaking in the Children's Museum radio studio and a group learning about police dogs from a city police officer.

To avoid that slump in the summer when kids forget what they've learned during the school year, Summer Dreamers staff works to keep them engaged. The program pulled from National Summer Learning Association research, Doyle said, which points out students of lower

socioeconomic status are at a higher risk for summer learning loss, particularly before fifth grade. While Summer Dreamers was originally designed for middle schoolers, the age range was tweaked to get youth engaged early on.

That engagement extends from academics to stimulating activities out of the classroom — so it can sneakily feel less like summer school and more like camp.

"Having that balance is just what we've learned, particularly in the summer, it just makes that whole learning experience so much better," Doyle said.

From robotics classes, Lego STEM classes, biking activities, swimming and water polo sessions to creating a mosaic, the idea is to help kids find an out-of-classroom passion they can stick with after camp. The kids don't rotate activities, but specialize in one per summer.

Tracy Calhoun, camp director and third-grade teacher at Pittsburgh King, sees children who have struggled in the classroom thrive in more creative environments. Maybe some students aren't great at math, but they're excellent dancers or artists.

"Those are the things that make me happy," Calhoun

said. "To see them shine in their own space."

The confidence campers build out of the classroom often carries over into academics, Calhoun said.

When the program began with stimulus dollars, an initiative by President Obama it could fund up to 5,500 students, and it now funds about 1,500-2,000 students per year surviving with donations from Heinz Endowments, the Grable Foundation, the Pittsburgh Foundation and McAuley Ministries, as well as the district's general fund dollars, according to Doyle.

The Wallace Foundation, which studies "ideas and information you can use to improve learning and environment for disadvantaged children and foster the vitality of the arts for everyone," website, includes the program in its ongoing term study to determine voluntarily attended summer learning program students' academic success.

In 2014, the study found high attenders programs outperform participants in both math and English Language Arts on fall and spring tests.

Sarah K. Spencer  
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Twitter @sarah\_k\_s



AMERICAN  
WATER POLO



Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation





# Life is too short.

- Without THANKS.
- Without HOPE.
- Without MEETINGS.
- Without LOGIC and UNDERSTANDINGS.
- Find people who give you energy.
- Work with people who recognize the value you bring.
- Tolerating workplace harassment doesn't make you stronger.



- Athletic reform task force, in Roosevelt era. Restart!
- Saving sports in Linda Lane's era w board.





# Fix summary:

Amen

- PPS needs an AQUATICS DIRECTOR.
- AQUATICS DIRECTOR sets pool usage.
- Remove swim coaches from PFT contract.
- Model matches PPS contract with UPMC Sports Medicine for Athletic Trainers
- Hiring and training of swim coaches from AQUATICS DIRECTOR.
- Aquatics reside, within COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



# Split coaches from PFT Contract

Amen

- Begin with swim / aquatics coaches
- Undelivered expectation from John Thompson's era

Ugh



Amen

# Aquatic programs give students many benefits:

- #1. permission to dream.

Our bodies change our minds

...and our minds change our behavior

...and our behavior changes our outcomes.

Amy Cuddy at TEDGlobal 2012

**Your body language may shape who you are**



# "Swimming is dying in the city."

- Plenty of PPS schools without teams
- How PPS treats swimming is killing the sport.



Ugh



# Swimming pools

- Best Learning Laboratories ever.
- Already built
- Ignored assets
- Game changing potentials!

Amen



# PPS Community Schools should harbor Aquatics

- Banding and programs are set to deploy.
- Phases 1 of PPS H2O: WHS, Arsenal, Langley & Obama, SciTech, UPrep, Oliver, PCA.
- ALL City Sports Camps
- Varsity Club
- CLOH.org = Creating Literate Olympians Here



# Solutions & Expectations

- Community Learning Outreach Hub
- Partnerships
- Entrepreneurship
- Summer Dreamers upgrade to Year Round Achievers

Amen



# Partnerships (Local)

- Pitt, Team Pittsburgh
- Other colleges and universities
- Children's Hospital
- BGC
- The Pittsburgh Project
- The Ellis School
- Citiparks

Amen



# Partnerships (Global)

- SKWIM USA
- eLifeguard
- USA SWIMMING, Allegheny Mountain D&I,
- USA Triathlon
- USA Water Polo
- American Water Polo
- [AutoCoach.com.au](http://AutoCoach.com.au)
- [TeamUnify.com](http://TeamUnify.com)

Amen



# Institutional barriers to happiness

- Frequent
- Insurmountable



Ugh



# Hardships, not scholarships

Let's fight gravity.  
Making it impossible.



Ugh



# Concussions: emerging public health crisis



Ugh

- Football's replacement = SKWIM, then MS, JV and Varsity water polo
- In PE, SKWIM and kayaking with Canoe Water Polo

Amen



# Flex Membership with USA Swimming

- New in fall 2018
- Only \$20 per kid, not \$87
- Diversity & Inclusion funding still exists





# Principal problems

- Promise of meeting, laughable.
- Same @ Position Paper, Fewer Sports Alternatives, w Dara



Ugh



# Washing-QUIT

Clearly documented.  
Ongoing ills.



Ugh





Ugh

Four head coaches  
at one pool is crazy.

PFT contract

Can not be competitive

Obama & Brashear especially

Two head coaches are silly too.



# Obama Golf

Really?



Ugh



6 AM swim practices at Obama, stopped in 2017-18!

- First year ever, no AM swimming at Obama.
- Did swim at Sci Tech
- Dice has AM practices
- Colfax too!



Ugh



# ADA Access

- Law passed by Congress in 1990.
- Family changing room on same floor desired.





# Intramural policy change

Amen

- Allow for game days and competitions among students of various schools, especially essential in aquatics.





# Professional Days

- Can not swim on days at semester break, sadly.



Ugh



# MLK Day

- Make up a meet with Brentwood.
- "No" is a regular reply, if one comes at all.



Ugh



# Complaints concerning PPS' RFP Process for SDA

- partnerships,
- late notice,
- Transparency on judge's scores, addressed
- Evaluations,
- Prior planning,
- Debriefing
- Discussions are outlawed.



ALL after school  
activities are cancelled

• Away meet drama.



Ugh



# Entry into pools

- Obama can make door to Highland Ave.
- Westinghouse door to parking lot
- Brashear door via back of school
- Buzzers at all buildings

Amen



# Key to pool

- Ability to lock and unlock doors:
- between locker rooms and pool,
- between school hallway and pool,
- to underwater window,

PPS Policy  
Coaches get keys.



# Key to the front door of the school.

- So I can access the school building for 6 am practices.
- To access building after WPIAL away meets, with some bus arrivals about 9:30 pm.
- For 6:30 pm practices.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to gate at the sidewalk  
that leads to the field and  
emergency exit of the pool.

- Used that same door and gate in  
Summer Dreamers without problems.
- In case of emergency.
- At AM practices.
- At 6:30 pm practices.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the alarm on the side  
door of the pool that leads  
to the field and the sidewalk.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the equipment closet  
in the pool that also  
harbors the telephone.



PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the pump room for  
the pool that harbors the  
light switches to the pool.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the lock on the  
in-pool gate that can  
close the natatorium off  
from the snack bar door.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



# Key to the snack bar door.

PPS  
Policy  
Coach  
es get  
keys.

- So small amounts of ice can be obtained from the refrigerator/freezer.
- Ice pack is for first aid.
- Sales at snack bar area, attached to the pool and lobby, for income as was with volleyball team.



Key to the locker room doors  
at the top of the steps and  
keys to all the doors  
throughout the basement area  
locker rooms.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



# Key to the pool's observation room

- So that the window under the pool deck can be used for underwater filming.
- So that space can be used for storing equipment.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the aerobic  
fitness room.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Key to the weight  
room.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Access to, or the addition of, a AED  
(automated external defibrillator) put into  
the lobby outside the door to the pool,  
auditorium and gym.



PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



# Faculty status for all coaches

- Coaches do not seem to work for the district
- Breakfast





Obtained: PPS employee photo  
ID for every sports coach.



PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Obtained: An email address,  
MRauterkus1@pghboe.net.



PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Letter to American Red Cross  
saying Mark Rauterkus gets  
organizational attachment to PPS  
to keep certifications valid and  
deliver them to students.

<b>American Heart Association</b> Learn and Live		<b>Wright College Medical Careers</b> 4300 North Narragansett Ave Chicago, IL 60634	
<b>Heartsaver® AED</b> Nicholas Rabuzzi		TC Address Contact Info	
This card certifies that the above individual has successfully completed the objectives and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the AHA for Heartsaver AED Program.		Course Location Holiday Inn Pittsburgh	
Modules Completed: A B C		Instructor Mike Herakovic	
Issue Date MAY 07 2011		Holder's Signature <i>Nicholas Rabuzzi</i>	
Recommended Renewal Date MAY 07 2013		© 2006 American Heart Association. Tampering with this card will alter its appearance. 80-1203	
<b>American Heart Association</b> Learn and Live		<b>Wright College Medical Careers</b> 4300 North Narragansett Ave Chicago, IL 60634	
<b>Heartsaver® First Aid</b> Nicholas Rabuzzi		TC Address Contact Info	
This card certifies that the above individual has successfully completed the objectives and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the AHA for Heartsaver First Aid Program.		Course Location Holiday Inn Pittsburgh	
Modules Completed: A B C D		Instructor Mike Herakovic	
Issue Date MAY 07 2011		Holder's Signature <i>Nicholas Rabuzzi</i>	
Recommended Renewal Date MAY 07 2013		© 2006 American Heart Association. Tampering with this card will alter its appearance. 80-1202	
<b>Valid To 12/31/2011</b>			
This certifies that <b>Nick Rabuzzi</b> KSTR-AM 032591NICLRABU			
CPR: 05/07/2013 First Aid: 05/07/2013 Safety Training: 06/13/2014 Background: 05/31/2013			
is a coach member of USA Swimming Membership Expires 12-31-2011 By becoming a member of USA Swimming, I hereby agree to abide by the rules, regulations and Code of Conduct of USA Swimming.			



PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.



Signs installed outside  
the building that mark  
to the alternative entry  
to the swim pool.

- In case EMS is ever called to the pool in an emergency.





# A walk through of our venues.

- Deficiencies in pool areas should be understood, documented and dealt with in present and future capital projects.





Access to the ON/OFF valves so  
water to showers in swim locker  
rooms can be turned on & off.





Obtained: Letter sent to the  
PIAA saying Pittsburgh Public  
Schools / Obama, sponsors  
water polo teams.





# Water Polo Co-Op

- Central Catholic
- Oakland Catholic
- The Ellis School
- Other PPS schools
- Seton LaSalle
- Border Districts

Plays  
well  
with  
others!





# Lights that work and are turned on.

- Resolved, mostly.
- Go figure: Custodians were instructed to keeping the lights off when we held practices at the Peabody pool throughout the 2011-12 season. Dim.





# Obtaining Pool Permits, a few kinks

- In building problems with Principal
- Not aware of approval
- Publish it all





# Security bobbbers in pools

Amen

Water agitation sends a text message

- cFloat, <http://float.co>
- Buoy in pool detects movement, monitors, alerts via cell phone.
- Can disarm, of course.

G



# Upgrade sound systems

- AUX plugs for national anthem, music, announcers

Amen





# Hosting Swim Meets

- ◉ Lacking an announcer
- ◉ Lacking a timing operator
- ◉ Lacking a computer operator
- ◉ Lacking a computer
- ◉ Lacking timers (volunteers)
- ◉ MS and Elem lack electronic timing
- ◉ Lacking cooperation to schedule meets among PPS High schools

Amen



# Intramural pay

- Never obtained, always delivered.





# Coaching pay via a PNC credit card is a rip off

- Excessive fees
- Can not transfer money out as it has no account and routing number
- Shameful policy detailed at [PUREreform.blogspot.com](http://PUREreform.blogspot.com).

PPS Policy  
Coaches get pay checks .



# Signs

- Deploy maker space for sign creation





Access to a hard-wired internet port within the swim pool for broadcasting purposes.





# Why questions

• Go figure.

Amen

G



Fixed:

WiFi access via the district's Internet has been modernized.

- BYOD allowed for up to three connections.

PPS Policy  
Coaches  
get keys.

