

Public Statement: Monday, April 19, 2004, given to Pgh Public School's Board Meeting

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Just one block away from South Vo Tech High School.

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<http://Play.CLOH.Org> = Working on summer opportunities in the wake of the closed outdoor swim pools, recreation centers and indoor ice rink.

Tonight I'd like to speak against the closing of So Vo Tech High School and offer some different opinions as to how to proceed.

Second, for Randall Taylor most of all, I'd like to be a part of the TASK FORCE that is to address Interscholastic Sports.

I've been an NCAA Division I college coach for six seasons. I been a head coach at WPIAL schools.

I've coached athletes who have set new state records in four different states, including Pennsylvania.

Third -- I'm releasing a position paper. It is more than 100 pages. It concerns our parks, rec centers, swim pools and our schools. Pgh Public Schools are a significant portion of this document. I would like and expect all of you to read it in the weeks to come. I would also be happy to sit down with individuals, organizations, PTAs, coaches, the board, foundations, unions, -- church groups -- provide a briefing and an interactive session.

I've been holding community meetings from the Market House, Duquesne Heights, North Side we met at the Aviary -- and a number of citizens and I produced a show for PCTV 21 that will air in the weeks to come.

There are many big issues presented here -- and we need to talk about them and ponder the suggested solutions.

This is a living document. It is posted at my website: <http://CLOH.Org>
CLOH.Org stands for COMMUNITY LEARNING OUTREACH HUB.

Concerning South Vo Tech.

I hate that the actions of the board are such so as to YANK the students around. Too little notice. No plans for the future for the families.

We should close South Vo Tech over time. Allow the students who have already committed to go there to finish their education career there.

Three bad outcomes are expected: Drop outs. Move outs. and more Charter School students. South is much like a Charter School. The board and Dr. Thompson hate Charter Schools. The Charters are unfunded mandates that cost the district money. The students pull out for the Charter School and the money follows. A wide hole is getting wider when South Vo Tech closes.

The kids choose to go to South. Choice is important. It gives flexibility for a lot of

students.

A more humane approach on these shut-downs makes sense. Stage the shut down -- like was in the past at the closing of South Hills High School.