

CONTAINS MORE THAN **50** DESSERT RECIPES!

now just **\$10.00** plus shipping

PRICE REDUCED!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER!

Member Center | Become a Member

Home Delivery | E-New sletters | Kindle |

TRIBLIVE News

Enter Search Terms

TribLIVE.com Web St

Home **News** Sports A & E Lifestyles Business Opinion Things to do Your Town Photos

Classifieds Autos

Pittsburgh / Allegheny Regional Westmoreland Fayette State Campaign 2012 Nation World Columnists Most Read Articles

Larger text Smaller text



Pittsburgh schools leader hits dozen of 13 goals

By Jodi Weigand, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Photos

click to enlarge



Linda Lane
Philip G. Pavely | Tribune-Review

About the writer

Jodi Weigand is a Valley News Dispatch staff writer and can be reached at 724-226-4702 or via e-mail.

Ways to get us

- Be a Facebook fan
- Follow us on Twitter
- E-mail Newsletters
- On your mobile



Subscribe now

In her first year as Pittsburgh Public Schools superintendent, Linda Lane met 12 of 13 performance goals set by the school board, according to a Tribune-Review analysis.

In October the board announced that Lane had met the goals it originally set for her predecessor, Mark Roosevelt, though it did not break them down individually. The Tribune-Review determined that Lane fell short in her oversight of changes at Westinghouse High School, where she replaced two co-principals after telling the board about organizational and disciplinary problems at the school.

Board President Sherry Hazuda praised Lane for implementing an extensive reform agenda while coping with the district's financial problems.

"I think she's done an excellent job. It's been a rough year," Hazuda said. "It's her leadership that says we have to cut back, we have to keep looking at everything. She's been the right person for us at the right time."

The district did not make Lane available for comment.

Lane, 62, of Highland Park took over as superintendent in January 2011 after nearly four years as deputy superintendent. She succeeded Roosevelt, who left to become president at Antioch College in Ohio.

Lane agreed to a three-year contract with a base pay of \$200,000 and up to a \$15,000 increase in years two and three. The contract states that \$10,000 of the raise is based on her performance, which the board evaluates annually.

"Considering the fact that Linda not only agreed to take on Mark's goals ... and with everything that happened with the (state funding) cuts, I think she did a phenomenal job," board member Theresa Colaizzi said.

State funding cuts combined with rising costs for pension payments and charter schools put the district in a \$68 million hole for 2012. Lane's budget trimmed the deficit to \$21.7 million, in part by eliminating 300 teaching positions and cutting programs. The district will use reserve money to cover the difference.

Nina Esposito-Visgitis, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, said Lane is easy to work with on many issues, but they certainly don't always agree.

"I'm terrified by the number of teacher cuts and paraprofessional cuts proposed for next year," Esposito-Visgitis said. "I'm terrified by the increased class sizes and program cuts."

Carey Harris, executive director of the A+ Schools watchdog group, praised Lane's "head-on" approach when dealing with big problems.

In the past year, Lane told central office departments to cut their budgets in half and asked the board to lay off 147 central office and operational support staff; scrapped a costly but much-touted plan to open two teacher training academies; and proposed closing seven schools and realigning attendance

- Penguins' Washington Cou facility put up for sale
- WCCC students get taste c
- Arne Svenson's photos get core
- Reality show star from Unic visit home, shares experien
- Personality Test: Life coach
- Missing Penn State New K student found
- Armored guard slain in heis
- Student posts remember D teacher
- Steelers cut ties with veter: Ward
- Dixon, Wecht partner to tar 'epidemic'

Pittsburgh schools leader hits dozen of 13 goals - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
academics, and proposed closing seven schools and redesigning attendance zones because of declining enrollment.

"One of the things I appreciated about her leadership is that every single time one of those issues came up, she dealt with it head-on," Harris said. "When those situations came up, it was ripe for blaming other people, but obviously she didn't do that."

One of Lane's priorities was high schools, which included overseeing numerous changes at Westinghouse High School in Homewood. Those included adding single-gender courses, grades six to eight and students from the now-closed Peabody High. The school switched to a trimester schedule.

Just two months into the school year, however, Lane replaced the co-principals, citing problems such as students not having class schedules, curricula not fitting the trimester schedule and a lack of structure at the school.

Last month the board voted to end the single-gender courses and return to a traditional semester schedule.

"We still have some issues with Westinghouse, but she has her eye on it and she's doing what she has to do," Colaizzi said.

[Recommend](#) Be the first of your friends to

More Education headlines

- [Duquesne Board of Control member 'impressed'](#)
- [Hip Hop on L.O.C.K.: Music and academics](#)
- [IB program gets approval in Upper St. Clair](#)
- [Cal U president fears effects of more fund cuts](#)
- [Mt. Pleasant Area School Board, teachers reach accord](#)
- [Three Donegal Elementary students headed to Canada](#)
- [Franklin Regional assistant principal killed in I-80 crash](#)
- [Officials: Catholic education still in demand](#)

[Woman is 51 But Looks 25](#)
Mom reveals simple wrinkle secret that has angered doctors...
[ConsumerLifestyles.org](#)

[ING DIRECT Investing](#)
Buy Stocks for \$4 - No Minimums. \$50 Account Bonus. Learn More!
[www.sharebuilder.com/ingdirect](#)

[Web Sites for Hedge Funds](#)
Professional websites designed to meet the requirements of hedge funds.
[www.completehedge.com](#)

Ads by Yahoo!



Subscribe to the Tribune-Review today

NEWSPAPERS

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Tribune-Review

MARKETPLACE

Autos
Classifieds

FEATURES

Contests
Facebook/Twitter

MAGAZINES

Dynamic Business

YOUR TOWN

YourCranberry.com
YourFoxChapel.com

HELP & SEI

Help Desk
Feedback

Blairsville Dispatch
 Daily Courier
 Valley Independent
 Valley News Dispatch
 Leader Times
 McKeesport Daily News
 Community Newspapers

Find Pittsburgh Jobs
 Homes
 Pittsburgh Pennysaver
 Trib Store
 Store Circulars
 Photo Store

Events Calendar
 Movie Showtimes
 Mobile Site
 Bloggers
 Video
 Fantasy Sports

YourMonroeville.com
 YourMoonTwp.com
 YourNorthHills.com
 YourNorwin.com
 YourPennHills.com
 YourSewickley.com
 YourSouthHills.com
 ... Find your town

Privacy Poli
 Subscriber
 Subscribe t
 Commerci
 Place a clas
 Print adverti
 Sitemap
 Pittsburgh f
 Trib Career



Images and text copyright © 2012 by Trib Total Media, Inc.
 Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent.
[Advertising Information](#) | [Terms of Service](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#)