

**From:** "Torgerson, Karin B."  
**To:** "Hernandez, Israel", "Willeford, Emily", "Kavanaugh, Brett M.", "Vestewig, Lauren J."  
**Sent:** Wed, 11 Feb 2004 21:54:18 -0500  
[02-12 BP for Harrisburg Event.doc](#)  
[02-12 PA Political Briefing.doc](#)

Here are your finals. Thank you

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### A CONVERSATION ON EDUCATION AND THE JOBS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INITIATIVE

Thursday, February 12, 2004  
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Central Dauphin High School  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Karl Rove / Margaret Spellings

#### I. PURPOSE

To highlight: (i) your initiatives to improve high school education, and (ii) your Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century plan to better prepare workers for the changing job market, including the important role community colleges play in providing job training.

#### II. BACKGROUND

You will participate in a conversation with the principal and an Advanced Placement (AP) teacher from Central Dauphin [DAW-fin] High School, the superintendent from Central Dauphin School District, the president and a student from Harrisburg Area Community College, and a local business leader from PinnacleHealth.

Additional background information on the policy issues and Central Dauphin High School is in the policy memo for today's event.

Today's event is in Congressman Tim Holden's Congressional District (D, PA-17).

#### III. PARTICIPANTS

##### Conversation Participants

Richard "Rich" Mazzatesta [maz-UH-test-uh], Principal, Central Dauphin High School  
(will introduce you)

Dr. Barbara Hasson [HASS-un], Superintendent of Schools, Central Dauphin School District

Rebecca Deitman [DITE-man], teacher, Central Dauphin High School

Dr. Edna Baehre [BEAR-ee], President, Harrisburg Area Community College

Dr. Roger Longenderfer [LONG-en-der-fer], President and CEO, PinnacleHealth System

Cari Aftosmes [AFF-toe-mess], student, Harrisburg Area Community College

VIPs in Attendance

Senator Arlen Specter (R, PA)  
Senator Rick Santorum (R, PA)  
Congressman John Peterson (R, PA-05)  
Congressman Jim Gerlach (R, PA-06)  
Congressman Bill Shuster (R, PA-09)  
Congressman Don Sherwood (R, PA-10)  
Congressman Joseph “Joe” Pitts (R, PA-16)  
Congressman Tim Holden (D, PA-17) (today’s event is in his district)  
Congressman Todd Platts (R, PA-19)  
Attorney General Gerald “Jerry” Pappert (R)  
Senator Jake Corman, Pennsylvania State Senate (R)  
Senator David Hickernell, Pennsylvania State Senate (R)  
Senator Jeffrey “Jeff” E. Piccola, Majority Whip, Pennsylvania State Senate (R)  
Senator Jim Rhoades, Pennsylvania State Senate and Senate Education Committee  
Chairman (R)  
Senator Michael Waugh, Pennsylvania State Senate (R)  
Senator Noah Wenger, Pennsylvania State Senate and Republican Caucus Chairman (R)  
Representative Will Gabig, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Stephen Maitland, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Mark McNaughton, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Sheila Miller, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Jerry Nailor, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative John Payne, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Jess Stairs, Pennsylvania House of Representatives and House Education  
Committee Chairman (R) (male)  
Representative Peter Zug, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Representative Patricia Vance, Pennsylvania House of Representatives (R)  
Ken Rocks, National Vice President, Fraternal Order of Police  
Charles Prince, State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Frank Sourbeer, Wilsbach Distributors, Inc.  
Keith Eckel, Fred W. Eckel Sons Farm, Inc.

Lauren Simkulak, USA Freedom Corps Greeter

900 invited guests, including Central Dauphin High School faculty, parents, and students; local community college representatives; employers; local officials; and local community members interested in job training and education reform

**Note:** In addition, students from Central Dauphin High School will watch your remarks on television around campus.

White House Staff

Karl Rove, Senior Advisor  
David Dunn, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy  
Holly Kuzmich, Associate Director, Domestic Policy Council  
Matthew Hunter, Associate Director, Office of Political Affairs

#### IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

#### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive at Central Dauphin High School and are met by Dr. Barbara Hasson, Rich Mazzatesta, Attorney General Jerry Pappert, State Senator Jeff Piccola, State Senator Noah Wenger, State Representative Jess Stairs, Frank Sourbeer, and Keith Eckel.
- You proceed to the Mat Room to meet briefly with stage participants.
- Participants proceed to seats on stage in the Main Gym.
- You and Principal Mazzatesta are announced on to stage.
- Principal Mazzatesta delivers welcoming remarks and introduces you.
- You begin conversation.
- Upon conclusion of the conversation, you work rope line, and depart.

#### VI. REMARKS

Talking Points provided by the Office of Speechwriting

#### VII. ATTACHMENTS

Talking Points

Background Information on Conversation Participants

Background Memo for Education and the Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative

Pennsylvania Political Briefing

Congressional Bios

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS

**Note: A condensed version of this background is included on the large-print cards for use at the event.**

Richard “Rich” Mazzatesta [maz-UH-test-uh], Principal, Central Dauphin High School

- Rich Mazzatesta has served as the Principal of Central Dauphin High School since 1999.
- Previously, Rich was a teacher and coach in the Central Dauphin School District for nearly 20 years and was the Principal at Shikellamy High School in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, for five years.
- Rich earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary education and played varsity football at Mansfield State University. He earned a Master of Arts degree in American Studies from Penn State University and received his Administrative Certificate from Temple University.
- Rich served two years in the U.S. Army.
- He and his wife Nancy have been married 35 years and have two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Barbara Hasson [HASS-un], Superintendent of Schools, Central Dauphin School District

- Dr. Barbara Hasson has served as the Superintendent of the Central Dauphin School District since 1996.
- As superintendent, Barbara implemented research-based reading programs in her schools when the Reading First program was announced, and she has instituted an Advanced Placement (AP) Teacher Training Center at Central Dauphin High.
- She previously served as the Superintendent of the Derry Township School District, also in Pennsylvania.
- Barbara received a B.S. in Biological Science from California State College, a Master of Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in Education Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.
- Barbara is divorced and has no children.

Rebecca Deitman [DITE-man], teacher, Central Dauphin High School

- Rebecca Deitman teaches AP English at Central Dauphin High School. She has taught English for grades ten through twelve at Central Dauphin since 1973.
- Rebecca is a strong supporter of No Child Left Behind and took part in the AP Teacher Training at Central Dauphin High School last summer.
- She now has 59 AP students. In 2003, 20 of Rebecca’s students took the AP English exam, and all 20 received college credit.
- Rebecca graduated from Millersville State University in Millersville, Pennsylvania.
- She also serves as an after-school tutor and an activity advisor for the Four Diamonds Fund, which works to raise funds for children with cancer. Lauren Simkulak, the Freedom Corps Greeter for today’s event, is involved with Four Diamonds Fund.
- She and her husband Kenneth have two daughters.

Dr. Edna Baehre [BEAR-ee], President, Harrisburg Area Community College

- Dr. Edna Baehre has served as the President of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) since 1997. HACC serves 15,000 students pursuing degrees and over 50,000 workers seeking new skills at four campuses.
- As President, Edna has instituted partnerships with local schools and local businesses to address the workforce needs of the community.
- Previously, Edna has worked in various administrative and teaching roles at community colleges in Illinois and New York.
- Edna received her B.A. in Elementary Education in English from Paedagogische Hochschule in Heidelberg, West Germany, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in German and Comparative Literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo.
- Edna is divorced with two grown children.

Dr. Roger Longenderfer [LONG-en-der-fer], President and CEO, PinnacleHealth System

- Dr. Roger Longenderfer was named President and CEO of PinnacleHealth System in July 2001.
- Previously, he served as Executive Vice President and COO and Vice President for Medical Affairs at PinnacleHealth.
- Roger has instituted partnerships with Harrisburg Area Community College to fulfill his workforce needs in the healthcare industry.
- Roger earned his degree in medicine from Hahnemann Medical College and completed his residency in family practice at Geisinger Medical Center. He also completed his master's degree in business administration at Oklahoma City University.
- Roger and his wife Michelle have three children.

Cari Aftosmes [AFF-toe-mess], student, Harrisburg Area Community College

- Cari Aftosmes has been a student in the "Be a Nurse" program at HACC for the past two years.
- Prior to attending HACC, Cari ran her parents' promotional items company, Five Star Promotional Products, out of their home. She still works at the company in her spare time.
- Cari also works as a nurse extern at PinnacleHealth doing nurse aid and administrative work. At PinnacleHealth, she has the opportunity to shadow a registered nurse. PinnacleHealth gives Cari full benefits and pays her HACC tuition in return for her agreement to work for PinnacleHealth for two years after graduation.
- Cari attended Penn State, but she took time off when she had her son. In addition to her courses at HACC and work at PinnacleHealth, she is continuing to work towards her degree in public policy and plans to finish this fall. Afterwards, she would like to get her nursing degree.
- Cari works at PinnacleHealth every other weekend and one day during the week, and she spends the rest of her time at school and her parents' company.
- She is married to Jonathan, and they have one son, Athan (4).

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

### **POLITICAL CLIMATE**

#### **GOVERNOR**

A December poll showed Governor Ed Rendell (D) with a 46 percent approval rating, down four points since October 2003. The same poll gave the State Legislature an approval rating of just 38 percent.<sup>1</sup>

#### **STATE BUDGET**

On February 3, Governor Rendell proposed his \$22.3 billion budget for FY 2005. The budget proposal contains no new taxes and will maintain services for Pennsylvanians by increasing budgets for key programs, including medical assistance, child care for working families, and community mental health. Operating assistance for mass transit will increase by 3.4 percent, the largest increase since 1995.

After nearly a ten-month stalemate with the Legislature, on December 23, 2003, Governor Rendell signed the State's education budget. The agreement raised State income taxes from 2.8 percent to 3.07 percent and increased taxes on cigarettes and gross revenues of cell phone companies. The budget also increased the fees for birth and death certificates, turnpike tolls, licenses for new restaurants, and elevator inspections. The Governor has argued the agreement will bring in \$1 billion in new education funding and reduce the \$1.7 billion budget deficit. The *Pittsburg-Post Gazette* did an analysis showing the overall increase in taxes and fees will result in a \$71.10 tax increase for an individual making \$25,000 a year; a \$226.30 tax increase for an individual making \$50,000 a year; and a \$2,100 tax increase for a family making \$100,000 a year.<sup>2</sup>

The education budget will provide schools with \$4.2 billion in basic education funds (a three percent increase), \$904 million in special education funds (a 3.5 percent increase), and \$175 million in "block grants." School districts will also receive \$4.6 million for interest lost on their emergency funds and interest payments on loans taken for schools to stay open during the final weeks of 2003 because of the budget stalemate.

#### **STATE HOUSE - SPECIAL ELECTION**

On January 27, in a State House special election, David Millard (R) edged retired banker Paul Reichart (D) by 358 votes of the 10,550 cast. The special election was held to replace former State Representative John Gordner (R). Gordner was elected in November to fill a State Senate seat vacated with the retirement of Edward Helfrick (R). Millard will complete one year of the term left unfinished by Gordner. The State House now has 108 Republican

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

members, 94 Democrat members, and one Republican seat vacant (there will be a special election for this seat on March 9).

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

On November 25, 2003, the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously voted to expand two state programs that provide prescription drug assistance for low-income seniors. The two programs, the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) and PACENET, now enroll 224,000 seniors, and this number is expected to rise to 324,000 enrollees by the end of next year. Governor Rendell signed the bill on November 26, 2003, and the measure took effect on January 1, 2004.

### **PITTSBURGH CITY BUDGET**

In November 2003, Mayor Tom Murphy (D) submitted his second unbalanced budget. Last year, the Mayor's budget, approved by the city council, was \$60 million in the red. On November 18, 2003, Moody's Investor Service became the last of the Nation's big three credit rating agencies to downgrade the City's bond rating to junk status.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development granted distressed city status to Pittsburgh on December 29, 2003. The designation will allow the City to increase the one percent wage tax but requires the City to develop a fiscal recovery plan with the help of a state-appointed overseer within 90 days of the designation.

### **GAMBLING**

In December 2003, the State Senate killed a Rendell-backed House bill to allow gambling in the State. Governor Rendell claims the bill would have created \$1 billion in additional revenue by allowing slots at Pennsylvania racetracks, as well as establishing "slots only" casinos in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. On January 27, Governor Rendell announced a new gambling plan intended to provide property tax relief and raise \$1 billion for public schools. This is his third and most expansive gambling plan since he took office. Under the plan, the State would take 34 percent from slot machine profits, allowing property taxes to be reduced in school districts that agreed to raise their local-earned income tax rates by 0.1 percent.

### **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

In an effort to make the results of Pennsylvania's presidential primary more important, on January 13, Governor Rendell announced his intention to move the 2008 primary to the earliest primary date set by any other state. Governor Rendell said he would introduce the

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

proposal to the Legislature next year. Under present law, Pennsylvania's presidential primary is held on the fourth Tuesday in April (April 27 this year). In non-presidential election years, the primary is not held until the third Tuesday in May.

### **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

#### **Philadelphia Mayor**

According to press reports, the chief campaign fund-raiser for Mayor John Street (D), Lana Felton-Ghee, was subpoenaed on January 8, 2004, to appear before a Federal grand jury as part of a Federal investigation of the Street Administration.

On November 4, 2003, Mayor Street was re-elected over Republican challenger Sam Katz with 58 percent of the vote.

#### **Treasurer Barbara Hafer**

State Treasurer Barbara Hafer (D), previously re-elected as a Republican in 2000, switched parties in December 2003. Hafer claims she received no support from the Republican Party. Hafer spent the summer of 2002 campaigning for then-Democrat gubernatorial candidate Rendell after she was passed over for the Republican nomination for governor. She endorsed Senator John Kerry's (D) presidential bid on December 30, 2003.

### **REDISTRICTING**

Last year, a Federal three-judge panel ruled that the Republican plan for redrawing the boundaries of the State's 19 congressional districts was constitutional. Democrats appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court alleging political gerrymandering. The Court held oral arguments on December 10, 2003, and a decision in the case is expected by June. The Republican plan shifts about 40,000 residents into new voting districts for the 2004 elections.

### **FEDERAL GRANTS**

Taxpayers for Common Sense released a report on January 15 giving credit to Senator Arlen Specter (R) for securing funding for 88 percent of Pennsylvania projects seeking Federal aid. Nearly 20 percent of the 2,932 projects nationwide awarded by Chairman Specter's Senate Appropriations subcommittee (Labor, Health, Human Services) were earmarked for Pennsylvania. The State stands to receive \$422 million in Federal grants out of the \$373 billion spending bill that passed the Senate on January 22. Pennsylvania, with 12.3 million residents, has the sixth-largest population in the country and receives the seventh-highest amount of funding.

**PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

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## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

### **STATISTICS**

#### **2000 General Election Results** **(Presidential):**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Win %</b>
<b>Gore</b>	2,485,967	51%
<b>Bush</b>	2,281,127	46%
<b>Nader</b>	103,392	2%
<b>Other</b>	41,699	1%

#### **1996 General Election Results** **(Presidential):**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Win %</b>
<b>Clinton</b>	2,215,819	49%
<b>Dole</b>	1,801,169	40%
<b>Perot</b>	430,984	10%
<b>Other</b>	58,146	1%

### **CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

#### **U.S. SENATE:**

- Arlen Specter (R), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected in 1998 with 61%
- Rick Santorum (R), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected in 2000 with 52%

#### **U.S. HOUSE: 19 Total (12R, 7D)**

- Robert Brady (D-01), 3<sup>rd</sup> full term, re-elected with 86%
- Chaka Fattah (D-02), 5<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 88%
- Phil English (R-03), 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-03, re-elected with 78%
- Melissa Hart (R-04), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 65%
- John Peterson (R-05), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 87%
- Jim Gerlach (R-06), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 51%
- Curt Weldon (R-07), 9<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 66%
- Jim Greenwood (R-08), 6<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 63%
- Bill Shuster (R-09), 1<sup>st</sup> term, re-elected with 71%
- Don Sherwood (R-10), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 93%
- Paul Kanjorski (D-11), 10<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 56%
- John Murtha (D-12), 15<sup>th</sup> full term, re-elected with 73%
- Joe Hoeffel (D-13), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 51%
- Mike Doyle (D-14), 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-14, re-elected without opposition
- Pat Toomey (R-15), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 57%
- Joe Pitts (R-16), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 88%
- Tim Holden (D-17), 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-17, re-elected with 51%
- Tim Murphy (R-18), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 60%

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

- Todd Platts (R-19), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 91%

### **STATE GOVERNMENT**

- Governor Ed Rendell (D), elected in 2002 with 53%
- Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll (D), elected with Rendell
- Attorney General Gerald Pappert (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, replaced Mike Fisher on December 15, 2003
- Treasurer Barbara Hafer (D), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected, as a Republican, in 2000 with 49%
- Auditor General Robert Casey, Jr. (D), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected in 2000 with 57%

**State House:** 203 (108R, 94D, 1Vacancy)

Speaker: John Perzel (R)

Majority Leader: Samuel Smith (R)

Minority Leader: William DeWease (D)

**State Senate:** 50 (29R, 21D)

President: Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll (D)

Majority Leader: David “Chip” Brightbill (R)

Minority Leader: Robert Mellow (D)

### **STATE PARTY**

State Chairman: Alan Novak

National Committeeman: Bob Asher

National Committeewoman: Christine Toretta Olson

### **STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

#### **Estimated Population 2000:**

Pennsylvania: 12,281,054, up 3.4% since 1990

**National Average:** 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

#### **Race/Ethnicity:**

Pennsylvania: 85.4% White, 10.0% African-American, 3.2% Hispanic, 1.8% Asian

**National Average:** 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American; 3.6% Asian; 0.9% American Indian

#### **Median Age:**

Pennsylvania: 38.0 years (15.6% are 65 years and older)

**National Average:** 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

### **College Educated:**

Pennsylvania: 22.4%

**National Average:** 24.4%

### **Median Income:**

Pennsylvania: \$40,106

**National Average:** \$41,994

### **Households:**

Pennsylvania: 67.2% family households; 51.7% married couple families

**National Average:** 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

*(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)*

## **YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
“Congress of Tomorrow” Republican Retreat	January 31, 2004	Philadelphia
Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon	December 2, 2003	Pittsburgh
Bush-Cheney '04 Finance Event	September 15, 2003	Philadelphia
National Urban League Conference	July 28, 2003	Pittsburgh
United States Coast Guard	March 31, 2003	Philadelphia
Roundtable and Remarks on Medical Liability Reform	January 16, 2003	Scranton
Faith Based and Community Initiatives Conference	December 12, 2002	Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Welcome	November 1, 2002	Harrisburg
Pennsylvania Welcome	October 22, 2002	Downingtown
Carpenters Labor Day Picnic	September 2, 2002	Pittsburgh
Coal Miners Event, Fisher Fundraiser and Born Alive Bill Signing	August 5, 2002	Pittsburgh
Early Childhood Education Initiative and Fisher Fundraiser	April 2, 2002	Middletown
Tour People’s Emergency Center and Conversation on Service	March 12, 2002	Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Remarks on Bioterrorism	February 5, 2002	Pittsburgh
Brownfields Bill Signing	January 11, 2002	Conshohocken
Army – Navy Game	December 1, 2001	Philadelphia

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

Steel Workers Picnic and Little League World Series	August 26, 2001	Pittsburgh Williamsport
Faith-Based Block Party	July 4, 2001	Philadelphia
Tour and Energy Speech at Safe Harbor Hydroelectric Dam	May 18, 2001	Conestoga
Project Safe Neighborhoods Announcement	May 14, 2001	Philadelphia
Budget Tour Stop at Control Concepts	February 28, 2001	Beaver
House Democrat Retreat	February 4, 2001	Farmington

### **THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Gerlach for Congress Finance Event	October 3, 2003	Conshohocken
Citizens for Arlen Specter Finance Event	June 16, 2003	Harrisburg
Gekas for Congress Finance Event	October 25, 2002	Reading
Gerlach for Congress Finance Event	July 18, 2002	Conshohocken
Murphy for Congress Finance Event		Pittsburgh
Gekas for Congress Finance Event	April 19, 2002	Harrisburg
Toomey for Congress Finance Event	April 19, 2002	Allentown
Speech to NACO Energy Town Hall	July 6, 2001	Philadelphia Pittsburgh

<sup>1</sup> A Quinnipiac University Poll, conducted 12/11-14/03, surveyed 1,092 registered voters, margin of error +/- 3%

<sup>2</sup> "Increasing taxes, fees seem to be coming at Pennsylvanians from all directions." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 19, 2004, <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04018/263205.stm>

<sup>3</sup> A Quinnipiac University Poll, conducted 12/11-14/03, surveyed 1,092 registered voters, margin of error +/- 3%

<sup>4</sup> A Public Opinion Strategies poll, conducted 1/11-12/04, surveyed 350 likely GOP primary voters, margin of error +/- 5.24%.