

Come to any Macy's store and drop off your letter to Santa
 For every letter received, we'll donate \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation* (up to \$1,000,000)
 *a million reasons to Believe
 VISIT MACYS.COM/BELIEVE

The Philadelphia Inquirer

philly.com

Home Inquirer Daily News News Business Sports Entertainment Living Restaurants & Food

Jobs Cars Homes Marketplace

Local Top Sports Business Politics Arts & Entertainment Food Home & Life Health & Science Education Opinion Blogs & Columns

Subscriber Services | The e-Inquirer | Join Our Team

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Site

search

LOCAL & REGION

MY Yahoo!

World & Nation Philadelphia Pennsylvania South Jersey

share email print reprint font size

Welcome Guest | Register | Sign In

Students 'suspend' boycott at South Phila. High

By Kristen A. Graham, Jeff Shields and Jeff Gammage
 Inquirer Staff Writers

After meeting with schools Superintendent Arlene Ackerman in Chinatown last night, the 50 Asian students who have been boycotting classes at South Philadelphia High agreed to return to school starting this morning.

The 25 or so students who continued to stay out of class in response to a Dec. 3 incident on campus in which dozens of them had been beaten said last night that they were "suspending" their boycott while awaiting action from school and district officials. (About half the boycotting students returned earlier this week.)

The students said they still have a list of concerns and demands, and wish to talk with officials about possible staffing changes at the school.

A statement released by the students last night indicated that the meeting was also attended by several Asian community leaders, about 30 of the students and following the meeting, school principal LaGreta Brown and other administrators.

"The struggle will go on until all the demands are met; we won't give up," the statement read. "We ask everyone to continue to pay attention to what's going on at SPSHS. We hope that school can



ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ / Staff Photographer

Two Asian girls and an African-American friend embrace after seeing one another at the corner of Snyder Avenue and South Broad Street this morning as boycotting students returned to school. When asked, they said they were part of the boycott but declined to give their names.

READER FEEDBACK

Post a comment

RELATED STORIES

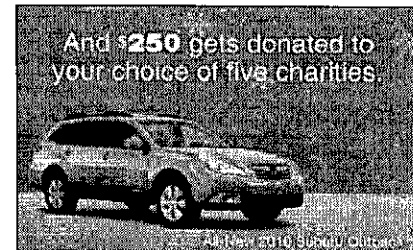
Students 'suspend' boycott at South Phila. High

Nutter backs Ackerman's handling of S. Philly High

Attytodd: Mayor Nutter jumps the shark

Daily News Editorial: What are we teaching our kids?

Check out a recent education chat with Inquirer reporter Kristen Graham



SUBARU

Advertisement

Today's Most Viewed | Most Emailed

Preferential treatment for cops? Seven old graves found under Fairmount basement
 High School Sport Score Board
 'It's a gift to me, a memento'
 'Good Job' Philly: Phillies WITH UPDATES ON CHAMPAIN HAPPY

More Most Viewed

Thanksgiving escapee found in Bucks motel
 Karen Hirler: Analyzing Philadelphia crime numbers is right thing
 Comment on Justice: Delayed, Dismissed, Denied
 Bonusgate prosecutors charge DeWeese & others
 A good deal for Phillies WITH UPDATES ON CHAMPAIN HAPPY

More Most Emailed

MOST VIEWED IN THIS SECTION

Ex-owner of Shore club says alleges harassment
 Camden man found to death is identified
 Violent gunman's flight broken bail system
 Seven old graves found under Fairmount basement
 Gun Arrests Galore: Ten Convictions at All

LATEST STORIES IN THIS SECTION

- Christie names DeLozier as attorney general 2:06am
 By Matthew Luzzo
- Gun Arrests Galore: No convictions at All 2:05am
 By John Salvo, Erik Loughery and Dylan Pugh
- DeWeese: Steller indictment itself charges 2:05am
 By Tom H. Cantabene
- Ex-Philly academy leader gets prison term 2:05am
 By Katie Weikel
- Fal. House approves table games bill 2:05am
 By Mike P. ...

Top Jobs | Top Homes | Top Cars

change their attitude for the benefits of all students... We now believe in hope and change, like President Obama."

Earlier yesterday, Mayor Nutter praised Ackerman and the Philadelphia School District for their response to the beatings, while also crediting students who have returned to class.

"I'm proud of these students and their parents for coming back to school because they will help to make a more positive environment at South Philadelphia High School," said Nutter, adding that their commitment to improving relations could serve as a model for other city schools.

Nutter said city officials including his chief education officer, Lori Shorr; Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey; Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison; and the Commission on Human Relations worked closely with the schools and community to tackle the situation.

"Superintendent Ackerman and the School Reform Commission and the entire school district... took these matters very seriously, and quite honestly, jumped on them in the most immediate fashion," Nutter said.

Ackerman has been criticized by Asian leaders, who characterized her response to the beatings - which were overwhelmingly carried out by African American students - as slow and defensive. The superintendent first spoke about the incident six days after it happened, reading prepared remarks at a School Reform Commission meeting.

She first went to South Philadelphia High eight days after the attacks, the same day Brown, the principal, first spoke publicly about the beatings.

Helen Gym, a board member of Asian Americans United, later said she was disappointed by Nutter's remarks. She questioned how he could support a school that has seen a significant spike in violence.

District officials said that even before the attacks, both overall violence and assaults at the school were up over last school year. There were 38 assaults this school year through Nov. 30, a 32 percent increase over the same period last year.

Overall, there were 43 violent incidents this school year, a 5 percent increase over the same period last year.

Nutter said the situation was complicated. "This is not the filling of a pothole," the mayor said. "We're dealing with individuals, we're dealing with long-standing challenges, we're dealing... with issues of culture and race and neighborhood, and a bunch of national and international types of issues that will not be solved easily."

With work, racial tensions at the school can ease, the mayor said.

"It requires a lot of hard work, but it also requires a lot of faith on all sides to see that this is a serious effort and everyone has a role to play," he said, "and the role of students is to be in school."

Top Jobs
Click to Watch Video

NEW DETAILS

View All

SEARCH JOBS

Center City

Lewes



\$1,290,000
1101 LOCUST ST #10F

\$279,990
Eagle Point

FOR SALE

Nissan Murano SL 2006

Ford Fusion SE 2010



\$23,999
Colonial Nissan
(866) 644-9582

\$18,950
Bryner Chevrolet
215-896-4617

SEARCH CARS

INQUIRER & DAILY NEWS MERCHANDISE



Buy Inquirer, Daily News & Philly merchandise here including:

- Books
- Mugs
- Page Reports
- Photo Licensing
- Photos

[Click here for savings](#)

FORD YEAR END SALES EVENT

TICKET OFFERS

SPORTS OTHER PHILLY TIX

- Eagles Kevin Hart
- Phillies Michael Buble
- Flyers David Gray
- Sixers Disney on Ice

Adult leaders have said they are planning to file a civil-rights complaint on behalf of the students with the U.S. Justice Department.