



Dr. Carol D. Birks
Superintendent
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April 10, 2024

Allentown City Council
c/o Dr. Cynthia Mota, President
425 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA. 18101

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for naming the Plaza in front of the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion after Secretary Pat Browne and his wife Heather in recognition of their significant contributions to education for young people and families in the City of Allentown.

Mr. Browne served nearly three decades as an elected official in the Pennsylvania legislature. With strong support from his wife Heather, he was an influential advocate for education, including a more equitable distribution of school district funding. He secured the largest increases in funding during his time in office for our school district. He also secured millions for early childhood education through his role as founder and chair of the Early Childhood Education Caucus.

The Browne's support for the construction of the Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion in downtown Allentown was the icing on the cake. The new science center will be a major educational asset for students and families in Allentown. Da Vinci and the Allentown School District have entered into a multi-year partnership to expand educational opportunities to create measurable impact for our students.

The new science center will be the second campus for Central Elementary School students and the District's first theme-based academy. Rich learning experiences will also be available across the District, including free memberships for all ASD families. A state-of-the art resource for STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math) education. All would not have been possible without Browne's leadership securing state funding for the new science center.

I urge you to move forward with this naming opportunity.

Best,

Carol D. Birks

Carol D. Birks, Ed.D.
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer