

# *NEWS*

**For Immediate Release**

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## **PHSSA SIGNS LEASE WITH RPS BOARD ON PH BUILDING**

**RICHMOND, VA November 23, 2010** – Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) Board of Directors and Richmond Public School Board finalized and signed the lease on the Patrick Henry Building yesterday.

The Patrick Henry Building, located at 3411 Semmes Avenue, will be the permanent location for PHSSA when renovations are completed. The school currently operates out of Woodland Heights Baptist Church Education Center, located at 611 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, approximately three blocks from the Patrick Henry Building.

The rent on the building will be one dollar a year. PHSSA Board delivered payment for the first year of rent along with the signed lease.

“This is a significant turning point for the PHSSA board, staff and families that have been waiting for months to get these details finalized,” said Sharon Burton, PHSSA President. “We are anxious to get started on hiring contractors and obtaining permits to get the construction underway in the Patrick Henry building in late winter/early spring timeframe.”

PHSSA is planning on renovating the building in three phases. The first phase will include the lower library level, the cafeteria level, the first level of classrooms and an administrative area to accommodate about 200 students for the 2011-12 school year. The later two phases will include the auditorium, the second level of classrooms and the west wing of the basement.

Renovations include upgrading the building so that it is ADA compliant, life safety upgrades, as well as electrical and HVAC updates. The estimated cost of building upgrades is approximately \$1 million.

PHSSA is the first elementary charter school in Virginia. The school’s charter was signed in May 2008. The school welcomed 150 children in kindergarten through fifth grade from all over the City of Richmond in August 2010.

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**Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) is a kindergarten through fifth-grade school based on meaningful parent, educator, and community involvement. The school will provide the children of our diverse community with an academically rigorous science- and arts-based curriculum that emphasizes environmental awareness and social responsibility. See more at [www.patrickhenrycharter.org](http://www.patrickhenrycharter.org).**