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Dr. William R. Hite, Superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia, to serve as Keynote Speaker at *High Note High Step Breakfast* on November 8

October 18, 2018...Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) are thrilled to announce that Dr. William R. Hite, Superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia (SDP), will serve as the Keynote Speaker at their annual *High Note High Step Breakfast* on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at The Union League of Philadelphia at 140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 from 7:30-9:30am. Attendees will have networking time between 7:30-8am, with the program officially beginning at 8am including remarks by Musicopia's and DCP's Board Chair and Executive Director, and student performances and Q & A's. Dr. Hite is expected to speak at approximately 9am.

In addition to Dr. Hite's remarks, attendees will see how music and dance positively impacts thousands of students' lives across the Philadelphia region through film testimonials, in-person Q & A sessions with students, and live performances by a quartet from the Musicopia Young String Players, the Bartram High School Musicopia Drumline, Dancing Classrooms Philly students from Independence Charter School, and a Dancing Classrooms Philly Allstars couple.

With a focus on equity, innovation and quality, Dr. William R. Hite serves as Superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia, the largest public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Since joining the School District in June 2012, Dr. Hite has focused on creating a system of great schools in every neighborhood.

"Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly have been strong partners to the School District of Philadelphia for many years," said Dr. Hite. "Their programs provide valuable support for our teachers and students that enhance our arts curriculums and academic programs, and help our students increase self-esteem through collaboration and a culture of creativity."

Under his leadership, the School District's achievements include opening new innovative high schools, expanding successful school models, launching in-district turnarounds and redesigning schools in partnership with communities. Dr. Hite's overall focus remains on strengthening all elementary and secondary school offerings. For most of its 44 year history, Musicopia has been a strategic arts partner of the SDP by providing in-depth music education programs, support for in-school ensembles, instrument purchase and repair, and music coaching assistance. Last year alone, Musicopia served more than 3,000 students in sixteen SDP schools.



Dancing Classrooms Philly joined as a SDP partner over 10 years ago and has expanded its presence ever since. This academic year, DCP will be a part of the fifth grade curriculum in over twenty SDP schools. DCP also recently announced the establishment of the Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Dance for the Future Program in the School District of Philadelphia's Acceleration Network Schools. In partnership with the SDP's Office of Arts and Academic Enrichment, the goal of the Dance for the Future program is to harness the increased focus and resources in the Acceleration Network schools and create real and lasting change in the lives of underserved students through the learning and performing of social dance.

Dr. Hite has served at every level of kindergarten through 12th grade education, including teacher, principal and central office administrator in Maryland, Virginia and Georgia school districts. One of Dr. Hite's frequent sayings is "Smart is something you become," which speaks to his belief in the potential of all students to achieve the highest standards with access to the right teachers, coursework and opportunities.

Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly thank their High Note High Step Sponsors: Rothman Orthopaedics (Silver Note Sponsor), Naxion, Exude, and Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP.

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About Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly

Musicopia is a non-profit organization that reaches over 19,000 children a year through educational music enrichment programs in schools and communities throughout the Delaware Valley. Founded in 1974, Musicopia's mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience, learn, perform, and appreciate music. Musicopia offers in-school music education programming, and runs the Musicopia String Orchestra program, the Musicopia Drumlines program, and an instrument donation program. More information is available at www.musicopia.net.

Dancing Classrooms Philly is based on Dancing Classrooms, the highly acclaimed American Ballroom Theater Company program, created in New York by Broadway dancer and show dance champion Pierre Dulaine. DCP was launched in the Fall of 2007. Its mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform ballroom dance. DCP serves more 3,000 students each year through its in-school residency program for 5th and 8th grade students, and through its Academy and Allstars programs. More information is available at www.dancingclassroomsp Philly.org.

Musicopia and DCP joined forces in 2012 to create a strategic alliance to provide both organizations with a more efficient infrastructure while advancing their missions and community impact. Musicopia and DCP share the common goal of promoting confidence and self-esteem through the arts and are committed to working with under-served children and schools.