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ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-ALIGNS PERSONNEL TO MEET LEADERSHIP NEEDS

November 7, 2005, Allentown, PA – The Allentown School District Board of Directors has approved the realignment of several professional positions in the District. “In order to sustain continuous improvement in student achievement, it is important to draw on the strengths of our district leaders, and that has been accomplished with this realignment,” stated Superintendent Dr. Karen Angello. “We must continue to build a system that not only has depth in professional talent, but also the flexibility to place our teachers and administrators so they may significantly contribute to the mission of this district. Serving over 18,000 students in an urban setting is challenging and rewarding, and we are pleased to have the talent we need to reach out to our students to meet their educational goals.”

Additional Principal Appointments

In addition to the announcement three weeks ago of Heather Bennett being named principal at Roosevelt Elementary School, there are other transfers to be acknowledged. Other principal appointments include the move of McKinley Elementary School Principal, **Ralph LaForgia**, to fill the post at Jefferson

Elementary School and the promotion of **Richard Kern**, who leaves Mosser Elementary School as an Administrative Intern, to become Principal of McKinley Elementary School. **Lori Gibbs**, Assistant Principal of Raub Middle School, has been named Principal of Mosser Elementary School with the transfer of Principal **Pennie Lieberher** from Principal of Mosser Elementary to Administrator of Accountability and Assessment.

Other Administrative Changes: Rita Perez and David Wildonger

Rita Perez, currently Director of Professional and Staff Development for ASD, has been appointed Director of Employee Recruitment and Development. She will continue the work related to professional and staff development but her added responsibilities include recruitment and retention, reporting to Deputy Superintendent Dr. Russell Mayo. Perez joined ASD in 1994 as an ESOL/French Teacher at Raub Middle School and taught in several positions within the District—including serving as Acting Principal at Central Elementary School in 1999-2000—until she was named Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Perez recently facilitated the completion of a six-year strategic plan.

Dave Wildonger will be assuming a new administrative position: Administrator on Special Assignment – High School Reform, reporting to Superintendent Dr. Karen Angello. This expands his role in working with the high schools to include oversight of the Project 720 grant, work on the transition of students to LCTI full-time, and other related issues specific to very critical issues related to high school achievement. With 29 years of service to Allentown School District, Wildonger taught health and physical education and coached football at William Allen for 18 years before establishing the Health Science Academy for the District in 1997. He later went on to become District coordinator for the ASD Academies from 2000-2005 under a small learning communities grant.

Ruben Nazario has agreed to come on board as Interim Director of Human Resources effective November 1, 2005. Ruben recently retired as Vice President of Human Resources at the Milton Hershey School and has a distinguished career in human resources in Ohio and Colorado. He has also served as a principal at the middle and high school levels. “I have known Ruben for 12 years and am very enthused that he is willing to serve the Allentown School District this school year. He has tremendous expertise in the field of human resources and will provide significant leadership to ASD,” shared Dr. Angello.

The PA School Boards Association will conduct a search for the Director, Human Resources. (More information will be forthcoming regarding the application process for those interested in this position which will be filled July of 2006).

Administrative Intern Appointments

With many qualified administrative interns moving up to principal posts, the following employees have been appointed to the critical position of administrative intern in several schools:

Teacher **Terry Miller**, Raub Middle School, has been promoted and transferred to Administrative Intern at Roosevelt Elementary School and **Tracey Kleinschuster** has been named Administrative Intern at Jefferson Elementary School. **Rich Fenstermacher** has been transferred from Administrative Intern at Jefferson to Administrative Intern at Union Terrace Elementary School. **Jeff Friese**, Technology Coordinator, has been named Administrative Intern at Mosser Elementary. We are very pleased to offer internships to these highly skilled professionals.

Comments Dr. Angello, “My thanks to Heather Bennett, Ralph LaForgia, Rick Kern, Pennie Lieberher, Lori Gibbs, Rita Perez and Dave Wildonger for their willingness to share their leadership in new ways and new venues. We are very proud of the entire ASD Administrative Team. We also look forward to having our new administrative interns to joining this team of outstanding professionals.”

Serving approximately 18,100 students in 22 early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools located throughout the City of Allentown, PA, Allentown School District is the fourth largest school district out of 501 Commonwealth districts. About 73 percent of the students are members of minority groups and 69 percent qualified for free or reduced lunch in 2004-2005. 16.9 percent of students today have limited English proficiency (LEP) and are enrolled in ESOL programs; 22.6 percent of the LEP students are in elementary schools. One in four students changes school locations throughout the year. The District continues to implement a standardized, district-wide instructional calendar with consistent teaching practices from school to school to assist students who move within and without the District on a frequent basis.

Allentown School District employs approximately 1,218 teachers and 2,000 employees overall.

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