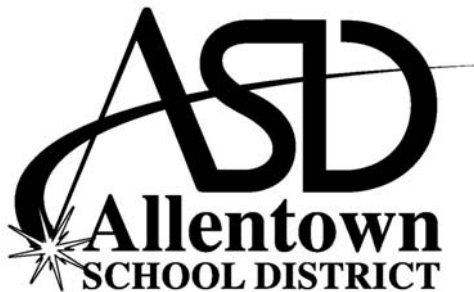


For immediate release

Karen S. Angello, Ph.D., Superintendent
Allentown School District
484-765-4230
angelok@allentownsd.org

Susan L. Williams, APR, MA
Susan Williams & Associates
610-366-2155
suewill@ptd.net



**SUPERINTENDENT ANGELLO CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF SAFETY POLICY AND
PROCEDURES WITH THE SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

(Allentown, PA, March 22, 2007) – In a move directed at providing leadership to the safety concerns of parents, Dr. Karen S. Angello, Superintendent, has requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provide support and technical assistance as the District reviews their Safety Policy and Procedures. PDE's Deputy Secretary of Education, Diane Castelbuono, notified Dr. Angello that the Bureau of Community and Student Services will lead the team that will provide the support and technical assistance. Dr. Angello will announce this strategic action at the regular meeting of the ASD Board of Directors, March 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

In her request to the Deputy Secretary, Dr. Angello requested that PDE focus on the following elements in its review:

1. Provide support and technical assistance to the ASD Safety Task Force

2. Share, with the assistance of the Center for Safe Schools, resources with the Task Force such as monitoring tools, evidence-based programs and safety plans
3. Offer recommendations and support for the Task Force's review of district policies and procedures
4. Offer opportunities for professional development and training

“Allentown School District seeks to be ahead of the curve on safety practices since this is critical to students who must feel and be safe in order to learn and perform well,” stated Angello. “As a District, we must constantly assess these practices to ensure that we are enforcing implementation of these practices consistently from school to school,” stated Angello. “With the support of the Department of Education and its technical assistance, the ASD Board of Directors’ appointed Safety Task Force will assist the District in further strengthening its practices and provide technical assistance in training our professional and support staff. The public’s confidence in the District will grow when residents know that there is responsiveness and consistency in implementing the policies and procedures that ensure safety for all our students and staff.”

Angello noted this effort aligns with another review that has been underway since June 2006. The ASD Board of Directors contracted with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) to review all of its policies at that time. PSBA will provide the Board in April 2007 its most recent review of the policies contained within the ASD Code of Conduct. This information will be presented to the Safety Task Force, and will also be the focus of the ASD Board of Directors Policy Committee as it continues to provide meticulous care to the ASD Board’s role in formulating policy.

About Allentown School District

As the fourth largest of 501 districts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown School District educates approximately 18,500 students in 22 early childhood centers, elementary, middle and high schools located throughout the City of Allentown, and employs over 2,000 administrators, teaching professionals and staff members. The District’s mission calls for providing safe and rigorous educational experiences that motivate all students to excel in learning and life.

31 S. Penn St., P.O. Box 328, Allentown, PA 18105

484-765-4000

www.allentownsd.org