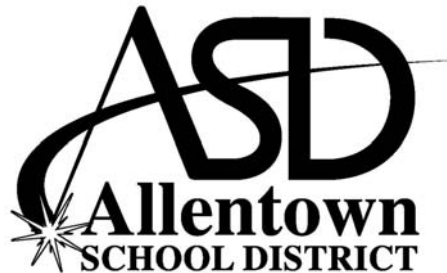


For immediate release

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**ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APPOINTS SAFETY TASK FORCE:
REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS DUE TO THE BOARD MAY 24, 2007**

(Allentown, PA, March 22, 2007)—In response to community concerns and to ensure that *Safety of ASD Students is the Number 1 Priority*, the Allentown School District Board of Directors will appoint the following individuals to serve on the Safety Task Force at its regular meeting March 22, 2007:

ASD Board of Directors: Erlinda M. Agron and Joanne E. Jackson

ASD Safe Schools Coordinator: Gretchen Saul

Parents: Tina Deutsch, Shalon Esterling, Jason Heiser, Emily Mebust, Sara Packer, Milagros Perez, Corissa Rolon, David Roth, Mary Roylance, Asaf Salloum, Annette Thiel, Mary White, Erin Whitman and Carol Zimmerman.

Teachers: Kim Burke, Laura Miller, and Patricia Wilburn

Administrators: Principals Ralph Lovelidge, James Moniz and Nicholas Perez

Students: TBA, one from each high school

The Safety Task Force will hold its first organization meeting Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. All other meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays at the same time: April 3, 17 and 24 and May 1, 8, 15 and 22. The Task Force’s final recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors on May 24, 2007.

The overall work to be done is as follows:

1. Study and make suggestions on the ASD School Board policies and procedures related to student discipline and student safety.
2. Provide input into the revision of the Code of Conduct.
3. Meet with ASD’s safety partners (Allentown Police Department, Child Protective Services, District Attorney’s Office, Crime Victim’s Council, churches, and others) who help to address safety in ASD schools.
4. Help develop systems so that parents have their concerns addressed through the schools and know how to access others in the District to assist them.

President Jeff Glazier noted, “I am pleased to see a collaborative approach being taken with parents and staff to ensure our safety policies are effective. In addition to reviewing these policies and procedures, the task force will see to it that the ASD Code of Conduct is easier to read. These measures will help to build more responsive systems.”

Superintendent Angello is equally enthusiastic about the community’s interest as reflected by the many individuals who applied to be part of the Safety Task Force. Dr. Angello has established a support structure so that the Task Force will have the necessary documents, resources and external support from other agencies as well as the findings from the review to be conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Dr. Angello has asked that Executive Director of Elementary Education Karen Boardman and Executive Director of Secondary Education Ray O’Connell serve as administrative liaisons to the co-chairs of the Safety Task Force. Working with Mrs. Boardman and Mr. O’Connell will be four teachers, three security officers and members of the Office of Community and Student Services and other departments on an as needed basis.

“The support structure has been established so that there are individuals who can assist the Safety Task Force with the work to be done in between meetings and to serve as a resource,” says Angello. “The Safety Task Force will provide the lead, and we will give them maximum support so that the depth of their charge can be addressed within this short time frame. We also will have the benefit of our partners in the community who will also be available as a support to the Task Force. Our parents, teachers, support staff and administrators are demonstrating substantial commitment to safety of our students, and we appreciate it.”

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 pre-school, 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.

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