



**PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING
341 S. BELLEFIELD AVE.
PGH., PA 15213

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ebony R. Pugh (412) 622-3616

Board Approves Appointment of New Executive Director of Support Services

PITTSBURGH August 11, 2008 – At the Special Legislative Meeting held this evening, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Patricia A. Gennari to the position of Executive Director of Support Services, effective September 1, 2008. As Executive Director of Support Services, Dr. Gennari will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of school and community based services for students and families. The Executive Director is responsible for the coordination of the District’s Counseling, Social Work, Health Services, Alternative Education and Athletics offices. Dr. Gennari brings to the District extensive experience in budget preparation, fiscal management and oversight of federal programs. Most recently, as Superintendent for the Penn Hills School District, she was responsible for the daily operations of the district serving over 5,400 students.

Prior to her appointment as Superintendent with the Penn Hills School District, Dr. Gennari served as the district’s Assistant Superintendent (2002-2004), Director of Professional Development, Funding and Special Projects (1996-2002) and Director of Elementary Education (1993-1996). Currently an adjunct graduate level teacher at Point Park, Dr. Gennari began her career in 1972 as a school teacher with the McKeesport School District where she was named Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1974.

Dr. Gennari received her Bachelor of Science (1972), Masters of Arts in teaching (1973) and Doctorate of Education (1977) all in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1992 she won the Tri-State Area Study Council Leadership Award. Additionally, in 2004, she was recognized by the Penn Hills Chapter of the NAACP for Leadership Qualities.

Board Approves Appointments of Two Principals

Mr. Dennis J. Chakey Appointed Principal of Pittsburgh Oliver High School

Dennis Chakey has been appointed Principal at Pittsburgh Oliver High School, effective August 19, 2008. Mr. Chakey is presently serving as Principal of Linton Middle School located in the Penn Hills School District. While serving as the school’s instructional leader, Mr. Chakey was responsible for staff development, budget oversight and the creation of a master schedule. From 2005-2007, he served as an Associate Principal at Wilkinsburg High School where he was responsible for student discipline and community relations.

Not a stranger to the Pittsburgh Public Schools (2000-2005), Mr. Chakey worked as a teacher at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh Westinghouse and Knoxville Middle School where he also served as Acting Assistant Principal. From 2001-2005, Mr. Chakey was a teacher/counselor at Shuman Juvenile Detention Center where he taught social science and counseled at risk students.

Mrs. Barbara Soroczak Appointed Acting Principal of Pittsburgh Liberty K-5

Mrs. Barbara Soroczak will move from her current position as Assistant Principal at Pittsburgh Stevens K-8 to Acting Principal of Pittsburgh Liberty, effective August 21, 2008. Mrs. Soroczak joined the District in 1979.

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