



NJDOE News

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Acting Commissioner Appoints Interim State Monitor for Willingboro

Dr. R. Gregory Quirk, a retired assistant superintendent, former school business administrator and certified public accountant, has been appointed as the interim state monitor for the Willingboro School district by acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy.

Under the "School District Accountability Act" signed by Governor Corzine earlier this week, the Commissioner may appoint a state monitor in districts where serious fiscal deficiencies have been identified in the district's annual audit.

The new law also allows the Commissioner to recommend an advance of state aid, to be repaid over 10 years, to districts such as Willingboro that are facing extraordinary budget deficits. The appointment of the monitor is required prior to the provision of the state aid advance.

Dr. Quirk will begin his new assignment on Monday, April 24 and will report to the acting Commissioner.

Acting Commissioner Davy said Quirk would begin the work necessary to address the district's financial problems, and that he would serve in the position for approximately two months. At the end of the school year, another appointment will be made to fill the position on a longer-term basis.

The acting Commissioner said the interim monitor's top priorities will include:

- Implementing processes to ensure up-to-date and accurate financial information, including preparation for the annual audit;
- Managing the fiscal and personnel impacts of the planned restructuring and closing of three district schools; and
- Ensuring the fiscal integrity of the 2006-07 budget and providing assistance in the municipal discussions following the district's budget defeat.

"Dr. Quirk has broad experience in education administration and finance and exceptional qualifications," acting Commissioner Davy said. "I am very pleased that he has agreed to take on this very difficult job. I am confident that he will be able to help the district get itself back on track."

Recently retired after almost 17 years as Assistant Superintendent in the Old Bridge school district, Dr. Quirk also worked in the Roselle school district as Assistant Superintendent (1985-89) and Business Administrator (1980-1985). He has been an adjunct instructor teaching graduate courses in school administration at Kean University since 1987.

During his 32-year career in education, he also worked as a teacher and team leader in Freehold Borough and as the coordinator of career programs for special needs students at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle.

A graduate of Monmouth University, he holds a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching from The College of New Jersey and a Doctorate in Education from Rutgers University. He and his wife Ellen, a teacher at Middletown High School North, live in Middletown and have three sons.