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Bethlehem, PA 18017

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bethlehem's Board of School Directors has invited superintendency candidate Joseph J. Roy, Ed.D.—a former Liberty High School's assistant principal—to meet interested members of the community one-on-one in an informal setting on **Monday, June 7, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm** in Liberty High School's Memorial Gym. According to school director and board spokesperson Irene Follweiler, the board "has felt from the onset of this search process in December that community involvement is critical; and we are encouraging as many people as possible to come to the gathering to meet him."

Follweiler said that the school board has chosen this approach over the more common town hall-style meeting because it will afford more district residents and community stakeholders the opportunity to talk with Roy directly, rather than simply sit through a prepared presentation. She explained that of the pool of applicants, the board chose Roy to take this next step in the search process because "of the leadership he has demonstrated throughout his career, what colleagues describe as an ability to inspire high performance and dedication in everyone with whom he works, and his ability to connect with and bring together students, parents, faculty and staff, and the larger community."

Follweiler noted the significant challenges that all school districts in Pennsylvania are facing in the current contracting economy and said that the board is seeking "a superintendent who has not only the necessary credentials and dedication to educational excellence, but also the leadership, integrity, and collaborative nature necessary to build bridges in these difficult times. A superintendent needs to be the right fit for both the school district and the community." Roy's direct experience in and knowledge of Bethlehem Area School District and the Lehigh Valley—he taught in the East Penn School District before becoming Liberty's assistant principal in 1992—were important considerations in introducing him as a candidate for the superintendent's position, Follweiler indicated.

Currently principal at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove, Roy was previously principal of Springfield Township High School in Montgomery County and later assistant superintendent of that district. At Springfield he spearheaded an initiative with the community to examine and address issues associated with diversity and received both the Communicator of the Year Award from the National School Public Relations Association and the Administrator of the Year Award from the National School Library Journal. He was named 2004 Multicultural Educator of the Year by the Montgomery County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Roy served as principal of Palisades High School in Buck County, where he led the development of the Palisades Academy, a school-within-a-school aimed at motivating students at risk of "falling through the cracks."

Roy, who received his doctorate in educational leadership from Lehigh University, is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and holds a master's in educational administration from Bucknell University.