

Barry Desko Named to the New Position of Director of Secondary Education, Student Accounting

When Superintendent Mark Klein assumed his position as the Superintendent of Council Rock, he announced his intention to assign the Administration's organizational functions differently than his predecessor. Last year it was announced that at the top of that tier, there would be Directors of both Secondary and Elementary Education, instead of an Assistant Superintendent, and a Director of Curriculum. Although having a Director of Elementary and another for Secondary Education is neither new to Council Rock or other school districts, the titles are where the similarity ends. The new Directors will have broader responsibilities as well as a more collaborative effort.

Last February, the first of the new appointees was announced. Named to the post of Director of Secondary Education and Student Accounting was Barry Desko, no stranger to Council Rock. Mr. Desko was promoted from Principal at Newtown Middle School to the newly created position, taking over in July.

Barry Desko has been at Newtown Junior High, now Newtown Middle School, since January 1994. He received his undergraduate degree at West Chester University in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He also attended the College of New Jersey, where he received a Master's in Education and his Principal's certification. He and his wife, Risa, have three children, who range in age from 9 to 15.

Barry has been an educator for 28 years, starting his career in education in the New Hope Solebury School District as a Health/Physical Education instructor for grades 7 through 12. He remained at that district for 10 years, where he also held the positions of Athletic Director and Student Dean, overseeing the Student Assistance Program. After New Hope Solebury, Mr. Desko went to Pennsbury School District as an Assistant Principal of ninth and tenth grades at Medill Blair.

Mr. Desko was the Principal at Newtown Middle School as Council Rock went through many changes, including four Superintendents (Blatt, Scott, Kirby, and Klein). He was instrumental in spearheading the District's change from a junior high educational set-up of 7th, 8th and 9th grade to a middle school model, where 7th and 8th grade students are divided into educational teams.

Other duties Mr. Desko will oversee along with Joy McClendon, Director of Elementary Education, include the District's Academic Standards Committee and Curriculum Coordinators. Mr. Desko will oversee academic areas that include—but are not limited to—Business, Family and Consumer Science, Health and Physical Education, Industrial Technology, Visual Art, Music, and World Language.

Mr. Desko will also oversee the Student Accounting function for the District. Student Accounting includes attendance and other statistics that affect the state funding formula for the District.

Since assuming his new position, Mr. Desko has been meeting with secondary administrators and curriculum coordinators to listen to their concerns so that he can further define the direction his leadership in his new role will take.

Although at the time of the interview, Mr. Desko was still in the process of acclimating to his new position, he eagerly hopes to assist Mark Klein, whom he respects for his vision for the students in Council Rock.