

Joy McClendon Named to the New Position of Director of Elementary Education and Curriculum Services

Superintendent Mark Klein announced in May 2006 that Joy McClendon had been appointed to the newly created position of Director of Elementary Education and Curriculum Services.

Mrs. McClendon came to Council Rock in June 2002 as principal of Richboro Elementary School. She was previously principal of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, a K-8 school in the Olney section of Philadelphia. She is married with a son and daughter, both young adults.

Mrs. McClendon graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State in Special Education and Elementary Education, then received a Master's of Education in Reading from Arcadia University. She returned to Arcadia for her Elementary/Secondary Principal Certification.

Mrs. McClendon began her teaching career in Philadelphia in 1980. Her original background was in the area of Special Education. Having a relative with special needs prompted her to seek a way to help this overlooked segment of the student population at a time when there were not sufficient government regulations or school district supports. Later, she became certified as a Reading Specialist with the goal of helping special needs students, and subsequently began to focus on Autistic Support.

When Mrs. McClendon became certified as an administrator, she was given a position as Equity Support Coordinator in a Philadelphia Cluster; a grouping of 10 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and 1 high school. In this capacity, she oversaw the English Language Learner (ELL) and Title 1 programs, facilitated placement of Special Education students and supervised the Early Intervention transition process.

This position dealt with programs, not people, and in 1998, shortly after Thurgood Marshall Elementary opened, she took on the role of principal. This was a new school with a student population that was mostly low-income minorities; a population in need.

After four years, Mrs. McClendon decided to seek employment in a suburban district. Mrs. McClendon, proud of her African-American heritage, felt that many suburban school districts lacked diversity in leadership positions and she wanted to be a positive role model for students.

The Council Rock Director of Elementary Education and Curriculum Services position encompasses two areas. Mrs. McClendon will supervise the Elementary Principals as well as concentrate on the core curricular areas; Math, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. She will work in concert with Mr. Barry Desko, Director of Secondary Education (see companion article on page ____). She will direct the Curriculum Coordinators for the four core areas and monitor student progress and new curricular initiatives. Her position will overlap Mr. Desko in the areas of budget, candidate screening, professional development and staff supervision and evaluation. Both Mrs. McClendon and Mr. Desko will oversee the District's Academic Standards committee.

Mrs. McClendon is excited to be a part of the Council Rock administrative team. She has met with most of the curriculum coordinators and, already having a strong knowledge of the elementary curriculum, plans to focus on connecting with secondary level teachers and department chairs.

Mrs. McClendon says her long-term goals will be to align with the 2006-2012 Strategic Plan (a blueprint for the next 6 years). Her immediate goal is to listen, "to learn as much as I can" and apply that knowledge in serving the students of Council Rock.