



The West Jefferson Hills School district is pleased to announce the appointment of Shauna D'Alessandro, Vice President, West Jefferson Hills School District Board of School Directors, to the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission. Mrs. D'Alessandro's nomination and appointment was approved by the Pennsylvania Senate.

The Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) was created to provide leadership for improving the quality of education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by establishing high standards for preparation, certification, practice and ethical conduct in the teaching profession. The PSPC is advisory to the State Board of Education (SBE) on setting standards for teacher education and certification. It recommends standards for types of certificates, teacher education program approval, program approval processes, initial examination, induction, continuing professional development, and reciprocal certification with other states and bodies. In addition to the preceding considerations, it also analyzes teacher education programs and national certification processes.

The PSPC is comprised of 13 members, including classroom teachers, public school administrators, an administrator of a teacher preparation institution, and members from the general public. The Governor appoints the chairperson. Each of the voting members are appointed to three-year concurrent terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Panels of nominees may be submitted by statewide organizations of professional educators. Requirements for appointment include teaching or a related service in a public school for at least five concurrent years. Professional organizations may also nominate persons for appointment.

The PSPC has legal authority over professional educator discipline. Public hearings are held on any recommendations being considered for recommendation to the SBE. Such recommendations must be presented publicly at an SBE meeting prior to SBE action on pertinent issues.

Additional information on the PSPC can be found at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pspc>

Congratulations to Shauna D'Alessandro on her appointment to the Professional Standards and Practices Commission.