



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17126-0333

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

August 17, 2012

717-787-5820 (TEL)  
717-787-7222 (FAX)  
717-783-8445 (TTY)

Mr. Joe Watkins  
6414 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151

Re: Appointment as Chief Recovery Officer for the Chester Upland School District

Dear Mr. Watkins:

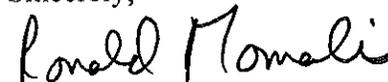
In accordance with section 631-A of the Public School Code of 1949 ("School Code"), 24 P.S. § 6-631-A, I am appointing you to serve as the Chief Recovery Officer for the Chester Upland School District ("District"). Your appointment is effective immediately.

As you know, on August 14, 2012, the District was declared to be in Financial Recovery Status pursuant to section 621-A of the School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-621-A. Section 631-A of the School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-631-A, directs the Secretary of Education, after issuing a Declaration of Financial Recovery Status, to appoint a Chief Recovery Officer for the school district declared to be in financial recovery status.

The Chief Recovery Officer serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of Education, and has numerous duties described in section 633-A of the School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-633-A. Among the most significant of these duties is to develop, implement, and administer a financial recovery plan in the District, all in coordination with the Department of Education ("Department").

Thank you for accepting this challenge and for assisting the Department in efforts to serve the students of the District. I look forward to working closely with you as you carry out your responsibilities as Chief Recovery Officer.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald J. Tomalis

c: Wanda Mann  
Leo Hackett



**News for Immediate Release**

**Aug. 17, 2012**

**Education Secretary Names Chief Recovery Officer for Chester Upland School District**

**Harrisburg** – Secretary of Education Ron Tomalis today named Joe Watkins as Chief Recovery Officer of the Chester Upland School District, Delaware County.

Earlier this week, Tomalis declared the district in Financial Recovery, pursuant to Section 621-A of the Public School Code.

A resident of Philadelphia, Watkins served as an assistant to the President of the University of Pennsylvania, from 1986-1989. From 1995-2001, Watkins served as managing director, and equity partner in an asset management firm.

Watkins is currently the Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Watkins is a former assistant state director on the U.S. Senate staff of Senator Dan Quayle and associate director of public liaison on the White House staff of President George H.W. Bush. He has also worked as a government relations professional at Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney.

Married to Stephanie Taylor Watkins, he is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Princeton Theological Seminary.

"Joe is a qualified individual who has the ability to assist the Chester Upland School District with long term financial stability as well as ensuring the district's students continue to have access to quality academic programs," said Tomalis. "I am confident that Joe will provide the district with the guidance and leadership they need."

**Media Contact:** Tim Eller, 717-783-9802

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