

Sea Isle school district has new 'superintendent of record'

By MARY RUDLOFF
Ocean City Sentinel

SEA ISLE CITY - The Sea Isle City school district has a new Superintendent of Record.

After taking a great deal of public heat from some board members and residents, EIRC made the recommendation to name Stephen Derkoski as the district's superintendent of record.

That appointment, approved unanimously by the school board, is despite the fact that Derkoski is presently employed full time in Monroe Township, and will not become the school's chief school administrator (CSA) until Dec. 1 or later.

The superintendent of record is the top administrator of the district. School districts are required to have a superintendent or superintendent of record in order to operate.

EIRC - the Educational Information Resource Center - had named Dr. Tim Wade as the superintendent of record. Wade, the school's former CSA, left Sea Isle as of Aug. 31 and is currently employed full-time as superintendent of schools in Jenkintown, Pa.

EIRC was hired to run the school district as of July 1, 2006. Derkoski is the seventh administrator to oversee the

school placed by EIRC since then. When joining the district on Dec. 1, he will share administrative duties with curriculum supervisor Anne Borger. Borger is the on-site administrator in Sea Isle on a daily basis, but Derkoski said last week he is now working in the district one day a week. He said he was also available by telephone, in case of emergency, at all times.

Most recently the board and EIRC came under fire from the Sea Isle City Taxpayers Association (SICTA), questioning the legality of Wade's designation. In a letter sent to board members as well as to the state commissioner of education, SICTA also questioned Borger being considered the school's principal and performing duties of the position. Borger has a certificate of eligibility, SICTA President Dr. Thomas Henry wrote, but not her certification for the position. She will be required to have a mentor to obtain her certification.

Prior to the letter from SICTA, Borger was designated as the building principal on the school's website. By Monday of last week, that title had been removed.

Business Administrator Earl Vassalo, who has worked in the district since September 2006, has the proper certification for the

superintendent of record or CSA designation, but refused to be considered for either. He works in the district two days per week.

Wade, Derkoski, Borger and Vassalo are all employed by EIRC, and not by the local school district.

The school board hired EIRC to provide administrators, but EIRC is the employer for those administrators. The school board retains the power to approve or not approve any EIRC recommendation. With the eight administrator recommendations brought to the board by EIRC in the past 15 months, the board has only declined one, when several board members walked out of the meeting, and there were not enough remaining members to legally take a vote.