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Vincent Thompson
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**SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSIONER MARTIN BEDNAREK REAPPOINTED TO THE
PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DISTRICT XII
COMMITTEE BY THE PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

PHILADELPHIA -- The Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) Executive Board recently reappointed School Reform Commission member Martin Bednarek to serve as the PSBA's representative on the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District XII governing committee.

The PIAA District XII (formally known as the Philadelphia Public League) committee is responsible for overseeing the overall operations of the PIAA District XII. PIAA District XII is made up of 48 public and charter schools, all in Philadelphia. Philadelphia has been a member of the PIAA since July 2003 and this school year is the first year all Philadelphia teams are eligible to compete for statewide athletic championships.

All of the members of the District Committees throughout Pennsylvania are experienced professional educators who have background and experience in dealing with high school athletics. Bednarek's new two-year term will start on July 1, 2005 and expires on June 30, 2007.

"In reappointing Martin Bednarek to his role on the PIAA District XII committee, the PSBA recognizes the importance of Marty's efforts on behalf of children and the high caliber we can expect of his contributions in this role," said James Nevels, Chairman of the School Reform Commission.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be selected by the PSBA to serve on the District XII committee," Bednarek said. "I've seen first hand every day the positive impact sports play in the lives of boys and girls in Philadelphia. In the past few years, the District has made an unprecedented investment in upgrading sports facilities, adding more sports teams and providing them with the latest equipment. The District has already begun constructing four massive sports super sites and refurbishing gyms throughout the city. Northeast High School is undergoing gym refurbishment now and the school has also hosted PIAA playoff games this year. I'm committed to making sure Philadelphia invests in our student-athletes for years to come."

In the community, Bednarek has coached youth sports for nearly 30 years. In April 2004, he was recognized by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation as "Volunteer of the Year" for his outstanding contributions and noteworthy achievements while serving the Philadelphia basketball community at every level. Currently, Bednarek serves as treasurer of both the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Athletic Union Regional Basketball Board and the Northeast Girls Interclub Basketball League. He is also the executive director of the Northeast Rockers Basketball Club, an AAU girl's basketball program which he founded in 1998.

Bednarek, a resident of Northeast Philadelphia, has drawn upon his extensive background in real estate to guide the School District's real estate and facilities policies. He is the Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Savings Association, a Philadelphia Community Bank. He is also a real estate appraiser in a family owned real estate business. He became a member of the SRC in October 2003. Previously, Bednarek served on the Board of Education for the School District of Philadelphia from March 2000 until December 2001.

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