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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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## **State Names Financial Recovery Team for Christina**

*Wilmington, DE* – The State Office of Management and Budget has named a Financial Recovery Team for the Christina School District as authorized in Senate Bill 308. The team met with Christina staff on May 30 and will continue its work until financial procedures and organizational structures are in place to ensure the financial stability of the District. The team will report monthly to the Governor, Delaware Legislature, Office of Management and Budget, and Controller General.

On May 25, District officials and the members of the Financial Review Team met with State officials from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Education to discuss implementing the work of the Financial Review Team and developing procedures for the District to access a no-interest state loan of \$20 million. The loan offer was extended by Governor Ruth Ann Minner on May 9<sup>th</sup> following a meeting with Christina Superintendent Dr. Lillian Lowery and Christina Board of Education President Brenda Phillips. It was subsequently approved by the Delaware Legislature as Senate Bill 307.

The Financial Review Team consists of the following members chosen by the Office of Management and Budget:

- **Jerry Gallagher** – Director of Finance for the Department of Education. Gallagher will act as team lead and coordinator. He has extensive school finance expertise and is a former business manager
- **Frank Rishel** – Former Deputy Superintendent of the Christina School District. Rishel brings extensive school finance expertise as well as knowledge of the District.
- **Karen Cannon** – Former Human Resources Director for Caesar Rodney and Cape Henlopen School Districts. Cannon has extensive personnel and human resources management expertise.
- **John Trochimowicz** – Fiscal and Policy Analyst for the State Office of Management and Budget. Trochimowicz brings experience in budget development, preparation, and analysis.

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The Financial Recovery Team is authorized to exercise control over the expenditure of funds, and will approve the District's fiscal year 2007 budget. The team also has the power to pre-approve any obligation or contract that requires expenditure of funds. The team will work with the District's administration and financial consultants from Alvarez & Marsal, a financial management firm being utilized by the District to address its \$11.3 million deficit and develop a budget for fiscal year 2007.

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