The Quakertown Community School District will have new leaders in three schools when classes begin on September 4. All were administrators in Quakertown schools before. The new principals are Dr. Orathia Bradley at Pfaff Elementary School, Dr. Jennifer Bubser at Strayer Middle School, and K. Eric Thompson at the Sixth Grade Center.

Bradley, principal at Tohickon Valley Elementary since 2015, replaces Thompson, who had been at Pfaff since 2014. Bubser takes over for Derek Peiffer, who left QCSD to become principal at St. Thomas More Church in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown. She had been Strayer’s assistant principal.

The moves, including the promotion of Kim Finnerty to assistant principal at Strayer, give the district a principal at each school after a year of being short-handed, as Quakertown Elementary principal Anita Serge and high school assistant principal Karen Shanton were not replaced last summer. Peiffer agreed to double up as principal of both Strayer and the SGC, with the aid of Chris Roth, a Teacher On Special Assignment, handling the day to day role of administrator at the SGC.

Last year’s closing of Milford Middle School and the closing of TVES in June, part of a two-year budget strategy to close the structural deficit, enabled the district to bite the bullet for a year on administrative personnel and work with less than what was needed.

“That strategic plan has worked out perfectly from a financial perspective though the restructuring had an emotional toll,” Superintendent Dr. Bill Harner said. “Our community should feel very confident with the wonderful leaders in place at each school to make sure our buildings run properly and help our students succeed.”

Besides Bradley, Bubser and Thompson, the district’s veteran principals are David Finnerty at the high school, Scott Godshalk at Neidig, Adam Schmucker at Trumbauersville, Michael Zackon at Quakertown, and Nicole Zuerblis at Richland.

With the closing of TVES, Bradley is excited to move to Pfaff, where many of her former students will be attend-
Our community should feel very confident with the wonderful leaders in place at each school to make sure our buildings run properly and help our students succeed.”

Dr. Bill Harner,
Quakertown superintendent

The SGC is about to begin its second year of operation. Before then, it was the Freshmen Center. When Strayer added Milford’s students last year, sixth graders moved to a different school and the newly renovated high school added ninth graders.

“We need to build a strong parent-teacher organization like we had at Pfaff so everyone can recognize what a special place this is,” Thompson said. “This building has an appropriate name, as it’s the center of the community. You can call it the bridge to take students from the elementary level to the secondary level, and to achieve at very high levels.”

During the spring, fifth graders from all QCSD elementary schools heard from Thompson during a visit to the SGC. “This is the class of 2025,” he told them. “You are all together. You’ll be together for the next seven years. This is our chance to build this team, build this class. We’re excited to welcome these students here, to bring essentially six different communities together into one community here.”

Thompson said he is “passionate about supporting kids, helping them to learn and grow. We are in a relationship business. Relationships matter here, staff and students, administrators and students, administrators and families. We’re all connected here. I’m looking to earn the trust of these families and students because we are committed to support their students.”

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