

Barbarann KEFFER

State Representative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, August 29, 2016

CONTACT: Philip Hensley
610-203- 2364
Keffer4pa@gmail.com

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

BARBARANN KEFFER CONDEMNS SECRET, UNFAIR PROCESS BEHIND FIRING OF UPPER DARBY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Drexel Hill, Monday, August 29th, 2016 — Upper Darby Councilwoman at-large and Democratic candidate for the Pennsylvania House in the 163rd District Barbarann Keffer on Monday made the following statement following Sunday's *Philadelphia Inquirer* report about the firing of Upper Darby School District superintendent Dr. Richard Dunlap:

"Yesterday's report that Dr. Richard Dunlap was forced into retirement by the Upper Darby School District after a secret meeting on July 20th of School Directors and a select group of administrators, excluding those who worked most closely with him, raises significant questions about the situation. This process has been fundamentally unfair to Dr. Dunlap, the students, employees and tax payers of the School District, which also includes Clifton Heights and Millbourne Boroughs.

"Just last fall, the School Board voted to extend Dr. Dunlap's contract for another five years at an annual salary of over \$194,000 citing his outstanding performance. Now, just before the start of a new school year, Dr. Dunlap is mysteriously 'retiring,' causing possible disruption to the education of our children.

"The *Inquirer* report also illuminated the close relationship between the School District and Upper Darby Township, both Republican-controlled. It demonstrates business as usual on the part of political insiders, making decisions behind closed doors. Several Township elected officials are themselves employed by the School District, or have family members who are. This instance just scratches the surface of the connections between the two groups.

"State Representative Jamie Santora has publicly criticized Dr. Dunlap's proposal to decrease class sizes and create more diversity in our schools, and has failed to denounce the clandestine scheme to remove the Superintendent. His tacit approval of this costly, indefensible and unfair process is troubling. It demonstrates not just a lack of independence, but a defense of the political status quo.

“As a result of these murky dealings, the taxpayers of Upper Darby are stuck footing the bill for an unnecessary severance package while students continue to suffer. This is unacceptable and the leaders who misrepresented the facts and acted outside procedural norms, including Rep. Santora, ought to be held accountable at the ballot box.”

###

Raised in Broomall, Barbarann Keffer is a graduate of Cardinal O'Hara High School and Harvard University, and was named 4-times to the All-Ivy Basketball Team. Keffer began her involvement in the community by starting Upper Darby Recycle, a grassroots movement to bring single-stream recycling to Upper Darby Township. In her campaign for State Representative in the 163rd District, she has received the endorsements of Planned Parenthood PA, AFL-CIO PA, SEIU PA, Plumbers Local 690, Conservation Voters PA and Sierra Club PA, among others. She currently serves as Councilwoman At-Large in Upper Darby and as the Borough Manager for Millbourne. She resides in Drexel Hill with her husband and two daughters.