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**Bucks County Intermediate Unit**
**For Immediate Release:**

# School District of Borough of Morrisville to Appoint Daniel Clara, Ed.D. as Superintendent of Schools

**DOYLESTOWN, PA –** After a several-month search that drew candidates from five states, the School District of Borough of Morrisville Board of School Directors will vote on the appointment of Daniel Clara, Ed.D. as the district's next Superintendent of Schools on September 23.

Dr. Clara rose to the top of a field of 24 applicants on the strength of a thirty-year career built around consistent results delivered for students. As Assistant to the Superintendent in Southmoreland School District near Pittsburgh for the past six years, he has done exactly that, helping guide Southmoreland into Pennsylvania's Great Schools program in 2025.

The Board will introduce Dr. Clara to the community following his appointment at a public forum on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Morrisville High School auditorium.

## About Daniel Clara, Ed.D.

Dr. Clara brings 30 years of public education experience to the School District of Borough of Morrisville. He most recently served as Assistant to the Superintendent for the Southmoreland School District, where he led efforts to strengthen teaching, help educators better meet students' individual learning needs, improve reading instruction, and expand professional development. His grant writing efforts also secured funding for instructional programs, student activities, facility improvements, and school safety.

During his tenure at Southmoreland School District, Dr. Clara also served as Director of Elementary Education and Director of Student Services, overseeing federally funded programs, departmental budgets, and construction projects. Previously, as a principal, he led the district's primary (K-1), elementary (2-5), and middle (6-8) schools to national recognition for their collaborative approach to improving teaching and student learning. During his district-level leadership, Southmoreland was consistently ranked among Pennsylvania's most overachieving school districts and was recognized through the Pennsylvania Great Schools program in 2025.

*Daniel Clara, Ed.D.*

Dr. Clara began his career as a high school English teacher and football, wrestling, and track coach in the Mount Pleasant Area School District before becoming an assistant principal at Gateway High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary English from Slippery Rock University, master's degrees in English and Curriculum and Instruction from Gannon University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Duquesne University. His professional honors include Duquesne University's Henderson Prize and recognition as a scholar in educational leadership and social justice.

Dr. Clara has also served as an adjunct professor, student-teacher supervisor, principal-intern mentor, and presenter at state and national conferences. He helped establish a local teacher preparation program with the University of Pittsburgh and Point Park University to support school employees in becoming certified teachers and build a pipeline of new educators for the district.

## Statement from Damon Miller, President of the School District of Borough of Morrisville Board of School Directors

"Dr. Clara stood out from a strong field at every stage of this process because of the depth of his experience.  His passion for supporting students by providing opportunities to expand their knowledge, clear commitment to investing in staff growth and development, understanding the financial status of the district with thoughtful solutions on how to improve it, and a history of turning grant dollars into real classroom resources proved Dr.

Clara is the right fit for Morrisville's next chapter. The Board looks forward to working with him as he gets to know our schools and community."

## Statement from Daniel Clara, Ed.D.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as the next Superintendent of the School District of Morrisville Borough. I want to thank the Board of School Directors for their confidence in me. I look forward to supporting our students, families and staff, and to building upon the strong foundation already in place in Morrisville. Together, we will work to ensure that every student has access to an engaging, high-quality and well-rounded educational experience which prepares them for their respective futures."

## Community Forum

The Board invites all community members to attend a Community Forum introducing Dr. Clara to the community on Thursday, October 15, 2026, in the Morrisville High School auditorium located at 550 W. Palmer Street, Morrisville, PA 19067.

Following brief remarks from Dr. Clara, the forum will include a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Mark Hoffman, Executive Director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU). Community members are invited to help shape that conversation by submitting up to two questions in advance through a survey. Questions may be submitted until 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Dr. Hoffman will group the submitted questions by theme so Dr. Clara can address as many topics as possible in the time available. Dr. Clara will also receive a full copy of the submissions. The Board chose this structure to make sure as many community questions as possible get covered.

## Background on the Superintendent Search Process

The Board's search began in June, when it engaged the Bucks County Intermediate Unit as the search consultant. On the Board's behalf, Bucks IU collected feedback from the community through a districtwide survey from June 18 through June 29. A total of 112 parents, guardians, taxpayers, students, staff members, and other community members responded, and their input directly shaped the priorities the Board carried into the search. Results were shared publicly through the district's website and communication channels.

Bucks IU ran a national search, advertising in local, regional, state, and national publications from June 26 through July 19. Twenty-four candidates applied, hailing from as far away as Massachusetts and Indiana.

Every decision on interviews and candidate selection rested solely with the School District of Borough of Morrisville Board of School Directors. Members reviewed all applications and invited 11 candidates to a first round interview with a four-member Search Committee. Five advanced to a second round that added a written exercise, and three finalists interviewed with the full Board in a final round that included a presentation demonstrating the candidate's ability to analyze financial information, communicate complex financial concepts, and provide strategic recommendations.

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**ABOUT THE BUCKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (Bucks IU):**

For more than 55 years, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit has partnered with schools, families, educators, and community organizations to expand opportunities for learners throughout Bucks County. Through exceptional educational programs, innovative professional development, and advanced business and technology services, the Bucks IU helps schools and communities meet the evolving needs of those they serve. Learn more at www.BucksIU.org.