

COOPERSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES SUPERINTENDENT

COOPERSTOWN, NY (January 20, 2021) – The Cooperstown Central School District will soon welcome a new superintendent following an extensive search.

Sarah Spross will begin as CCS' superintendent of schools following a brief transition period with interim superintendent Romona N. Wenck.

Ms. Spross comes to Cooperstown from the State of Maryland Department of Education where she has served as Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval. Originally from Millbrook, NY, she holds a bachelor's degree in special education and teaching from Goucher College and a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Towson University.

"I am excited to return to a community that has a strong commitment to education," said Ms. Spross. "I look forward to working with school leaders, faculty, and community members to build on the strong foundation at Cooperstown. It is my goal for all students to have opportunities that prepare them to be college or career ready, and to serve as contributing members of society."

Most recently Ms. Spross was responsible for educator certification and program review which included outreach, certification, and recruitment of future teachers. She has over 25 years of experience as a special education teacher, lead teacher, assistant principal, and education director for schools in Maryland, New Jersey, and Florida. She has collaborated with teachers, students, parents, superintendents, community leaders, union representatives, board members, and elected officials.

A school superintendent is an ex-officio member of the board of education and chief administrative officer of the district. Ms. Spross will oversee implementation of long-range district goals. She will translate learning standards and fiscal policy into action by empowering building principals, the business administrator, and others on the school leadership team in their day-to-day operations.

Otsego-Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services district superintendent Dr. Catherine Huber facilitated the search started by her predecessor, Nicholas Savin, who retired in September 2020.

"We want to thank Mr. Savin for helping bring aboard Mrs. Wenck as interim superintendent and for broadly advertising our opening," said CCS board president Tim Hayes. "We are very thankful for Mrs. Wenck and cannot tell her this enough. She came out of recent retirement to provide our board and schools with knowledgeable guidance and district-level leadership at a difficult time for education around the world."

Members of the CCS board of education came to the decision following careful review of the entire pool of well-qualified applicants. After a round of preliminary in-person interviews, a group of finalists visited campus for full-day introductions to representatives from school

stakeholder groups and a capstone presentation. Candidates met with leaders from student government, affiliated community organizations, teacher and service unit unions, and school administrators who each provided feedback to all board of education members.

“Although she is new to our community, Dr. Huber quickly learned about the high expectations we have for education and for district-level leadership,” said Mr. Hayes. “She joined us for a rigorous deliberative process, providing excellent information on candidate backgrounds and their professional references. While ultimately a board decision, we are indebted to the people who helped us better understand the finalists from a variety of perspectives.”

About the search, Dr. Huber remarked, “Cooperstown is an outstanding school district which attracted a large number of highly qualified applicants. After careful deliberation and reviewing input from community stakeholders, the board selected Ms. Spross to lead their district. She brings a wealth of skills and experiences with her to Cooperstown.”

Ms. Spross soon will begin introducing herself to the leadership team, district employees, and students. Board of education members will assist with her community orientation in the days and weeks ahead.