

Germantown CSD Board appoints Bragg as superintendent

The Germantown CSD Board of Education selected Benjamin F. Bragg, the current principal of Catskill High School, to be its next superintendent of schools, effective November 7, 2020. Bragg was appointed by the Board during a special meeting on October 7, 2020. He will succeed Susan Brown, [who first joined Germantown CSD in 2005 and served as superintendent since August 2013.](#)

“I am honored and humbled to be selected to lead the Germantown Central School District. I plan to continue leading through transparent communication, patience, visibility, flexibility, and empowerment. I look forward to meeting the school district’s stakeholders and continuing to support our students, staff and community during these unprecedented times,” said Bragg.

From 2005 to 2018, Bragg worked for the Charleston County School District in South Carolina, prior to relocating back to his hometown of Highland, NY. During this time, he served in a variety of administrative roles including two middle school principal positions and the director of leadership development.

Among Bragg’s accomplishments, he established a culture of success, accountability and relationships within each of those school communities, provided professional development to improve overall staff growth and success, improved the overall school rating, developed student leadership roles and responsibilities among challenging students and provided multiple strategies to ensure student achievement through collaboration with community, staff and business partnerships.

Bragg also served as a middle school principal in Goshen CSD and the dean of students in Highland CSD. He began his career in public education as a physical education teacher and coach in Wappinger Falls CSD.

Bragg holds School District Administrator Permanent certification. He earned master’s degrees in Administration/Leadership from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies in Humanistic Education from SUNY at New Paltz, and a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education K-12 at Ithaca College.

Board President Tammi Kellenbenz said Bragg matches the candidate profile that was developed based on community feedback at the start of the search process.

“Benjamin Bragg stood out among a strong pool of candidates. He brings hands-on experience, enthusiasm, and familiarity with our region. We look forward to working with him,” said Kellenbenz.

The Germantown CSD Board of Education offered Bragg the superintendent position following an extensive search and interview process, which started in June 2020. Kellenbenz said the community’s feedback was reflected in the development of a recruitment brochure and the interview questions.

The Board asked the community to provide feedback on the desired characteristics of the next superintendent and to list questions they would want to ask candidates. A total of 197 people submitted feedback via an online survey, which was open for two weeks in June and July. The position was then advertised across the state and country in July and August.

The Board of Education received more than 20 applications for the position. The Board interviewed five semi-finalists on September 16 and 17 and asked a community stakeholder group to interview four of these candidates as part of a second round of interviews on September 22 and 23. This group – which included 10 parents, staff, and community members – provided the board with additional data, which was used to select a finalist.

Questar III BOCES assisted the Board with its search process.