

Previously Worked For NCSD For 16 years

Dennis Ford Appointed Interim Superintendent

Retired Amherst Central School District Superintendent Dennis Ford, who also has served as an Interim School Superintendent, Adjunct College Professor, Professional Development trainer and consultant, both in education and the private sector, and much more was appointed Interim Superintendent of the Newark Central School District October 21st by the Board of Education.

Having most recently served as Interim Superintendent for the Victor Central School District from July 2019 until March, the veteran educator will work here until a new Superintendent is appointed to fill the vacancy created by Superintendent Matt Cook's resignation last night after being appointed District Superintendent of the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES October 15th.

Cook, whose last day on the job will be Oct. 30th, will work all next week with Ford to ensure a smooth transition. The Newark BOE is working with Dr. Vicky Ramos, the District Superintendent of the WFL BOCES, to begin the search process for NCSD's next Superintendent.





NCSD Board of Education President Russ Harris said Ford is “*extremely qualified*” to be the Interim during this transitional period, including the fact he is familiar with the NCSD having previously worked here for 16 years before becoming Associate Superintendent of Schools in the Elmira City School District in 1989.

Ford and his wife, Angela, began their educational careers in Newark as English teachers. He taught English at what was then called the Newark Junior High School from 1974 until 1982 when he became Assistant Principal there, a position he held for three years. In 1985 he was appointed Acting Assistant Superintendent/Director of Special Programs. A year later he was appointed Principal of Newark Middle School, a job he held for three years.

While in Newark, he was also the founder, editor and feature column writer for the NCSD Newsletter from 1980-1984 and was a junior varsity baseball coach, modified basketball and football coach.

Additionally, he was actively involved in the community including as the play-by-play announcer for NHS football and basketball games for WACK 1420 radio and was a feature and sportswriter for the Newark Courier Gazette from 1979-1981. He also served on the St. Michael School Board of Education.

“I am very confident that our school district will be in very capable hands until a new Superintendent is hired,” Harris said. *“The breadth of Dennis Ford’s considerable and varied professional experience, coupled with his firsthand knowledge of our school district and community, make him the right person for the Interim position. We are glad he’s coming onboard at this time.”*

After three years as Associate Superintendent in Elmira, Ford worked for four years as Superintendent of Schools in the Main-Endwell Central School District. In 1996, he became Superintendent of Schools for the Amherst Central School District, a job he held for 11 years. In 2007, one of the ACSD athletic fields was named the Dennis Ford Field in his honor.

Ford has held numerous jobs since retiring from the ACSD,

including serving as an Interim Superintendent in the Akron Central and Depew Union Free School Districts. He was the Vice President/Director of Education Transformation for M&T Bank in Buffalo from July 2012 until August 2016 during its Buffalo Promise Neighborhood and education foundation initiatives. He was a professional development trainer at the Erie 2 BOCES from August 2016 until June 2017; was the Operations Consultant at the Health Sciences Charter School in Buffalo from August 2016 until June 2018; and was the lead Trainer and Consultant at the Roy-Hart Central School District from March 2018 until January 2019.

Other past recognitions include being awarded the highest PTA honor given – the *National Congress of Parents and Teachers Life Achievement Award* (2006) and being a recipient of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars Spokesperson for Freedom Award*.

“What a unique opportunity I have just been given,” Ford said. *“I get a chance in the absolute twilight of my career to return to the place where I met my wife Angela of 44 years, and where all three of my children were born. Angela and I have always had nothing but good thoughts about our time in Newark. I do look forward to seeing many people from the past but, even more important, I look forward to helping the Newark school community navigate the unprecedented challenges ahead.”*