

Hamelinck Named

Elementary Administrator Of the Year In SAANYS Region 11



To his utter surprise May 4th, Kelley School Principal Jeff Hamelinck learned he is this year's recipient of the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) Region 11 George Vito Elementary Administrator of the Year award.

"On behalf of the selection committee and the Region 11 Executive Committee, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you for being the person identified as the Elementary Administrator of the Year. The support shown by those who nominated you was overwhelming and recognizes how you are truly appreciated for your efforts in your school and your district," SANNYS Region 11 Chair Joe Pustulka, who is also Director of Operations for the Webster Central School District, wrote to Hamelinck informing him of the award.

SANNYS Region 11 encompasses Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben Wayne and Yates counties.

"I am honored and very humbled by this recognition," Hamelinck said. *"I am extraordinarily fortunate to serve Newark kids, families, and the community alongside AMAZING educators within our district, our BOCES, and certainly SAANYS Region 11. I regularly learn from these colleagues who inspire my practice and service to kids helping me become a better version of myself every day."*

In a telephone conversation May 5th, Pustulka said Hamelinck was the clear choice of the selection committee based on the "remarkable" recommendations he received from some current and former administrators, teachers and even a student.

"He's obviously a man who has made a real impression on his colleagues, staff and students," Pustulka said. *"He's a real school/community leader."*

Kelley School Assistant Principal Margo Lacure was delighted to learn of Hamelinck's award since she nominated him and obtained all the letters of recommendation.

"They picked the right person _ Jeff is 100 percent deserving of this award," said Lacure. *"He has genuinely served the school district and this community and this award recognizes his leadership."*

In her letter of recommendation, she wrote: *"In the seven years that Jeffrey Hamelinck has served as a principal in the Newark Central School District, he has done much that is worthy of recognition. Jeff served as the principal at Lincoln School where he used his deep understanding of primary curriculum and ability to form relationships with students and staff alike to lead the building."*

"When the district experienced a change in leadership at the intermediate level, Jeff was asked to lead at Kelley School that serves over 450 students in grades three through five. With Jeff's leadership, the school has made gains in academic performance, MTSS programming and the ability to support students with diverse social, emotional and behavioral needs."

Jeff's presence in the building is noted and felt by all staff and students. He's not often at his desk because he spends times in the hallways, in classrooms and out on the grounds interacting with our students and checking in on staff."

Under Jeff's tenure, Kelley School shifted to new reading and writing curriculums focused on diversity, tolerance, acceptance and culturally responsive and representative literature. As if one curricular change was not enough, Jeff also led our school in the adoption of a new math curriculum which allows students to develop as critical thinkers and mathematicians. Curriculum shifts are never easy, but Jeff has led these changes by focusing on improved student outcomes."

"Jeff is a one-of-a-kind educator and leader. He pushes peoples' thinking and asks tough questions to get to the root of problems. He distributes leadership and builds the capacity of staff. Jeff is direct, kind, student-focused and consistently focused on making Kelley School a better place. He is most deserving of this nomination."

Superintendent Susan Hasenauer agrees.

“Jeff is a consummate professional who unequivocally puts students first. He knows each child by name and is in classrooms daily,” she said. “I couldn't imagine this award going to a more deserving administrator.”

Now in his 23rd year as an educator in the NCSD, Hamelinck has served as Kelley School Principal since July 2015. Three years before that he served as Principal of Lincoln School from July 2012 until June 2015.

In December of 2013, he was utterly surprised to receive WROC News 8's Golden Apple Award given weekly to WROC to outstanding educators in the region.

Before becoming Lincoln School Principal, he was an Administrative Intern/Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Kelley School for the previous four years when Chris Mizro was principal of the grades 3-5 school.

Born and raised in Newark, Hamelinck, who attended Lincoln School, spent the first 10 years in the NCSD as a primary teacher at Perkins School. He graduated from SUNY Fredonia in 1998 where he majored in elementary education. He received his master's degree in computer education from Nazareth College in 2001. He achieved National Board Certification in Early Childhood Education in 2005; and received his Certificate of Advanced Study in Education Administration from SUNY Oswego in 2009.

He and wife, Kari, who is Assistant Principal at Newark Middle School, have two daughters, Elizabeth, a fifth grader at Kelley School. and Anna, who is a first grader at Lincoln School.



Hamelinck in December 2013 just after he received WROC News 8's Golden Apple Award when he was principal at Lincoln School.