



AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL
47 Bloomingdale Avenue • Akron, New York 14001

Mr. Erik Polkowski
President – Board of Education
(716)542-5006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

KERSTEN NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT AKRON SCHOOLS

AKRON, NEW YORK (January 25, 2024) – The Akron Board of Education is pleased to name Mrs. Andrea Kersten as the new Superintendent of Akron Schools. Kersten, who has served as Interim Superintendent since August 1, 2023, took the helm following her official appointment by the Board of Education at the January 24, 2024, regular business meeting.

Kersten was successful in demonstrating to the Board of Education, as well as several interview panels, that she is well suited for the role and accurately fit the profile of desirable characteristics that was developed by community members, parents, staff members and students. Mrs. Kersten was one of three finalists who spent a day touring the district, interviewing, and meeting with stakeholders as the final step in a rigorous interview process.

The Board selected Mrs. Kersten in a unanimous 7-0 vote.

"The Board conducted an open and collaborative superintendent search, during which we reviewed many qualified candidates," said Mr. Erik Polkowski, President of Akron's Board of Education. "Andrea Kersten made clear a focus on our students, strengthening of our community, and passion to lead the district into the years to come."

Immediately following her appointment to serve as the interim superintendent, Mrs. Kersten demonstrated her commitment to the District's updated Strategic Plan developed by Board of Education members, administrators, faculty, staff, parents, community members and students.

She was pleased to be able to unveil the District's new Facebook page that was already in the works and initiated the development of the #OneAkron theme to start the new school year. Faculty and staff members greeted students the first day of school dressed in #OneAkron t-shirts.

"This isn't just a theme – it's a mission, a commitment, and a celebration," she stated at the time when staff members gathered for staff development days in September. "#OneAkron is all about celebrating the unity, strength, and diversity of our Akron family. It underscores the importance of collaboration, teamwork, fostering a positive school culture, supporting one another, and being

united in our shared mission to provide every student with the best education and school experience possible. We are more than just individuals; we are a unified team, stronger because of each other.” Her statement has continued to resonate with staff members.

Three other administrators have been temporarily managing the many tasks associated with the position Mrs. Kersten was originally hired for in 2021, that of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The deadline for applying for that position has recently closed and Kersten will be charged with assembling interview committees to help hire a replacement.

Since August, the District proudly hosted Mr. Kareem Weaver, an advocate for the Science of Reading, remedied the football field’s safety issue, hosted a substitute recruitment event, car seat safety check, town hall safety event, and flu shot clinic. “Every Child Matters” Day was recognized in September and parents were notified of the Community Eligibility Provision that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students.

Community members were invited to submit ideas for a new athletic logo and were recently invited to join a community and faculty book club for *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High*.

Mrs. Kersten has also immersed herself in the Capital Improvement Project that voters approved in May of 2023.

“I am deeply honored to have been named the next Superintendent of the Akron Central School District,” stated Mrs. Kersten. “It is a privilege to serve a community and a district that places such high value on the education and well-being of our children. I understand that children are not just students in our schools; they are the entire world to their parents, and I take this responsibility to heart.

“My primary goal is to create an environment of belonging, where each student feels genuinely cared for and appreciated. In this nurturing environment, we will celebrate the unique potential of every child, providing them opportunities to pursue and accomplish their dreams.

“It is important to me to continue to develop meaningful relationships with all members of the Akron community. Working collaboratively, we can create significant opportunities that benefit our students and strengthen the community as a whole. I am committed to fostering these connections, believing strongly that together we can accomplish more.”

To learn more about Akron Schools, please visit akronschools.org or visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/akroncentralschooldistrict.