



Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

502 Court Street • Utica, NY 13502

www.oneida-boces.org

News

For Immediate Release

New York Mills Union Free School District Announces Superintendent of Schools

Dec. 20, 2022 (New York Mills, N.Y.) – The New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education announced the appointment of Michele LaGase as the District’s new Superintendent of Schools during their December 20, 2022 meeting.

LaGase is currently the Chief Human Resources Officer for the Utica City School District. She will tentatively begin duties as Superintendent for the New York Mills UFSD on January 23 2023, having been selected by the Board of Education to replace Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, who retired on September 30, 2022.

"I am honored to be selected as the next Superintendent of Schools for the New York Mills Union Free School District," said LaGase. "My vision for the District is one that will be cultivated by the Board of Education, parents, students, staff and community members. I look forward to continuing to move the District forward while sustaining the traditions of such an outstanding community."

"After two full searches and many hours of interviews, we are excited to announce Michele LaGase as our District’s next superintendent," said Kristin Hubley, president of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education. "The Board had the incredible responsibility of choosing the right fit for our community. The needs of students, staff and the community; as outlined by input from surveys and meetings gathered earlier this year; were always at the forefront of our discussions. While the candidate pool consisted of incredibly talented and highly experienced educators, we feel that with Ms. LaGase we have found the perfect fit for our district. She brings with her an impressive mix of experience, passion and dedication to our local community. The Board of Education looks forward to working with Ms. LaGase to move our district forward while keeping our small town culture at the forefront."

Prior to assuming the role of Director of Human Resources, LaGase served as Director of Grants, Contracts and Compliance; Principal of John F. Hughes Elementary School and Academy Assistant Principal of Thomas R. Proctor High School, all in the Utica City School District. LaGase previously served as Summer School Principal in Sauquoit and Holland Patent, and Middle/High School Guidance Counselor (6-12) and

Contact: Rebecca Neary | Senior Public Relations Specialist

Phone: 315.793.8528 • E-mail: rneary@oneida-boces.org

Director of Pupil Personnel Services/CSE Chairperson Administrative Intern, both in the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District.

LaGase earned her Associate of Science degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling from Mohawk Valley Community College, her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from SUNY Institute of Technology, her Master of Science in Education degree in School Counseling from SUNY Oneonta and her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Cortland.

The New York Mills UFSD Board of Education plans to host a Meet and Greet event with LaGase at a later date and time so that the community may get to know her in an informal setting. Information regarding the date, time and location of the event will be forthcoming.

###