



Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES
Dolgeville Central School District
Jan. 12, 2021

Dolgeville announces Joseph Gilfus as next school superintendent

Joseph Gilfus signed a contract today, Tuesday, Jan. 12, to become the next Dolgeville Central School District superintendent of schools – pending a formal board appointment next week.

Gilfus will join the district effective May 1, 2021, initially as the deputy superintendent. Interim Superintendent Theodore Kawryga will remain in the interim superintendent role through the rest of the 2020-21 school year. As of July 1, 2021, Gilfus will become the superintendent of schools.

“There’s a lot of tradition at Dolgeville Central School District, and I’m honored to be a part of that now,” Gilfus said. “The enthusiasm that everyone from teachers and staff to parents and the school community have for providing students a strong education makes me excited to join the team.”

Dolgeville Board of Education members decided on Dec. 16, 2020, to select Joseph Gilfus as the next superintendent of schools, and Gilfus officially signed the contract today, Tuesday, Jan. 12. Board members must vote on Tuesday, Jan. 19, to formally appoint Gilfus and validate the contract.

Gilfus, currently a director at Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES, previously served more than 16 years at Thousand Islands Central School District as high school principal and director of physical education/health/wellness up until June 2020. He began his career in education as a physical education/health teacher and coach, serving in four districts for eight years. He has also served as dean of students, athletic administrator and high school assistant principal prior to his appointment as high school principal at Thousand Island Central School District.

Gilfus’ is in the process of earning a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Syracuse University, and his prior education background includes a teacher certification program at Wells College, a bachelor of arts/English degree and superintendent development program from SUNY Oswego, a certificate of advanced study in education administration and master of science in physical education/athletic administration at SUNY Brockport – along with other professional certifications and credentials.

The Dolgeville Board of Education hired Gilfus following an extensive search and interview process guided by Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood and influenced by input from community and stakeholder groups.

“We had 13 highly qualified candidates to choose from for the next superintendent of schools,” Dolgeville Board of Education President Scott Hongo II said. “Through a thorough process that involved Zoom interviews, in-person interviews, district and stakeholder interviews and a virtual community forum, we feel strongly that we’ve found the right person for the job. We would like to thank Mrs.

Sherwood for her help with the process and every community member who participated – because their opinions helped us know that we selected a candidate that will be a fitting leader for the Dolgeville school community.”

Hongo said the district will be in good hands as it transitions from Kawryga to Gilfus.

“Mr. Kawryga has done a great job as interim superintendent leading us through an unprecedented school year and will continue to do so while helping us transition to Mr. Gilfus for the start of the next school year,” Hongo said. “We look forward to having them working together this spring and then having Mr. Gilfus move the district forward into a promising future.”

Gilfus said he looks forward to getting to know the school community better, keeping students and staff safe through these unusual times with COVID-19 and doing everything possible to ensure a positive learning experience for students.

“There are extra challenges this school year, but the Dolgeville school community knows how to overcome obstacles,” Gilfus said. “I’m looking forward to joining the district, moving forward and making sure our students go out into the world well prepared.”