

## Gates Chili superintendent leaves district

District officials won't say if Ward's absence will be permanent

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

District officials are tight-lipped about why Gates Chili schools Superintendent Kimberle Ward is "out of the district" for an unspecified amount of time and won't say if, or when, she will be coming back.

School board President Jeff Pettenski sent an email to district employees earlier this week announcing that Ward was "out of the district" and that in her absence, her duties would be assumed by Associate Superintendent for Instruction Carol Stehm.

A phone call to Pettenski was returned by Steve Dawe, communications manager for Monroe 2-Orleans Board of Cooperative Educational Service.

Dawe said he could provide no information.

"Everything that Jeff put in that email to staff was what is available to say publicly at the time, and that is still the case," he said.

Ward's Twitter account, @GatesChiliSupt, was deleted sometime between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. She did not respond to a message left on her cell phone Thursday morning.

Earlier this year, Ward announced her intention to retire effective at the end of her contract on June 30, 2019. The search for a new district leader is ongoing.

Ward became the top official in Gates Chili in 2013 and earned a salary of \$201,000. She previously spent four years leading the Naples Central School District and was previously a teacher or administrator in the Brighton, Marcus Whitman, Newark, Wayland-Cohocton, Union Springs and Corning-Painted Post school districts.

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**Ward**