

Interim RCSD head remains in hospital

Lowengard expects to be discharged Wednesday

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

Dan Lowengard, the Rochester City School District's interim superintendent, remains hospitalized after collapsing during a meeting Monday afternoon.

The district issued a statement Tuesday afternoon indicating that Lowengard expects to be discharged on Wednesday and to return to work shortly thereafter.

The statement said that Lowengard was "in good spirits," and expressed his appreciation for everyone's well wishes and support.

Lowengard, 68, had been appointed to the interim position after Barbara Deane-Williams left the position six months before her contract expired.

He started in that role Feb. 1.

District officials said that Lowengard fainted during a meeting with school principals Monday and was taken to Strong Memorial Hospital by ambulance.

"Mr. Lowengard was alert immediately after the incident and remains so at the hospital, where he is speaking to his doctors, family members and district staff," an RCSD spokesperson said.

This is the second time Lowengard has experienced a serious medical incident while in the role of interim district superintendent. Lowengard had a stroke in January 2016 while addressing the Rochester Teachers Association after he had replaced Bolgen Vargas.

Lowengard has four decades of experience in urban education in New York, including stints as superintendent in Syracuse and Utica. He got his start as a teacher in Syracuse in 1972 and worked his way up to the top job, staying there

more than five years before retiring in 2011.

After his retirement, he worked as an outside educational expert reporting on schools — including in Rochester — on behalf of the New York state Education Department.

In a phone conversation with the *Democrat and Chronicle* about taking the interim role a second time, Lowengard addressed his health issues and his return to the Rochester district.

"I know they've got a lot of things on their plate. I want to help them move through it," he said.

SLAHMAN@Gannett.com Includes reporting by staff writer Justin Murphy.



Daniel Lowengard has served as interim Rochester City School District Superintendent twice, replacing Dr. Bolgen Vargas (behind) the first time. JAMIE GERMANO/@JGERMANO1/, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER