

New Fairport schools chief is selected

SARAH TADDEO AND JUSTIN MURPHY

STAFF WRITERS

The Fairport Central School District has named Brett Provenzano as its new superintendent.

Provenzano has served as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the district since July 2014. He was officially named at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting and will start in his new position on July 1.

He was chosen over one other finalist, Beth Mascitti-Miller, a former administrator in the Rochester School District who now leads Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education. "Bringing the core beliefs of the Board of Education to the school community is both professionally and personally gratifying," Provenzano said, adding that as the new superintendent, he will work with the entire district organization. "I'm looking forward to supporting them along the way," he said. Provenzano began his career as a social studies teacher in the Newark school district and held various educational and administrative positions in the Pittsford, Webster and Fairport school districts.

He replaces interim superintendent William Cala. Cala, who hired Provenzano as a principal when he was superintendent in 2005, said his appointment as superintendent was "the best choice (the board) ever could have made."

"He's a leader with passion, heart and head," Cala said. "He's all about collaboration. He cares about people, and you can't move forward if you don't care about people."

Cala has used his time as interim leader to advocate loudly for changes to the way students and teachers in New York are taught and evaluated. That has made him the darling of the state antireform crowd; some have floated his name as an ideal replacement for John King as the state education commissioner.

"That's sort of a fantasy, really," he said. "I'm 180 degrees opposite the direction the Board of Regents has taken, so it would be humorous to think they'd consider someone like me." Cala said he has given no thought to replacing Jody Siegle, the outgoing director of the Monroe County School Boards Association, or to potentially stepping in again as superintendent in Rochester if Bolgen Vargas ends up leaving. Instead, he said, his current goal is to keep fighting for change in state education policy and to dedicate more time to his nonprofit organization in Kenya.

ENTERTAINTHIS!
POWERED BY USA TODAY LIFE

**YOUR DAILY DOSE
OF OMG.** [GET IT](#)



Brett Provenzano will take over on July 1.