

Greece schools chief to retire July 1

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Barbara Deane-Williams, superintendent of the Greece Central School District, is retiring.

Deane-Williams, 58, sent a letter to her staff on Friday, saying she submitted her letter of retirement to the town's Board of Education, effective July 1. She was hired by the district in May 2011. "I am so very grateful for the opportunity to have served as your Superintendent over the past four years and want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support," Deane-Williams wrote.

"While it is difficult to leave, I am confident that the great work will continue and that our students will benefit from our incredibly talented and committed staff."

A native of Honeoye Falls, Deane-Williams earned degrees from Hobart and William Smith, University of New Hampshire and SUNY Brockport.

She has had a 37-year career in education, beginning in Massachusetts and continuing in the Rochester region at Hilton, Wayne, Gates Chili, Churchville-Chili, Lyndonville and Greece schools.

While superintendent in Lyndonville, she oversaw one of the state's smallest school districts. At Greece, she led one of the largest, one with 20 schools and nearly a \$200 million budget.

"Education is the great equalizer and every child, every child, deserves to achieve a high school diploma," Deane-Williams told the *Democrat and Chronicle* when hired. "And the role of public educators is to keep that as a central and defining focus."

Among her achievements in Greece were holding community input meetings, developing initiatives to increase student attendance, overseeing a \$5.2-million lawsuit settlement with an architectural firm regarding a botched capital improvement project from the early 2000s and laying out her "Envision Greece 2017" plan to improve student achievement.

She also led the school district through some difficult moments, including the closure of several elementary schools and a bullying incident in 2012 involving a bus monitor that resulted in severe discipline for four middle school students. Most recently, there was another bullying episode at Athena High and voters rejected a proposal for an \$8.5 million sports stadium.

The Greece Central School District is expected to conduct a national search to find Deane-Williams' replacement.

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Barbara Deane-Williams