

City district hires leaders

Interim chief still out after fainting

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Interim Rochester School District Superintendent Daniel Lowengard will be out of work this week as he recuperates after collapsing Thursday evening at a Rochester Teachers Association event. Neither Lowengard nor the district has said exactly what happened, but he was still at Strong Memorial Hospital Monday morning, listed in satisfactory condition.

In an email to district staff Sunday afternoon, School Board President Van White said he had spoken to Lowengard twice over the weekend and reported “he is feeling better and in good spirits.”

According to White, Lowengard “said it will be a few more days before he knows how soon he might be able to return to work.”

Lowengard, 65, was only four work days into his tenure when he apparently fainted Thursday. He replaced Bolgen Vargas on an interim basis as the school board searches for a permanent replacement.

One thing he has done so far is assign some of his top staff members. The district announced Tuesday that Linda Cimusz, the former chief academic officer for Buffalo Public Schools, will be Lowengard’s interim chief of staff.

Cimusz worked with Lowengard in the Syracuse City School District and also as Texas’ deputy education commissioner. In Lowengard’s absence, she has authority to sign contracts on his behalf, White said.

The district also announced the promotion of Charles Johnson to general counsel. Johnson has worked in the district’s legal department for 12 years.

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