

Spencerport administrator Steven Lysenko reinstated

Justin Murphy

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Steven Lysenko, the Spencerport High School assistant principal who was suspended from work last summer for cursing the Rochester Police Department after they pepper-sprayed him during a Black Lives Matter rally, has been reinstated to a position in central administration, the district announced last week.

Lysenko had been on administrative leave since the incident on Sept. 4. He and some others were in downtown Rochester for a large march and protest about the death of Daniel Prude. Police used pepper spray to disperse the crowd, an action for which they were later harshly criticized. Lysenko posted a short video about what happened.

In a one-minute selfie video, Lysenko summarized his experience at the rally: “Our peacekeepers ended up shooting pepper spray at us for singing and chanting and telling them what a (expletive) job they were doing,” he said. “They can (expletive) right off, America. (Expletive) the police; (expletive) the Rochester Police Department. Thank you.”

Lysenko had been one of the leaders in the district’s anti-racism work, but his impassioned words were considered a bit too much. In a statement, the district said Lysenko had “caused disruption within our school community.”

The case drew intense interest from residents both in support and condemnation of Lysenko, with 20,000 signing a petition to keep him and 10,000 signing

a petition to fire him.

Lysenko will be working at the district administrative building, not in his former post as assistant high school principal.

His first day back is Feb. 22, after winter break.

The district announced his reinstatement in a brief posting on its website, saying “matters ... have been resolved” and that it would have no further comment. Lysenko declined to comment.

Lysenko is president of the local chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education and the past state president.

Prior to his suspension he also was a member of Spencerport’s Equity Committee; it is not clear whether he will retain that role.

Contact staff writer Justin Murphy at jmurphy7@gannett.com.



Lysenko