

More speak out against ex-Hilton principal

15 new accusers say Ashton abused them

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Fifteen new victims have come forward with allegations against a former elementary school principal in the Hilton Central School District.

Through a new indictment unsealed Monday in Monroe County Court, Kirk Ashton, 51, is facing five additional counts of first-degree sexual abuse, 13 counts of second- degree course of sexual conduct against a child, all felonies, and 10 counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor. The 28 new charges stem from incidents that date back to 2012.

Before the new indictment was unsealed, Ashton was criminally accused of molesting 11 boys on school grounds from 2017 until this year. The boys were between the ages of 8 and 12, according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors did not share an age range or details

of what happened with the additional victims.

Ashton, the principal at Northwood Elementary School between 2004 and April 2021, was suspended and is on paid leave, as required by law. He’s currently being held in the Niagara County Jail in lieu of \$250,000 cash



Ashton

Abuse

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bail or \$1 million bond. He is scheduled to return to court on Aug. 25 for argument of motions.

According to legal papers filed by the family of one of the of the boys Ashton is accused of abusing, it is alleged that Ashton had an elementary student in his office during lunch periods, would have the boy sit on his lap while he caressed and fondled him.

a confidential matter that requires privacy, another staff member will be called in to witness the meeting.

This remains an ongoing investigation.

Those with information are asked to State Police at (585) 279-0144. Potential victims can also contact the Bivona Child Advocacy Center at (585) 9357800.

With the newly unsealed indictment, Ashton is now accused of abusing 26 children in all, dating back to 2012.

Ashton would caress the boy’s back, shoulders, legs, and buttocks and touch him “in an area close to his privates,” the notice of claim alleges.

Ashton’s arrest, which shocked district parents, teachers and others in the North Greece school, came about after Bivona Child Advocacy Center took its curriculum into the school, telling children about sexual abuse.

A short time later, police were alerted that Ashton may have molested a boy. Within days, that investigation grew from allegations of one abused student to a criminal charges alleging Ashton had molested nine students on school grounds.

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This happened at least five times a year for four years, the notice alleges.

District Superintendent Casey Kosiorek said the district is scrutinizing how an administrator could have sexually abused children in school, as is alleged, during a busy school day.

District officials are reviewing and revising school policies and have already implemented some changes. One such change, administrators will have their doors open at all times when meeting with a student. When addressing



Robert King faces his client, Kirk Ashton, who appeared virtually from jail for his arraignment before Monroe County Court Judge Karen Bailey Turner on April 28 on sexual abuse charges. Ashton, a suspended Northwood Elementary School principal, is accused of molesting 11 boys. King was talking about Ashton’s strong ties to the community.

TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE