



Uniondale Union Free School District Board of Education Appoints Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil as Superintendent of Schools

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (JUNE 2021) —The Uniondale Union Free School District Board of Education has appointed Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil as superintendent of schools effective July 10, 2021. This exciting announcement follows a comprehensive, five-month search to succeed Dr. William Lloyd, who officially tendered his resignation earlier this year.

The search was led by the executive recruitment firm of McPherson & Jacobson, who set out a very comprehensive process for the Board of Education to follow in making its selection. In addition to the vetting of initial candidates by McPherson & Jacobson, the Board received significant input from community stakeholders, faculty, and students through surveys and focus groups conducted with key community stakeholders.

In making its announcement, the Board also acknowledged the exceptional service Ms. Rhonda Taylor had given the District in her dual role as acting superintendent of schools and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction since June 2020. “We are very grateful for the steady stewardship of Ms. Taylor during this very challenging period, and for her dedication and commitment to the students and families of the Uniondale School District,” stated Ms. Charmise Desiré, Uniondale Board President.

Dr. Akil grew up in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn where she experienced firsthand the inequities in New York City’s educational system which denied many children a rigorous curriculum rich in the arts, music and cultural experiences based on their zip code. Those early experiences led to her commitment to ensuring that all students, regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-economic background, have access to a challenging, high quality education that prepares them for college and careers.

“The Board of Education has worked collaboratively with McPherson & Jacobson and community members to identify the qualities and characteristics that represent our District’s commitment to student success,” said Ms. Desiré, “We feel fortunate to have found someone who brings such a distinctive wealth of experience to the position and has a strong commitment to equity and opportunity for all students.”



Dr. Akil has had a distinguished career of over 25 years in the field of education. Prior to Uniondale, Dr. Akil was the assistant superintendent of secondary education, programs and policy for the Brentwood Union Free School District. Under Dr. Akil's leadership, Brentwood became the first community on Long Island to become a New York State *My Brother's Keeper* community, part of the Obama Foundation's initiative to provide mentoring, college and career support and leadership development for young men of color. She is also responsible for implementing restorative justice programs in all of the schools under her supervision.

Additionally, Dr. Akil was at the forefront of raising the four- and five-year graduation rate for Brentwood students and increased the number of students enrolled in dual enrollment by 35 percent over a five year period. She spearheaded the effort for Brentwood High School becoming recognized by the College Board as an AP Honor Roll School for increasing the number of students of color enrolled in advanced placement courses. Dr. Akil is also known for developing innovative student-centered programs and has established a reputation for working collaboratively with staff, families and community-based agencies.

Dr. Akil began her career as a social studies teacher at Boys and Girls High School and later became the founding principal of the Academy of Urban Planning High School where she was credited with making extraordinary gains with English language learners and over-age, under-credited students.

Other leadership roles Dr. Akil has held include executive director of the Office of School Programs and Partnerships and chief academic officer for Cluster IV. Dr. Akil has served as an adjunct lecturer at Medgar Evers College, Long Island University, and Stony Brook University where she teaches educational leadership to aspiring administrators.

Dr. Akil holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University and she earned her B.A. and M.A. from Brooklyn College, CUNY.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next superintendent of the Uniondale School District," said Dr. Akil. "I hope to continue to build on the great foundation and legacy that has been established within this District and I look forward to partnering with the community for even greater academic success for all students. Uniondale is known for having an engaged community who are deeply invested in student achievement, and I am excited to become a part of it."



For more information about the Uniondale Union Free School District, please visit the District's website at <http://district.uniondaleschools.org>. Happenings in the District can also be followed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uniondalek12.

###

PHOTO 1 (Dr. Akil Headshot): Uniondale UFSD Board of Education is happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Akil as the new Superintendent of Schools, effective July 10, 2021.

