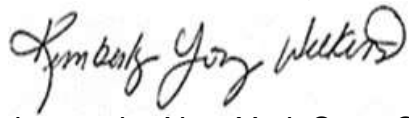





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Kimberly Young Wilkins 
SUBJECT: Appointment of Superintendent at the New York State School for the Blind
DATE: June 3, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Jacqueline Simpson as Superintendent at the New York State School for the Blind in Batavia?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by Statute (Education Law §4307).

Proposed Handling

This recommendation will come before the Full Board for approval on June 7, 2021.

Procedural History

Education Law requires that the Board of Regents appoint the Superintendent of the New York State School for the Blind. The recommendation before you for consideration was made by the Commissioner of Education consistent with section 4307 of the Education Law.

Background Information

Education Law §4307 requires that the Superintendent of the New York State School for the Blind “be appointed by the board of regents, upon the recommendation of the board of visitors submitted to and approved by the commissioner of education.” The board of visitors recommends, and the Commissioner has approved, the appointment of Ms. Simpson to fill a vacancy created by Barbara Lemen on March 10, 2021.

The Superintendent of the New York State School for the Blind provides on-site management for all five-day residential programs, school programs, and operations at the School and is a leader in communicating, facilitating, and implementing P-12 priorities. The Superintendent is also responsible for achieving and maintaining compliance with federal and State regulations; State Education Department policies, both fiscal and programmatic; assuming a leadership role in developing and implementing curriculum and assessment based on learning standards established for all students; and promoting positive program changes to improve student outcomes and foster attainment of postsecondary goals.

Ms. Simpson's background as a special education teacher and administrative experience make her highly qualified for the position of Superintendent of the New York State School for the Blind. In her most recent position as Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Curriculum and Instruction at Avon Central School District in western New York, she leads special education and mental health teams; serves as chairperson for the preschool and school-age committees on special education; oversees the districtwide professional development plan and mentor program; develops and aligns K-12 curriculum; and supervises classroom teachers, teaching assistants, and mental health staff. She has also established local and regional relationships with educational organizations of relevance to the New York State School for the Blind. A copy of Ms. Simpson's resume is provided for your reference.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Jacqueline Simpson as Superintendent of the New York State School for the Blind, effective July 8, 2021.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective July 8, 2021.