

# SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, LLC

*Supporting Leadership For America's Schools*



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Dear Colleague,

The Sherman Central School District, located in Southern Chautauqua County is seeking an exceptional educational leader to assume the role of Superintendent of Schools. The former superintendent, Mr. Michael Ginestre, after serving as principal for four years and then superintendent for five, accepted the top position in the Sweet Home Central School District, effective July 1, 2021. We are writing to bring this leadership opportunity to your attention for your own interest or of others you feel are excellent candidates for the position.

Sherman is high performing and has been recognized by Buffalo Business First Magazine. In 2020, Business First listed Sherman as Number 1 in Western New York in the Achievement Index. This category is described as districts that post strong academic records despite sizable poverty. Sherman is proud of its high consistent graduation rate of 96% and 100% in the 2020 and 2021 school years, respectively, even with 61% of the student body qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch. Sherman offers Advanced Placement college credit bearing courses, making it competitive with larger school districts in the area.

The Sherman school community is largely residential, with agriculture the main industry. Outdoor recreation abounds in the Sherman area throughout the year. There are excellent hunting, nearby snowmobiling, and horseback riding opportunities. The area is especially noted for its fine recreational facilities with many excellent golf courses, ski resorts, state parks and boating opportunities.

Within Chautauqua County, there are several higher education facilities, including the State University College at Fredonia, Jamestown Community College and Jamestown Business College. The Chautauqua Institution, known worldwide as a center for theater, dance, concerts and other cultural activities, is less than 15 miles to the east on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. The Roger Tory Peterson Institute, which offers educational and environmental exhibits, is also within close proximity to the District. The nationally-recognized Lucille Ball Comedy Center brings thousands of tourists to the area annually.

The Sherman District is situated near the New York State thruway and the Southern Tier Expressway (Route 86) making shopping in the metropolitan areas of Erie, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York very convenient. Sherman is also located near the City of Jamestown, a diversified industrial community with a population of approximately 29,000.

The District is central to the community. It serves approximately 425 students in grades Pre-K through 12 and employs approximately 100 staff. The annual budget is approximately \$10,000,000. In December 2018, the voters approved a capital improvement project that continued to address various facility needs. Through previous capital improvements the school is updated and modern and serves the needs of the student body very well.

Recently, as part of the Board's community outreach through stakeholder group meetings and an online survey, parents, students, staff, and members of the community cited strengths of the District that included, but were not limited to:

- ✓ A high achieving, top performing school district;
- ✓ Excellent, caring and committed teachers and staff;
- ✓ A family-oriented, small community, making it easier to get to know people;
- ✓ A community that cares deeply for academics, athletics, extracurricular activities and the agriculture program; and
- ✓ Stable finances.

Also, as part of its community outreach the Board collected input regarding the educational challenges ahead for the District and the professional experiences and personal characteristics the next Superintendent should possess. After a careful review of that information, the Board has determined that the ideal candidate will be:

- ✓ A respected and successful educator with classroom teaching and administrative experience, who has demonstrated the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively with all constituencies, making decisions grounded in the best interest of students and the school community.
- ✓ A proven team builder with a demonstrated record of collaboration who will provide clear and consistent leadership and who will develop strong relationships between and among the Board of Education, the staff, the students and the multiple constituencies within the Sherman community.
- ✓ A proven instructional leader, skilled in short and long-range planning, who will analyze the current comprehensive instructional program and how it is offered, and work with a supportive and well-respected staff in order to build on the strong academic reputation of the District.
- ✓ A school leader with an understanding of school finance and alternate revenue sources, who possesses the ability to balance the needs of a low-income community with the ongoing fiscal challenges, especially considering the long-term effects of the pandemic.
- ✓ An educator of integrity and character who will become an integral part of the school community, be regularly visible and approachable, and who will lead in an atmosphere of mutual respect and accountability.

The Superintendent will be provided with a regionally competitive salary and benefits package. Candidates must possess or be eligible for New York State certification as a School District Administrator (SDA) or School District Leader (SDL).

Online applications will be accepted until January 17, 2022 at [www.leadsschools.us](http://www.leadsschools.us). Applicants are advised to click on "Current Searches", then the link to [www.applitrack.com/leadsschools/onlineapp](http://www.applitrack.com/leadsschools/onlineapp). In addition to completing the basic application, applicants are requested to upload a current resume and a cover letter, the latter which describes how their educational background and professional experiences meet the position specifications included in this letter. The anticipated start date is as soon after July 1, 2022 as practical.

#### **FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, LLC**

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