

## Michael Burns

### Early Learning Principal, Questar III BOCES



Michael Burns is a dedicated educator with more than 25 years of experience across the full span of PreK–12 education. Currently serving as the Early Learning Principal at Questar III BOCES, Michael’s passion for teaching and leadership has taken him from the classroom to school and district administration, impacting students and educators in PreK, elementary, middle, and high school settings.

Throughout his career, Michael has been a strong advocate for innovative instructional practices, inclusive learning environments, and early childhood development. His leadership is grounded in a deep belief that every young learner deserves joyful, engaging, and equitable educational experiences. In addition to his work in schools and districts, Michael is also an

author. His children’s book, *Nervous Rex*, blends heartfelt storytelling with valuable lessons in social-emotional learning.

Today, Michael is honored to join this statewide event to share insights from his experiences and to collaborate with fellow educators working to shape the future of learning in New York State.

## **Lisa Mulhall**

### **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Harrison Central School District**



Dr. Mulhall joined the leadership team of Harrison Central School District in July 2021. She previously served as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District for eleven years. In this role, Dr. Mulhall was responsible for all aspects of teaching and learning for the district's 1,600 K-12 students.

Dr. Mulhall taught English Language Arts in New Jersey for ten years, earning recognition as New Jersey's Independent School Teacher of the Year in 2001.

Dr. Mulhall earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Rutgers University. She also holds a Master's degree in English Education and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University.

## **Dennis Kortright**

### **Elementary School Principal, Harrison Central School District**



Mr. Dennis Kortright has over 28 years of experience in education. Eighteen of those years he has served as an Elementary School Principal, Director of Mathematics, and Elementary Supervisor of Math and Science in the Harrison Central School District, Harrison, New York.

In his current role as Elementary Principal, Dennis has led his school to become a New York State school of recognition for two consecutive years. This was the result of analyzing data from multiple assessments, which led to a schoolwide campaign on academic language. The focus on academic language has provided all students with equity and access to high-level content.

Dennis earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from New York University and a Master's degree in Leadership in Mathematics Education from Bank Street College.