

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ripon High School Principal Recommendation**

**Ripon, WI** – The Ripon Area School District announced Mr. Bill Kinziger as the recommended candidate for the principal position at Ripon High School beginning July 1, 2023. He will replace Randy Hatlen whose last day will be June 30, 2023. Mr. Kinziger is currently the Ripon High Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, a position he has held for 8 years. Previously, he was a social studies teacher at Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School for 25 years. Mr. Kinziger was the unanimous choice of the sixteen member selection team following three full days of interviews over the past two weeks. The Ripon School Board will vote on the recommendation at a Special Meeting on March 6, 2023.

The Ripon High School Principal position was posted from February 1 – February 14, 2023. Staff and parents were invited to participate in a survey regarding characteristics they valued in their next principal. Fourteen people applied for the position through WECAN. One applicant was internal. Through a screening process six candidates were invited to interview on February 22, 2023. Three of the candidates had previous administrative experience. The selection team consisted of members of the school board, administration, parents, students, teachers and staff. Four candidates were invited back to participate in a second day of interviews on March 1 and 2, 2023. The full day for candidates began with a second interview with the selection team and a building tour with students, and then ended with a Meet & Greet with staff, parents, and students. Other events of the day included a writing sample, lunch with four school board members, an interview with the administrative team, and a driving tour of the district.

Prior to joining the staff at Ripon High School, Mr. Kinziger was a social studies teacher in Howard Lake-Waverly Winsted in Minnesota for 5 years. He has an undergraduate degree in broadfield social studies from St. Norbert College, a master of Education from Saint Mary's University. Mr. Kinziger completed his principal licensure program through Marian University.

Mr. Kinziger was an integral part of a group that developed a virtual instructional plan for our students to continue their education. Over the past 8 years, he assisted in implementing a current high school writing initiative which has helped maintain Ripon's high ACT scores compared to the averages of the state and surrounding districts. Mr. Kinziger was also an essential part of developing and implementing the mission and vision of Lumen Charter School, a project based school for Ripon High School students which at one point included about 20% of the high school population.

References described Mr. Kinziger as professional and dedicated, commenting on his amazing ability to build relationships with students. He was noted as having strong communication and interpersonal skills. Mr. Kinziger is described as being "crucial to developing the overall climate and culture of Ripon High School" as well as having "created an environment where all students feel welcomed and comfortable to be themselves. In addition it was stated, "he has a great rapport with our coaches and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure coaches have the support they need to be successful."