

For Immediate Release

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Selection Committee Unanimously Recommends Rick Bunge as next RMS/Catalyst Principal

Ripon, WI – Following two days of interviews, the middle school principal selection committee has unanimously recommended Rick Bunge for the principal position at Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter Middle School. This recommendation will be brought to the School Board on August 4, 2015 for their approval. Following the established timeline, a Meet and Greet event with Mr. Bunge will be held on Wednesday, July 29 for staff, parents, students, and community members from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the RMS Media Center. Refreshments will be served.

The Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter Middle School Principal position was posted from June 29 – July 19, 2015. Staff and parents were invited to participate in a survey regarding characteristics they valued in their next principal. Thirty-four people applied for the position through WECAN. One applicant was internal. Four of the candidates had previous administrative experience. A twelve member selection committee conducted interviews with six candidates. The committee consisted of members of the School Board, Catalyst Governance Council, administration, parents, teachers, students, and staff from both schools. The selection committee unanimously recommended Mr. Bunge for the position thus eliminating the need for a second round of interviews.

Mr. Bunge, is currently the assistant principal and athletic director for Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School, a position he has held for the past 9 years. Previously, he was a physical education and driver education teacher at Ripon High School. Mr. Bunge has an undergraduate degree in physical education, health and coaching from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh and a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Subsequently, he received a second master's degree in educational leadership from Marian University.

References described Mr. Bunge as a highly qualified professional who goes above and beyond in his job responsibilities and is always focused on helping students achieve success. He was noted as having solid communication skills, maintaining strong relationships, being community minded, and thinking about

the big picture in situations. A former supervisor stated Mr. Bunge is “a great person who is also an outstanding administrator and would help build an overall sense of community throughout the school, district, and community at large.”

Any comments or suggestions, please contact Mary Whitrock at (920) 748-4600.

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