

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School Principal Finalists Announced**

**Ripon, WI** – Three finalists for the Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School principal position have been announced today by Dr. Mary Whitrock, Ripon School Superintendent. Community members are invited to a Meet-and-Greet Reception for each candidate on Monday, August 3. These public receptions are scheduled back-to-back at 2:00 p.m., 2:40 p.m., and 3:20 p.m., in room 181 of Ripon High School. The finalists are Rodney Figueroa, Randy Hatlen, and Pam Steiger. All three candidates are experienced administrators. A fifteen-member selection committee conducted preliminary interviews with five highly qualified candidates earlier this week. The committee consisted of members of the school board, administration, parents, and high school faculty and staff. High school students conducted building tours for the candidates.

Rodney Figueroa is a former middle school math teacher. For the past three years he has been the high school principal at New Holstein High School. Mr. Figueroa received his undergraduate degree in secondary mathematics teaching from UW-Oshkosh and his master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from National-Louis University. Prior to New Holstein, he served as an administrative intern and secondary mathematics teacher in the Manitowoc Public School District. His background includes experience with school law, policy, curriculum, special education, program development/implementation, career and technical education, staff collaboration, student conflict resolution, and team building. He coached a variety of varsity sports for twenty-two years and competed in the 1992 Olympic Games.

Randy Hatlen taught third grade for nine years and seventh/eighth grade math for thirteen years before becoming the principal of Murray Park Elementary School and Quest Charter Elementary School in Ripon for the past eight years. He was a head varsity football and basketball coach for twenty-two years. Mr. Hatlen holds an undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Subsequently, he received his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Marian University and is currently working on his Ph.D. through Marian University. Mr. Hatlen's experiences include opening a project-based charter school, leading the 1:1 technology initiative at his buildings, serving as a facilitator for the educator effectiveness project in Ripon, and being highly engaged in community organizations.

Pam Steiger is a former elementary and middle school social studies teacher. She is currently the associate principal of New London High School. Prior to her current position she spent time as the high school athletic director, freshman academy principal, middle school dean of students and middle school athletic coordinator. Mrs. Steiger received her undergraduate degree with a double major in elementary

education and history from Edgewood College where she served as captain of the women's basketball team and graduated cum laude. She received her master's degree in Education from Cardinal Stritch University and went on to receive her principal certification from Viterbo College. Mrs. Steiger was nominated for a Herb Kohl Teacher fellowship in 1990. She has experience with school improvement, at-risk programs, charter schools, educator effectiveness, and youth apprenticeship program.

"The Ripon Area School District continues to attract high quality candidates through our recruiting process. The selection committee was impressed with all five of the candidates interviewed which included Todd Kleinhans, the former district administrator and principal of Lakeland High School and Doug Olig, the former lead principal of St. Mary Springs Academy," stated Superintendent Whitrock. "The three finalists have reputations as outstanding educators and are prepared to lead Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School to even greater success."

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

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