

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Contact: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent

WhitrockM@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4600

**Ripon Area School District Announces Next RHS/Lumen Principal and Assistant Principal**

**Ripon, WI** – Following multiple days of interviews, the high school principal selection committee recommended Randy Hatlen as the clear choice for the next Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School Principal and Bill Kinziger as the next Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director. The Board of Education unanimously approved the recommendations at a special meeting on August 4, 2015.

The Ripon High School and Lumen Charter High School Principal and Assistant Principal/Athletic Director positions were posted from July 7 – July 26, 2015 and July 27- August 2, 2015 respectively. Staff and parents were invited to participate in a survey regarding characteristics they valued in their next principal. Twenty-four people applied for the high school position while 41 people applied for the assistant principal/athletic director position through WECAN. A fifteen-member selection committee conducted interviews with candidates. The selection committee consisted of members of the School Board, Lumen Charter Governance Council, administration, parents, faculty and staff. High school students conducted building tours for the candidates.

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 building, serving as a facilitator for the educator effectiveness project in Ripon, and being highly engaged in community organizations.

References described Mr. Hatlen as an innovative collaborator who works well with all the various groups he interacts with on a regular basis. He was noted as being a person of character and a

community-minded individual. Another reference stated, “Randy is an honest, ethical, and reflective practitioner that uses a strong foundation of theory and research to drive his daily action.”

Bill Kinziger taught high school social studies for a total of twenty-two years in both Howard Grove, Minnesota and Ripon, Wisconsin. He has coached a variety of sports over those years at both the high school and college level. Mr. Kinziger holds an undergraduate degree in broad field social studies from St. Norbert’s College. He received his first master’s degree in education from St. Mary’s University and his second master’s degree in educational leadership from Marian University. Mr. Kinziger’s experiences include opening both REACH Charter School and Lumen Charter High School and then serving as the lead teacher of Lumen Charter High School for the past four years. He has been the administrator in charge at the high school for the past several years when both the principal and assistant principal were out of the building.

References described Mr. Kinziger as a visionary leader that understands the community at large as well as the school community. He was noted as having made it his mission to help mold young people into upstanding citizens and showing an extraordinary commitment to his work. A former supervisor stated Bill is “an educator who is constantly looking for new ideas, lesson plans, and learning activities because he always wants to improve and become better at what he does.”

“The Ripon Area School District has a very unique opportunity to build a dynamic and highly engaged leadership team to serve the needs of the District into the future. Throughout the strategic planning process this spring, the strategic planning team, which included administrators, Board members, teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members, referred to the work of Jim Collins, the author of the book *Good to Great*. One of the most important elements to reaching exceedingly high levels of achievement, according to Collins, is ensuring an organization has the right people in the right seats on the bus. The selection committee was impressed with all of the candidates interviewed, but noted Mr. Hatlen and Mr. Kinziger’s connection to the community, commitment to the District as well as knowledge of district staff, students, parents, and initiatives will allow for a very smooth transition.”

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

###