

For Immediate Release

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Ripon Middle School Principal Recommendation

Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District announced Danny Zamost as the recommended candidate for the principal position at Ripon Middle School beginning July 1, 2024. He will replace Rick Bunge whose last day will be June 30, 2024. Mr. Zamost is currently the Ripon Middle School Dean of Students, a position he has held for three years. Previously, he was a school counselor in the Kaukauna Area School District for six years. Mr. Zamost was the unanimous choice of the 17-member selection team following two days of interviews over the past two weeks. The Ripon School Board will vote on the recommendation at a Special Meeting on March 4, 2024.

The Ripon Middle School Principal position was posted from January 22 – February 5, 2024. Staff and parents were invited to participate in a survey regarding characteristics they valued in their next principal. 14 people applied for the position through WECAN. Two applicants were internal. Through a screening process, six candidates were invited to interview on February 14, 2024. Four of the candidates had previous administrative experience. The selection team consisted of members of the school board, administration, parents, students, teachers, and staff. Two candidates were invited back on February 20 to participate in a second day of interviews and a Meet & Greet with staff, parents, and students. Other events of the day included a second writing sample, an interview with the leadership team, and a driving tour of the district.

Prior to joining the staff at Ripon Middle School, Mr. Zamost was a school counselor in the Kaukauna Area School District for six years serving at Dr. H. B. Tanner Early Learning Center, Park Community Charter School, and Victor Haen Elementary School. He has an undergraduate degree in

sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Master of Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Professional Counseling. Mr. Zamost completed his principal licensure program through the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

In his current position as Dean of Students at Ripon Middle School, Mr. Zamost handles behavior incidents that incorporate restorative justice practices; manages and tracks truancy while helping students overcome barriers to improve school attendance; and meets with students both individually and in groups for goal setting, skills, and strategies to reach academic success. Other work experience includes serving as an Academic Advisor and Success Coach at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and as a School Age Director at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA. Mr. Zamost coaches hockey for Neenah High School.

References described Mr. Zamost as professional, highly motivated, and dedicated, noting he has “excellent people skills and is passionate about helping youth.” He was noted as having strong communication and can “speak to students in a manner that they understand and respect.” Mr. Zamost is described as being a person who “understands how schools operate and knows how important schools are as a part of the community.” In addition, it was stated, “Students, parents, and teachers know and trust him and appreciate his approach to the job. He has developed strong relationships with students supporting their needs. He works on all three areas with our students supporting them academically, behaviorally, and socially/emotionally.”

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

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