

For Immediate Release

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Murray Park Quest Elementary School Principal Recommendation

Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District announced Jessi Johnson as the recommended candidate for the principal position at Murray Park Quest Elementary School beginning July 1, 2024. Mrs. Johnson will replace Renee Bunge whose last day will be June 30, 2024. Mrs. Johnson is currently a 3rd grade teacher at Quest Charter Elementary School. Previously, she was a teacher at Murray Park Elementary School. Mrs. Johnson was the overwhelming 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 Murray Park Quest Elementary School Principal position was posted from February 1 – February 14, 2024. Staff and parents were invited to participate in a survey regarding characteristics they valued in their next principal. 18 people applied for the position through WECAN. Two applicants were internal. Through a screening process, six candidates were invited to interview on February 21, 2024. One of the candidates had previous administrative experience. The selection team consisted of members of the school board, administration, parents, students, teachers, and staff. Three candidates were invited back on February 28 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.

Mrs. Johnson has 20 years of experience in education, first teaching for 6 years in Murray Park Elementary and then teaching for 14 years in Quest Charter Elementary School. She received an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and History from Ripon College and a Master of

Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Johnson earned a graduate certificate in Technology Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

In her current position teaching within Murray Park Quest Elementary School, Mrs. Johnson has had multiple leadership roles including: leading professional development in technology, Infinite Campus, CQI, Project Based Learning (PBL), mentoring colleagues, the 3-5 literacy team, and school safety team. She was instrumental in starting the first PBL charter school in Ripon. Other leadership experience includes serving as Board Member on the Ripon Community Swim Club and the First We Live Foundation.

References described Mrs. Johnson as a “professional with a natural leadership ability” who displays “a collaborative, proactive, innovative, and solutions-based approach to challenges”. One reference shared, “Mrs. Johnson has patience and compassion with students, staff, and parents alike. She is committed to her craft and willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure those around her feel a sense of ease and understanding through challenging situations.” Mrs. Johnson is described as being a person who “profoundly innovative, deeply invested in positive change, and endlessly adaptable.”

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

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