



Sharon Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education
From: Sharon Williams, Ed.D.
Cabinet Champion: Dr. Dominique Moore, Assistant Superintendent of HR
Date: June 23, 2026
Re: Principal, Rock Island Center for Math and Science

The district posted our open position for the Principal of Rock Island Center for Math and Science (RICMS) and yielded a pool of twelve (12) applicants. The two candidates who met the required qualifications were invited to the interview process. The selection process included screening, a performance task presentation, an in-person panel interview, and a writing task. One candidate was invited to a finalist interview with the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. Following this process, Ms. Krista Lonian emerged as the strongest candidate and is recommended as the next principal of Rock Island Center for Math and Science.

Ms. Lonian taught in the Rock Island - Milan School District from 2003 - 2005 and again from 2018 - 2022 and has served as an assistant principal at RICMS for three years and one year as a Student Assistant Manager (SAM). Ms. Lonian holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Western Illinois University and two Master's Degrees from American College of Education in Elementary Education and Literacy.

Ms. Lonian's references herald her as a servant leader who fosters a positive and productive school environment for scholars and staff. Many reference letters for Ms. Lonian came from teachers and staff at RICMS who focused on her calm demeanor, her solutions focused leadership, strong communication skills and high expectations for instructional excellence. Ms. Lonian is also characterized as a well-rounded leader who exhibits skill in building; effective systems, strong community partnership and space for collaboration. She is cited as having a positive impact on the Building Leadership Team and for supporting initiatives such as the Tornado Table and ensuring that the John Deere partnership continues to have a strong impact on the school community.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Krista Lonian to the position of Principal for the 2026-27 school year at the salary of \$120,796.

Investment Period: One year contract
Total Investment: \$120,796
Funding Source: District Funds

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