



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: September 22, 2026
Re: Translation Specialist

The selection process for the Translation Specialist position yielded a pool of four (4) applicants, with three (3) candidates, who met the minimum qualifications, advancing to the interview stage. The comprehensive selection process included application screening, interview, and translation assessment. Following this rigorous selection process, Ferdinand Baraka emerged as the strongest candidate and is recommended for appointment as Translation Specialist.

Mr. Baraka holds an Associate Degree from Black Hawk College. He has served the Rock Island-Milan School District since 2016, bringing nearly a decade of experience supporting multilingual scholars and families. Baraka began with the District as an English Language Learner paraprofessional at Rock Island Academy, serving in that role from 2016 through 2021. Since 2021, Baraka has served as an Interpreter and Translator, supporting effective communication among scholars, families, and staff.

Mr. Baraka's references describe him as someone who takes pride in his work and is a strong advocate for equity in communication. References describe him as someone who is committed to providing effective, accurate, and professional support to scholars, families, and staff. Known for his strong work ethic and professionalism, Baraka approaches his responsibilities with integrity and purpose. He is also deeply committed to serving and strengthening the community.

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the appointment of Ferdinand Baraka to the position of Translation Specialist for the 2026-27 school year at the salary of \$54,376, prorated to start date.

Investment Period: One year contract
Total Investment: \$54,376, prorated to start date
Funding Source: District Funds