Sharon Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education
From: Dr. Sharon Williams
Cabinet Champion: Dr. Dominique Moore, Assistant Superintendent of HR
Date: November 10, 2026
Re: Director of Communications

The selection process for the Director of Communications yielded a pool of five (5) applicants, with three (3) candidates, who met the minimum qualifications, advancing to the interview stage. Two (2) candidates accepted the invitation to interview. The comprehensive selection process included application screening, a communications portfolio presentation, an in-person panel interview, a writing assessment, and a second-round interview with the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Following this rigorous selection process Ms. Kayla Babers emerged as the strongest candidate and is recommended for appointment as Director of Communications.

Ms. Babers is a Rock Island native, RIHS graduate and an experienced communications professional with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Visual Communication. She has over 14 years of experience in various sectors of the communications field. She has served as Creative Strategist at Modern Woodmen of America, Web Coordinator at John Deere, and Director of Visual Creativity for Love GIRLS Magazine.

Those who served as professional references consistently described Ms. Babers as a selfless team player who is highly creative, collaborative, and exceptionally organized. They highlighted her ability to work effectively with diverse teams, bring innovative ideas to life, and approach assignments with thoughtfulness and attention to detail. Her references also suggested that she values service, community engagement, and inclusion. She brings a strong commitment to using communication and creativity to build connections, strengthen relationships, and positively represent the communities she serves.

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the appointment of Ms. Kayla Babers to the position of Director of Communications for the 2026 - 2027 school year at a salary of $100,173, prorated to start date.

Investment Period: One year contract
Total Investment: $100,173, prorated to start
Funding Source: District

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