

To: Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education

From: John Truesdell, Principal, F.C. Reed Middle School

Date: August 17, 2025

Subject: Hiring Recommendation – Grade 5 Special Education Teacher and Caseload Manager

Recommendation:

It is the recommendation that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Mrs. Allison LaFond to the Grade 5 Special Education Teacher and Caseload Manager position at F.C. Reed Middle School, effective for the 2025–2026 school year, at Level 1 (\$47,289) on the Bridgman Public Schools Teacher Salary Schedule.

Rationale:

Mrs. LaFond was selected following a three-round interview process. The first two interviews were led by Principal John Truesdell on August 15 and August 16, with the final interview conducted by Superintendent Shane M. Peters on August 17. Mrs. LaFond distinguished herself as an excellent candidate, demonstrating strong instructional knowledge, deep care for students, and a collaborative mindset aligned with our district's values.

Alli is a 2011 graduate of Central Michigan University, where she studied Child Development, Psychology, and Youth Studies. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction through Concordia University (anticipated 2026). Her professional background includes serving as a child care director at Renaissance Athletic Club, working as a special education teaching assistant, and teaching as a lead classroom teacher. Most recently, she served as an interim second grade teacher at Brown Elementary (St. Joseph Public Schools), providing stability and leadership when a staff member departed midyear.

Mrs. LaFond's experiences and commitment to all learners make her a strong addition to the F.C. Reed Middle School faculty and to Bridgman Public Schools.

Action Requested:

Approve the hiring of Mrs. Allison LaFond as Grade 5 Special Education Teacher and Caseload Manager at F.C. Reed Middle School (Level 1 - \$47,289)