

To: Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education

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

Date: June 2, 2026

Subject: Hiring Recommendation – RMS School Counselor Position

Recommendation: It is the recommendation that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Sarah Altieri to the School Counselor position at F.C. Reed Middle School, effective for the 2026–2027 school year, at Level 2 (\$51,593) on the Bridgman Public Schools Teacher Salary Schedule.

Rationale: Sarah Altieri was selected following a comprehensive three-round interview process. An initial screening interview was conducted by Principal John Truesdell on May 31, 2026. A second-round interview was completed on June 1, 2026, and included a committee of F.C. Reed Middle School special education staff, general education teachers representing all four grade levels, the school social worker, and the Bridgman High School counselor. A final interview was conducted by Superintendent Shane M. Peters and Principal John Truesdell on June 2, 2026. Throughout the interview process, Ms. Altieri consistently distinguished herself as an exceptional candidate, demonstrating a strong understanding of comprehensive school counseling programs, student mental health supports, multi-tiered systems of support, and collaborative student services. She displayed excellent communication skills, a student-centered mindset, and a clear commitment to building positive relationships with students, families, and staff.

Ms. Altieri currently resides in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and recently earned a Master of Education in School Counseling from Grand Valley State University, graduating with honors and a 3.88 GPA. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Hope College, graduating Magna Cum Laude and earning membership in the Psi Chi National Honor Society.

Most recently, Ms. Altieri served as a Guest Counselor at Scullen Middle School in Naperville, Illinois, where she provided comprehensive counseling services for a caseload of more than 400 students. Her responsibilities included serving as a 504 Case Manager, facilitating peer mediation and conflict resolution, participating in MTSS intervention planning, supporting student scheduling, collaborating with multidisciplinary student support teams, and partnering closely with families and staff to promote student success. Prior to this role, she completed more than 650 hours of school counseling internship experience at West Ottawa High School, where she provided academic, social-emotional, and college and career counseling services, conducted suicide risk assessments, facilitated classroom and small-group counseling lessons, and supported IEP, 504, and Child Study Team processes.

Action Requested: Approve the hiring of Sarah Altieri as School Counselor at F.C. Reed Middle School (Level 2 - \$51,593).