

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

**DATE** : SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

**TO** : BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM** : JORDAN HICKMAN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**SUBJECT** : CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENTS

**COMMENTS:**

Due to a resignation, a vacancy exists for a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Bemidji High School. Ms. Maria Bernabe-Bjorklund is recommended for this position. Ms. Bernabe-Bjorklund received her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree from St. Cloud State University. She previously taught at Bagley High School. She has been placed at MA20 step 10 on the salary schedule.

Due to a movement of current staff, a vacancy exists for a special education teacher at Horace May Elementary School. Ms. Jennifer Bruun has been recommended for this position. Ms. Bruun received her Bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University. She previously taught at Bagley Elementary School. She has been placed at BA step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to a leave of absence, a vacancy exists for a science/medical careers teacher at Bemidji High School. Mr. Justin Henry has been recommended for this position. Mr. Henry received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota Morris. He has been placed at BA30 step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to movement of staff, a vacancy exists for a music teacher at Northern and J.W. Smith Elementary Schools. Mr. Robert McKeown is recommended for this position. Mr. McKeown received his Bachelor's degree from Southwest Minnesota State University and Master's degree from Bemidji State University. He previously retired from teaching with the Bemidji Area School District. He has been placed at MA20 step 12 on the salary schedule.

Due to a resignation, a vacancy exists for a special education teacher at Bemidji Middle School. Ms. Jody Kennedy is recommended for this position. Ms. Kennedy received her Bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University. She was previously a special education paraprofessional with Bemidji Area Schools. She has been placed at BA30 step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to a leave of absence, a vacancy exists for an industrial technology teacher at Bemidji High School. Mr. Andrew Larkin is recommended for this position. Mr. Larkin received his Bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University. He was previously a long term substitute teacher and special education paraprofessional with Bemidji Area Schools. He has been placed at BA step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to a resignation, a vacancy exists for an English teacher at Bemidji High School. Ms. Cassondra Leepport is recommended for this position. Ms. Leepport received her Bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Ms. Leepport has been placed at MA20 step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to a retirement, a vacancy exists for a special education teacher at First City School. Mr. Lee Narum is recommended for this position. Mr. Narum received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He most recently worked as a short-call substitute teacher. He has been placed at BA30 step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to movement of current staff, a vacancy exists for a science teacher at Bemidji Middle School. Mr. Gerald Snow is recommended for this position. Mr. Snow received his Bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University. He previously taught at Menahga Schools. He has been placed at BA step 6 on the salary schedule.

A new position was approved for an art teacher at Bemidji Middle School. Ms. Kate Toriseva is recommended for this position. Ms. Toriseva received his Bachelor's degree from Hamline University. She has been placed at BA step 0 on the salary schedule.

Due to movement of current staff, a vacancy exists for an early childhood special education teacher at the Paul Bunyan Center. Ms. Jordan Vonasek is recommended for this position. Ms. Vonasek received her Bachelor's degree from Mayville State University. She previously worked at Bicap Early Headstart. She has been placed at BA step 0 on the salary schedule.