



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 08, 2026
Re: Thurgood Marshall Learning Center Principal

The selection process for the Thurgood Marshall Learning Center (TMLC) Principal position yielded a pool of seven (7) applicants, with two (2) candidates, who met the minimum qualifications, advancing to the interview stage. The comprehensive selection process included application screening, a data analysis presentation, an in-person panel interview, a writing assessment, and a second-round interview with the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. Following this rigorous selection process, Mr. Timothy Wernentin emerged as the strongest candidate and is recommended for appointment as Principal of Thurgood Marshall Learning Center.

Mr. Wernentin previously served as the Principal of Rock Island High School (RIHS) and returns to the district after serving as Principal of Sherrard High School for nine (9) years. Prior to serving as principal at RIHS and Sherrard High School, Mr. Wernentin accumulated 11 years of experience as a building principal. He is currently serving the district as a substitute administrator, providing experienced administrative leadership and support as needed throughout the district. In this capacity, he has been assigned to buildings to provide interim administrative coverage, support building operations, assist with student and staff matters, address day-to-day operational needs, and ensure continuity of leadership when a building administrator is unavailable. He is currently assigned to TMLC, where he is providing administrative support, assisting with the daily operations of the building, supporting staff and students, and working collaboratively with district and building leadership to address the needs of the school community.

Mr. Wernentin's references describe him as a top-notch and highly capable leader. They emphasized his strong leadership abilities, thoughtful approach, and ability to provide insightful, well-considered responses. His references expressed complete confidence in his leadership and abilities and indicated that they would have no reservations about his capacity to be successful in a leadership role.

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Timothy Wernentin to the position of Principal at Thurgood Marshall Learning Center for the 2026-27 school year at the salary of \$166,738, prorated to start date.

Investment Period: One year contract
Total Investment: \$166,738
Funding Source: District Funds