



TO: Dr. Whitrock and the Ripon Area School District Board of Education
FROM: Samantha Behnke, Elementary/Middle School Odyssey Principal
DATE: 10/2/2024
RE: Recommendation for Hire — Amanda Schroeder

It is my recommendation that the following individual be hired for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name: Amanda Schroeder **Position:** 4K-2 Teacher
Location: Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning

Certification:

Position or Subject (WI DPI Code)	Level	State	Year Expires
T001- Teacher; 1777- Regular Education	Birth-3rd	WI	Lifetime
T001- Teacher; 1316- Reading Teacher	PK-12	WI	Lifetime
T001- Teacher; 1809- Early Childhood Special Education	Birth-3rd	WI	Lifetime

Education:

Name of School	Degree	Date Earned	Major(s)
University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh	Bachelor	05/2005	Elementary Ed PK-3, EC Special Education
University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh	Master	05/2209	Reading

Process:

# of Applicants	18
Quality of Applicants	The position drew 18 applicants at the time of interviews; many of the candidates did not have the required certifications for this position or lived out of state. We felt that 4 had the required qualifications and experience needed to move forward to 1st round of interviews.
Interview Team	Samantha Behnke, Megan Prellwitz, Shelly Schuler, Erin Taylor, Mary Whitrock, Chrissy Damm, Becky Morrin, Manddi Kraus,
# of Candidates Interviewed	1
Quality of Candidates Interviewed	We originally scheduled 4 candidates to interview with us that had many years of teaching experience and met the requirements for licensure for this position. Two of the candidates canceled at the last minute, and one candidate did not show up for the interview and did not respond to communication from us at the time of the interview. Amanda comes to us with 19 years of teaching experience with a well rounded special education and regular education background and 1 year of virtual experience.
Notes/ Reference Checks on Candidate	Amanda comes highly recommended by her former principals and co-teacher. One principal noted that she has a “vested interest in students and approaches them in a caring and calm manner.” This reference also stated that “communication with families is one of Amanda’s strengths.” Another principal noted that she is “a highly trained educator and is innovative in the classroom.” Amanda holds a regular education teaching license, a special education teaching license, and a reading teacher license. The combination of these and her extensive teaching background will make her a great addition to our 4K-2 teaching team.