



East Lansing
Public Schools

MEMORANDUM

TO: East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

FROM: Dori Leyko, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Hire – Whitehills Principal

DATE: May 6, 2026

I am writing to strongly recommend Lindsey Loniewski for the position of Principal at Whitehills Elementary School.

Through an extensive review of her application materials, professional experience, and recommendations, it is clear that Lindsey brings the exact combination of instructional leadership, relational capacity, and equity-centered practice that aligns with the vision and expectations outlined for this role. As noted in the position description, the district seeks a leader who can foster student achievement, lead collaboratively, and maintain a safe, inclusive school environment. Lindsey has consistently demonstrated these competencies in her current and prior roles.

Lindsey currently serves as a Student Success Coordinator and has taken on responsibilities as Principal in Charge, positioning her well for the transition into a building leadership role. Her experience spans general education, special education, and systems-level leadership, including work with MTSS, behavioral systems, and restorative practices. This breadth is particularly important given the principal's responsibility to oversee student support systems, discipline, and the implementation of IEPs and behavior plans.

In addition to her operational and instructional leadership, Lindsey's commitment to equity is both authentic and actionable. She has served as a District Equity Coach and has led efforts to remove systemic barriers, increase engagement among underrepresented student groups, and expand inclusive practices. Her leadership reflects a deep understanding that equity work must be embedded in daily practice, staff development, and family engagement—not treated as a separate initiative.

Lindsey's professional credentials further strengthen her candidacy. She holds a Master's degree in Special Education with a concentration in Autism Spectrum Disorder and has earned National Board Certification—one of the highest recognitions in the teaching profession. She is also actively completing her administrative certification through the MASSP Path to Leadership program, demonstrating both readiness and commitment to continued growth.

Equally important are Lindsey's interpersonal strengths. Multiple references highlight her ability to build trust, communicate effectively, and cultivate a positive school culture grounded in collaboration and high expectations. Her supervisor notes her consistent, empathetic, and firm leadership in supporting students and staff, as well as her ability to lead reflective conversations that drive instructional improvement (recommendation letter, p.10). These qualities are essential for leading the

Whitehills Professional Learning Community and engaging families and staff as partners in student success.

Finally, Lindsey's performance record reflects a high level of effectiveness. Her most recent evaluation rates her as "Effective," with strong scores across instructional practice, classroom environment, and professional responsibilities (evaluation summary, p.8). This consistent performance underscores her readiness to assume the broader responsibilities of building leadership.

In sum, Lindsey Loniewski is a thoughtful, student-centered leader who embodies the district's commitment to excellence, equity, and belonging. She has the experience, skill set, and leadership disposition necessary to successfully lead Whitehills Elementary School and to make a meaningful impact on students, staff, and families from day one.

I recommend her without reservation.