

May 14, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

Without reservations I write this letter enthusiastically supporting Brian Gander who has served as vice principal of Rolling Hills Middle School since August, 1996. Mr. Gander has earned the respect of the entire community of this school. Students appreciate his equitable manner in which he problem solves with them. The staff views him as responsive to their needs and supportive of their work. Parents believe that he is a strong and fair administrator who has contributed greatly in fostering the positive climate of the school.

As principal of Rolling Hills, I reluctantly continue this letter of recommendation because I know, in doing so, I will possibly lose an exemplary administrator to another district. However, Mr. Gander is more than ready to assume full leadership of a school, and it is inevitable that he will leave Rolling Hills.

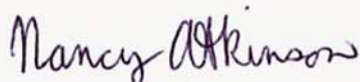
His qualifications are many. Through his tenure of vice-principal he has acquired all the skills to efficiently direct a middle school. For the last two years he was the primary person to develop our master schedule which provides for interdisciplinary teaming. The daily logistics of running a middle school of over a thousand students present no challenge to him. Essentially, Mr. Gander is a very organized and systematic thinker, and he has the technological knowledge to support that organization. He is well versed in SASI xp, which is the computer management program used in the Campbell Union School District.

Motivated by his interest in middle school reform, he has remained well versed in current educational research. Last spring he completed the California School Leadership Academy; this year he has enrolled at San Jose State University. He routinely reads educational journals and can skillfully analyze and synthesize information to disseminate to staff members.

Mr. Gander has all the attributes of an outstanding administrator. Possessing a strong work ethic, he inspires all around him to commit to excellence. Intuitively, Mr. Gander fosters collaboration and has headed effectively many committees. The tech committee last spring submitted a grant proposal, receiving \$25,000 in AB 1510 funds. Mr. Gander was the principal writer of the proposal. Currently, he heads a district task force studying the physical education program at the three middle schools; the task force will recommend structural changes in the program to align with the state framework.

With Brian Gander, your district would hire a highly skilled, strong leader. He would confront directly, with energy and vision, the multifaceted job of the principal. He would do so in a collaborative fashion, forging a community resolute in creating and maintaining a quality middle school. He is an excellent choice.

Sincerely,



Nancy Atkinson, Principal



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