

LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Sandy Husk, Superintendent

Letter of Recommendation

January 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,


This is a letter of recommendation for Brian Gander. Brian had been an elementary school principal in Salem, Oregon for several years. Most recently he has been a principal/superintendent in a small school district in Oregon at Long Creek School District. This recent experience broadened his understanding of leadership because in small rural school districts the principal/superintendent has to wear many hats and be responsible for many things that a number of people take responsibility for in larger school districts. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Brian as a fellow elementary school principal. During that time we both worked together in schools in the south area of Salem. I noticed early on that Brian's contributions to meetings were meaningful and positive. He added to discussions in a manner that was obviously thoughtful and brought an important perspective that was missing until his input was shared. I have also noticed that his colleagues listened when he spoke because he did not talk to hear himself talk. They respected his opinion. His commitment to being a team player at the district and building level was self-evident.

Brian has always addressed the needs of students first and foremost as a principal. He is comfortable with all parents and students and builds supportive school relationships. His ability to bring a staff together, help teachers improve their instructional skills and to maintain their focus and morale, even in trying economic times, has never been more evident than recently. He also has the added experience of working with a targeted Special Education program at his buildings.

I know I do not speak just for myself when I say fellow colleagues in Salem enjoyed and respected Brian's contributions and commitment to this profession. His calm demeanor, leadership style, temperament and experience show how he has the ability to reach all students. I believe his experience would be an invaluable asset to any school district seeking a student-oriented administrator that loves working with children and puts their interests first.

Brian had also been working toward a terminal degree in education and completed his doctoral program in education. For some reason, not many administrators in this large district did this the way Brian did. I am impressed by his effort to grow professionally. I have been a school administrator for over thirty years and have known many principals and central office administrators. Brian is a very capable, professional school administrator who always puts students first.

Sincerely,


Scott Butterfield, Ph.D.
Lee Elementary Principal