



JEWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

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BRIAN D. GANDER, DED.
SUPERINTENDENT

JENNIFER BLANCHARD,
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

January 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to write a letter of reference for Dr. Gander. We hired Brian in 2009 to help make necessary changes in our district. Jewell School has been through some troubling times and we needed an experienced superintendent to help us straighten things out. Brian worked as our Superintendent, principal (K-12), special education director, human resources director and our chief budget developer. He did a fantastic job of righting a district that has seen its share of troubling behavior.

Brian is an outstanding leader; he brought the right kind of leadership at a time we needed it most; informed, collaborative, and dedicated are strong qualities he holds. He was been key to developing our district vision and guiding beliefs. Brian encouraged the Board to use these documents to inform our budgeting and decisions. I worked with Brian as he rewrote the classified contract to make it current with contracts in our county. He worked closely with the Board on both the classified and certified contracts and removed language that was costly and unfavorable to Jewell School. This is a huge step for our district and Brian did a great job.

Brian has worked effectively with the Board and our budget committee in developing budgets that are in the best interest of learning but not wasteful of district money. Most of all he has helped our district develop effective operational strategies in instructional practices and human resources. Brian has taken on some hard issues that we as a board felt needed to be addressed; and he handled them very well.

Brian worked hard with our Board to assure we get trained on how to be effective leaders. We had sessions on conducting meetings in an efficient / productive way, conducting superintendent evaluations and following OSBA policy guidelines. Our Board meetings were still not as easy as we would like, but they run smoother and we got things done.

Brian is a tireless worker and we were much better for his time here in Jewell. I would not hesitate to hire him as a leader for any district; he has integrity, humility and drive, qualities I sure enjoyed in him.

Sincerely,

Allen Foster,
Past Director Jewell School Board
Chair (2008-09-&-2010-11)