



January 16, 2012

## Officer's Council

### Board Section:

**Chair:**  
Jackie Crooke  
06/30/13

**Chair-Elect:**  
Verneda Wagner  
06/30/13

**Past Chair:**  
Paul Zastrow  
06/30/13

### Superintendent's Section:

**President:**  
Tim Labrousse  
06/30/12

**President-Elect:**  
Mark Mulvihill  
06/30/12

**Past President:**  
Dennis Dempsey  
06/30/12

### Letter of Recommendation: Brian Gander

I am pleased to make the following comments regarding the professional and personal qualities of Brian Gander. Brian is currently serving as the superintendent of the Jewell School District in the Northwest Regional Education Service District region. I am the past superintendent of that ESD and the current Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts.

Brian's career has stair stepped from an Assistant Principal to a Principal in two different districts (the most recent in Salem-Keizer) and to Superintendent of two small districts, currently at Jewell. Brian came to Jewell during the lowest period in the district's existence. District policies and procedures, curriculum, finances, etc., were all in disarray. Brian came into the district and has re-established Jewell as a respectable school district once again. His collaborative leadership in Clatsop County and throughout the northwest region has played a part in creating a partnership where all work together for the benefit of all students. This has been especially beneficial during difficult times because, instead of fragmenting, Brian and others have worked together and weathered the storm. Brian has also served as the chair of the Clatsop County Superintendent Council.

Brian eloquently expresses himself both verbally and with the written word. He is very visible in his community and I doubt if there is a student, staff member, or community member that Brian doesn't know and hasn't helped in some way. He is a good listener and will always acknowledge the ideas and accomplishments of others.

At Jewell, Brian has demonstrated his expertise in core curriculum, teaching strategies and the use of data to make programmatic decisions. As a result, the Jewell school district is back on track regarding academic performance. Through his leadership, sound research based practices have become a part of the Jewell school district culture and students are benefitting.

Brian has received outstanding training through his doctoral studies and through pragmatic experiences in all facets of district leadership and program management. He has successful experiences in areas as diverse as transportation and food service to K-12 general education, special education and curriculum and staff development. However, his clear and main focus has always been effective leadership practices that build on the strengths of those with whom he serves.

Through his successful experiences, Brian is ready for the next challenge in his career – superintendent of a larger district with 2,000 – 10,000 students.

Sincerely,

Jim Mabbott

Executive Director, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts