



DOS PALOS - ORO LOMA JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2041 Almond Street • Dos Palos • California 93620

November 13, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Dr. Brian Gander, I am honored to offer a personal and professional reference in support of his candidacy. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Gander for over twenty years. He has served as a superintendent, special education director, and a curriculum and instruction director and worked in a variety of international schools. He has just completed a two-year contract in China helping a senior high school recruit an international staff and implement international curriculum standards for student planning to attend colleges in the USA. What underlies his success as an educator is his unique perspective that brings respect, passion and a true understanding of people to his work.

Serving in the demanding position of small school Superintendent, Dr. Gander has been directly responsible for standards alignment and implementation, curriculum reform, personnel evaluation, program budgeting, and all operations of a comprehensive school district. These responsibilities have brought many successes in such activities as: complex scheduling schemes, exemplary CCR/PQR reviews and community partnerships. A particular strength of Dr. Gander's is his thorough understanding of school finance. He has been very successful in leveraging school budgets to provide powerful learning opportunities for his students. In daily routines as well as special projects, I have observed his impressive leadership skills, his sense of humor, and his effective administrative style. He has demonstrated the ability to transform a vision into practical application. He exemplifies the type of motivated, creative, enthusiastic leader education needs today.

Dr. Gander is an extraordinary educator and human being whose talents and contributions are unusually diverse. Dr. Gander has completed his Doctorate in Educational Organizations Leadership and Management at the University of Oregon. His research blended the concepts of instructional practice, leadership development and cost variables when evaluating the outcomes of instructional programs. Dr. Gander's remarkable success with curriculum growth is built upon his ability to blend developmental knowledge with appropriate pedagogy. His knowledge of cognitive science from brain research to learning styles is evident in all his work. I have witnessed the very positive manner in which he blends his formal academic training with his real world experience to improve instructional practices as well as the larger community.



Letter of Recommendation, Dr. Brian Gander
November 13, 2015

Dr. Gander's innovativeness and flexibility in working with students, teachers, and the public has earned him an enviable reputation as an excellent educator and leader who truly cares. He is articulate, tactful and impressive. As a public speaker, he is at ease with faculty groups, students and parents. He is informative and keeps faculty members aware of new innovations as they pertain to both education and psychology. His professional demeanor and communication skills allow him to garner support even in difficult situations.

Dr. Gander has the talent to perform at an exceptionally high level. I consider Dr. Gander in the top one percent of educators I have had the opportunity to work with. His exemplary personal values, his creativeness and his commitment to growth, both within schools and in the community, make him an excellent candidate for any academic position he is seeking. Please give him the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Walker" clearly legible.

Brian Walker, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

BW:dh