

GRANT COUNTY EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT



January 4, 2012

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SUPERINTENDENT

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DANA BROOKS
JOHN STEARNS
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MEGAN BRANDSMA
ROBERT COCKRELL

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Dr. Gander for over five years and have come to realize he is one of those rare individuals that truly believes in kids. As he sought new challenges in his career, our county lost a fine administrator. He brought much to his school - commitment, leadership, energy and vision. He is respected and well liked by peers, staff, and students alike, and constantly strives to be the best administrator possible.

In a county with five small school districts and a student population of only 1000 students, I have seen many superintendents come and go. Brian was committed to his District. As Brian grew in the position of Superintendent of Long Creek School District, he impressed me with his ability to quickly learn and adapt to the changing needs and demands of guiding a small school. For the several years prior to Brian's leadership, Long Creek had been a rudderless ship, adrift with no clear destination. Brian was able to take the helm of a once struggling school and set a clear course for success. This vision was evident in his decision to increase curricular offerings while maintaining a healthy budget and reversing a trend of downward enrollment figures. He took a school disenfranchised from its community and healed a rift that threatened to destroy both the community and the school.

While providing services to Long Creek School District, I was very impressed with Brian's ability to work side, by side with not only his own staff, but the staffs of other small districts in Grant County, making sure that all students received equal opportunities.

Brian is a leader. When he began his career in Long Creek, the District had just come out of a very turbulent period. I have watched him lead the District into a period of stability and quality education by valuing his employees and educating his board. It is obvious that he loves kids. Not an opportunity passes that doesn't find Brian interacting with the students.

Because of Brian's strength of character and commitment to education, I consider him to be a role model and a friend. It is without reservation that I would recommend him for any position to which he would apply. It may be cliché, but it was truly someone else's gain and our loss as Brian sought new challenges.

Sincerely,

Robert Waltenburg, Superintendent
Grant County Education Service District
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