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Sandy Husk, Superintendent

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Letter of recommendation for Brian Gander

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Brian Gander, who was an Elementary Principal in the Salem-Keizer School District for 7 years.

In 2000, Brian was selected to be the Principal at Pringle Elementary. This is a very important position in our school district as Pringle is a high performing school with extraordinary parent involvement. Under Brian's instructional leadership Pringle improved their mathematics scores since 2002 from 72% at 3rd grade to 84% and from 81% to 89% in 5th grade meeting the benchmark. Scores in reading have also improved. This has occurred because Brian understands what curriculum alignment, program evaluation and staff development must transpire to improve academic achievement. Brian also has a strong background in understanding diversity, poverty, strategies for ESL and struggling readers from his years of experience in Campbell and Dos Palos, California.

Brian was often selected for District positions because of his supportive attitude and expertise. He served on the elementary math adoption committee and was a strong voice in helping the District select a standards based program. Brian forged a solid working relationship with the other forty-four elementary principals. He represented their interests on the Elementary Principal Planning Committee. Brian's knowledge of student intervention and discipline was evident during his leadership on the Secondary Schools Discipline Policy Task Force to align the District with NCLB mandates. I am impressed with Brian's knowledge of what a school needs to be successful, his support of his teachers and his passion for children. Brian understands assessment and how to data from assessment to drive instruction. He asks the hard questions because he seeks more efficient ways to analyze data to improve instruction. He always has the latest information on curriculum research, state and national trends.

Brian Gander is ready for a Superintendent position in a larger district. I am confident that he will do an outstanding job. He has a passion for education and compassion for students. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Weeks, Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment