

Shawn W. Yates

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To Whom It May Concern:

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My name is Dr. Shawn W. Yates and I am writing to apply for the position of Superintendent of Schools. I am a career educator and relational leader with a passion for providing a nurturing learning environment and a desire for all to succeed. I am excited for the opportunity to help lead the district toward meeting the needs of every student, providing opportunities for excellence in all areas academically, athletically, and engagement with the arts.

I have a passion for learning and holistic growth. I believe that education must address all aspects of the individual including the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being of each person. I have enjoyed success serving as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent. I bring a wealth of experience and passion to help others succeed while engaging all stakeholders and constituents with the mission and vision of the school.

As a Superintendent I have guided districts through the successful passage of multi-million dollar referendums, reenergized constituents through the creation of programs that increase student learning opportunities, and utilized my relational skills to engage stakeholders. In my current role I lead a district of over 700 students that has increased enrollment by 40% over the past two years, due in large part to a Tuition Agreement that I was able to negotiate while serving 2 distinctly separate Independent School Districts, bringing them together to better meet the needs of all students. I engage in the community that my district serves, but I also work alongside others at the state level, serving on several MASA committees and working with state legislators. I also serve on the Minnesota Board of Social Work, being appointed by Governor Dayton in 2017.

As a parent of four school-aged children, my wife and I have witnessed the uniqueness of each child even within the same home environment. I desire to provide opportunities for all children to be successful and achieve their best, regardless of their background. A staunch proponent of lifelong learning, I completed my doctoral degree at the University of South Dakota. The degree completion, while not an end unto itself, allows me additional opportunities to continue to learn and grow through new experiences. I am passionate about helping others see how they can partner with and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

I look forward to the opportunity to visit with you further regarding this position.

Regards,

Dr. Shawn W. Yates