

March 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Brigid Butler for the role of Assistant Principal. I have known Brigid for a couple of years and currently act as her supervisor. I highly recommend Brigid for many reasons including her experience, instructional expertise, her organizational and management skills, and her focus on equity, students, and families.

Prior to my working directly with Brigid, she spent 10 years teaching, and 7 years coordinating Title I work for Minneapolis Public Schools. This year, she has taken on the leadership role of running the Non-Public Title I, II, and III programs in Minneapolis. She manages the budget for all 17 Non-Public schools, administers the Title I programming at 11 sites, and administers the Title III programming at 5 sites. She collaborates with service providers working with 7 non-public schools to design and implement Title programming. She is also in charge of hiring, managing, and observing the staff for the non-public sites. She also serves on leadership roles at the state level including the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Association of Administrators of State & Federal Programs (MAASFEP).

Brigid has a very strong instructional background having been in the classroom for 10 years, as well as her continued education and Principal's license work. When she observes the non-public teachers, she is able to identify what good instruction looks like, provides very thoughtful feedback to teachers, and always provides ideas for ways the teachers can improve their instruction. She will be a very strong instructional leader in a building as an AP. Young people gravitate towards her and feel very comfortable opening up to her.

Brigid has a strong attention to detail. She has an in-depth understanding of Title, not only from a technical perspective, but in order to leverage the requirements to make meaningful change at sites. She has strong relationships with the staff in buildings, both public and non-public, that she has supported over the years. One former MPS AP (and current Director at MPS) I spoke with remarked that she took her time to support his learning about Title requirements in a kind and respectful manner. He was able to make a lot of improvements in his ability to run the Title program at his school as a result of Brigid's support and knowledge. I have heard many other stakeholders tell me similar things about her work.

All of Brigid's projects are planned out, on time, thoughtful, and well organized. I always know the status of her work. She oversaw a large Request for Proposal (RFP) process with the no-public service providers. She developed the RFP including a comprehensive rubric, hosted an information session with potential providers, and organized review teams to ensure high level content feedback for the proposals. The project, as well as the final meeting, ended ahead of schedule. In this context, and in a few others, I have also seen her present to large groups. Her presentations are very high quality, and her public speaking ability is exceptional.

The trait that I appreciate the most in Brigid is beyond all of her technical skills and knowledge. She has a deep commitment to public education, and in particular, her focus regarding equity. She understands the importance of family, community, and student engagement and how their perspective is essential to shaping a meaningful education experience for young people. She strongly believes in racial equity and supporting students who are typically underserved in our system. She is a lifelong learner and is always working to make herself better for her community.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss this phenomenal candidate any further.

Sincerely,



Jennie Zumbusch

Director of Accountability and Evaluation, Minneapolis Public Schools