



Jeffrey A Erickson
Principal

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March 22, 2019

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my honor to strongly and enthusiastically endorse Sara Martinson for a leadership position within your district. I have known Sara for the past twelve years and have worked directly with her in my capacity as principal of Minnetonka High School (MHS). Sara has served as a teacher, department chair, and technology instructional coach and has done so with amazing distinction that, in the end, has impacted student achievement in the school.

Part of being a quality administrator is the ability to lead adults. In her role as a technology instructional coach for three years, she served as a critical leader in the school to help implement our plan to ensure that technology accelerates learning. Her understanding of high-quality instruction has allowed her to work with staff to improve their practices. I cannot underscore enough her exceptional talent to come alongside staff--even those reluctant to change--and coach them to improve their practices. She has garnered the respect of staff because of her positive and proactive approach that starts with building relationships. During her time in the role, our instructional practices have improved and, as a result, our student achievement has improved.

In her role as department chair, Sara handles staff issues, master scheduling duties, and implementation of the curriculum review process. These roles are critical to ensure the smooth operation of the school. I would highlight her understanding of the importance of getting the right people on the bus and in the right seats. She will challenge the status quo of staffing assignments, assist in the hiring of student-centered teachers, and support them through her role as chair. This year, Sara has led a redesign of our leadership structure for the high school. Her innovative approach generated a model that will serve our school moving ahead and, in this case, demonstrated her capacity to create a clear, improved and systems approach to leadership. In the end, more than anything, I would share that I trust her judgment and value her counsel.

Sara has had a record of success and solid accomplishments. She is a positive, insightful, and mission focused leader. As a candidate for your school, Sara is an example of a strong leader. She is a deep thinker, a leader, and has intellectual curiosity. Her commitment to student success and professional growth for staff will allow her to be a success in your school. Any district would be fortunate to have her as a leader. I give Sara my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.