



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Urban Education. Global Citizens.

LISA PAWELAK

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

LUCY CRAFT LANEY @ CLEVELAND PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Lisa.Pawelak@mpls.k12.mn.us

612.668.2164

July 19, 2019

Re: Ms. Janie Gholston

To Whom It May Concern;

Ms. Janie Gholston served in the role of Associate Educator/Behavior Dean at Lucy Craft Laney Community School for seven years, from 2008-2015. I had the honor of working alongside Ms. Gholston during those years; first as the School Social Worker, and then as Assistant Principal. More recently, during the 2018-2019 school year, Ms. Gholston returned to Lucy Laney to complete some of her principal licensure hours within our school community.

While serving as a Dean at Lucy Laney, Ms. Gholston approached her work with great care, integrity and consistency. She influenced student behavior and engagement in a variety of settings. Her primary responsibility was to facilitate the school's alternative instruction room. Ms. Gholston was able to develop strong relationships with students while at the same time maintaining high expectations. She sought to understand the function of a student's behavior and developed individualized restorative projects for each one. Ms. Gholston also oversaw student issues around transportation, an area in which she excelled. She built strong, positive relationships with bus drivers and families, at times bringing them together to problem solve around various issues. Ms. Gholston also consistently showed a high level of professionalism in her work. Paperwork and other tasks were completed on time, with record keeping, graphing and sharing data as areas of particular strength. Additionally, Ms. Gholston was respected by her colleagues. She was able to initiate uncomfortable, direct conversations with colleagues that are respectful and lead to increased student engagement. Her teammates sought her advice and assistance, and she graciously took time with them. She showed leadership and initiative by working to bring new opportunities to both her colleagues and students.

When she returned to Lucy Laney this year as an aspiring principal completing her internship, not only were the above-mentioned qualities still evident, Ms. Gholston also displayed a deep humbleness in her approach to the work. Her servant's heart shone through in her questioning and desire to learn more about the nuanced intricacies and high level of emotional intelligence required to successfully lead a school community.

Ms. Gholston is a life-long learner and cares deeply for children. It is her love of learning that makes her a good candidate for continuing education, and her love for children that make her a good fit in the school environment.

Please feel free to contact me via email or phone with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pawelak