

ADA-BORUP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 2854
604 West Thorpe Avenue
Ada, Minnesota 56510

High School: 218-784-5300 / Elementary: 218-784-5303



Dr. Shawn W. Yates, Superintendent
Kelly Anderson, High School Principal/Activities Director
Bree Triplett, Elementary Principal

High School/Elementary Fax: 218-784-3475

"The mission of the Ada-Borup School District is to educate and prepare all students for a successful tomorrow through academics, activities, arts and attitude."

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I compose this letter of recommendation for Dr. Shawn Yates. I have had the pleasure of working under Dr. Yates during his tenure as Superintendent of Schools for Ada-Borup Public School.

Dr. Yates took the helm of our two districts as school consolidation became a reality. Upon accepting this position, he found himself in a challenging position. With pressure from two communities, both with differing visions for the future, Shawn acted as an intermediary between the two school boards and communities. He was a calming presence in a situation that would have discouraged a lesser leader. He used his position as Superintendent of both districts to bring these two groups together, and see this complex process to its end.

As a member of the teaching staff at Ada-Borup I have observed Dr. Yates relationship with our staff and community first hand. He goes out of his way to be visible in our hallways and at our various staff meetings. He can be found in the commons, eating in the school cafeteria, and at student extra curricular activities. He has a firm open door policy when it comes to questions or concerns from staff. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he shares freely.

Dr. Yates goes out of his way to connect with staff and community. He has used a series of themed emails to challenge us to rise up to the challenge of our profession, always with an eye on the success of our students. He uses this communication tool to give us new ways of looking at the school, and education in general. He preaches relationships, communication, and intentionality. To know Shawn is to like him, but to work with him is to respect him.

As Director of our Summer Recreation program, Shawn was my direct supervisor. He was approachable, accessible, and was able to provide advice and solutions as I went through my first years of leadership in a school. Whether my issue was with staff, schedules, or the intricacies of working with other school districts, Shawn was able to offer real solutions when required, and lend an ear when that was needed.

I offer my highest recommendation for Dr. Shawn Yates in any leadership position. Though our district would loath to see him depart, any other district would gain an excellent leader of strong vision and character. If you would like to speak at length about this highly qualified administrator, please do not hesitate to contact me at 701-238-8490.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Smith
Social Studies Instructor
Ada-Borup West Public School

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ada-Borup Board of Education
Linda Bergee – Dena Bishop – Nancy Merkens
Gretchen Rockstad – Blair Stoltman – Mick Thompson

