

Members of the Board of Education:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, who has applied for an educational leadership position within your school district. Although I was not a member of the Board of Education when Dr. Wheeler was hired, I was a member of the Board during the entirety of his tenure at West Platte. On all counts, I can recommend him to you for employment, without reservation. Should you hire him, you will not be disappointed.

During his two years as Superintendent of the West Platte School District, much progress was made for the students, teachers and community as a result of Dr. Wheeler's leadership, vision, and internal fortitude to effect broad organizational change. During Dr. Wheeler's time, the District saw an abundance of positive growth. Among many accomplishments, the District completed: comprehensive realignment of district leadership at all levels; complete realignment and development of instructional technology; migration to all-new MSBA policies; migration to online Board Docs and electronic board meetings; Talent Ed Recruit and Hire Human Resources procedures; a comprehensive redirection of our instructional program; creation of a communication plan and district branding; development of a comprehensive professional development program; numerous additions to academic programs; and too many other initiatives to list.

As a board member, I communicated with Dr. Wheeler daily, and in most cases multiple times per day. I appreciated how he kept me informed and provided me with the important information I needed to make informed decisions as a Board Member. Clearly, the scope and breadth of these changes challenged me to stay informed and up-to-date at a level in which I could feel confident speaking with patrons about the direction of the district. However, Dr. Wheeler's approach to communication kept me informed on all important issues and provided me the information I needed to feel confident when speaking with any member of the community about school initiatives. At any time, if there was something I needed to know, I could call, text, email or drop by the office and Dr. Wheeler provided answers, details, and guidance for the topic or issue. Working together, we developed a highly effective partnership. I know my sentiments and experiences were congruent with how other members of the Board were also able to develop positive, productive relationships with Dr. Wheeler.

During Dr. Wheeler's time, the Board passed a retirement incentive plan. Along with attrition, this plan resulted in nearly a third of our staff being turned over for the 2013-2014 school year, including nearly every administrative position. As such, Dr. Wheeler conducted and completed the hiring process for all positions. As a whole, I could not be more pleased with the job Dr. Wheeler did to bring high quality, experienced, positive, and student-centered educators into our organization. This hiring process also encompassed most coaches for football, baseball, softball, girls' basketball, track, Volleyball, and Jr. High athletics. As a result of quality hiring, support, and guidance, we have seen ALL athletic programs (boys and girls) strengthen, improve, and produce excellent results both in student development and in the "wins" columns.

Like any major change, the changes completed by Dr. Wheeler were met with mixed opinions. Large ripples among some factions in the community ultimately led to Dr. Wheeler's decision to resign. Having observed his leadership, decisions, and actions from start to finish, I wholeheartedly believe he had the very best interest of the students, school district, and community in mind as he made his daily decisions.

As a Member of the Board of Education, as a parent of three students, as a West Platte Graduate, and as a lifelong member of the Weston community, I was saddened to see Dr. Wheeler leave. As a result of his vision, boldness, and resilience to effect positive change, the West Platte School District now offers significantly strengthened academic and athletic programs which are guided by a re-energized staff with a new direction, new sense of unity, and new hunger for excellence. In talking with many students, teachers, and parents in the district, a high level of respect and appreciation is held for the many actions and decisions Dr. Wheeler made on their behalf, as Superintendent of Schools.

If I may be of further assistance in providing information about Dr. Wheeler, please do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage you to carefully consider the many strengths Dr. Wheeler offers to the students, faculty, and staff of your school district. I encourage you to meet with him to discuss your district goals, and then place him in a position to help you accomplish them!

Sincerely,



Justin Webb