

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Kevin Kelly for this position. I have known Kevin for more than two years in his role as Superintendent at Honey Creek Community School (HCCS). As a parent of a student attending HCCS, as well as a member of the school's Equity Advisory Committee and co-chair of the school's Sex Ed Advisory Board (SEAB), I have had the privilege of working closely with Kevin.

Kevin exemplifies what it means to be a true leader in a complex, unique, and nuanced school environment. His transparency and competence have been evident. I have repeatedly experienced his ability to listen, learn, adapt, and implement informed strategies leading to tangible change. Our school community has benefited from Kevin's availability and responsiveness, which has made him a reliable and approachable figure for parents, staff, and students. I have heard firsthand accounts from students saying they feel safer because of Kevin; they feel his presence and understand that it means they will be seen, affirmed, and protected.

Throughout Kevin's time as superintendent, he has shown an unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive environment. His engagement and authentic support of the Equity Advisory Committee were instrumental in driving positive institutional change. His approach is always informed and measured. He is responsive when necessary but always enacting ways to be more proactive. He is effective and also iterative and humble in his approach, recognizing when something isn't working and needs to be reassessed. As the executive director of a social justice organization, I have a deep understanding of the qualities necessary for effective leadership in fostering equitable and just communities. Kevin's capacity to engage with struggling students and/or parents, center the voices of those most impacted, and implement thoughtful solutions have been particularly noteworthy. His strategic vision and ability to execute it effectively have consistently resulted in improved outcomes for our school.

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge Kevin will no longer be our superintendent. His leadership has undeniably made our school a better place, and his departure will leave a noticeable void. I will miss his guidance and dedication. I have no doubt that Kevin will continue to excel as a superintendent, or in similar roles, in other districts and communities. His dedication, expertise, and genuine care for the well-being of our students make him an exceptional candidate. I am confident that he will continue to make significant positive impacts in any educational setting that is fortunate enough to work with him.

Please feel free to contact me at 734-717-8744 or taryngal@gmail.com if you have any further questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Taryn Gal
Member, Equity Advisory Committee
Co-Chair, Sex Ed Advisory Board
Honey Creek Community School