

To Whom it May Concern,

April 9, 2019

It is with great honor and unwavering professional support that I recommend consideration of Kevin Kelly for his pursuit of new educational leadership opportunities in Michigan and beyond. I have had the pleasure and honor of serving on The Greenspire School's governing board for the past three years as Treasurer, where Kevin has served as Superintendent and school leader since 2014.

As the lead consultant of a small educational policy organization, I worked with Greenspire in its start-up phase to charter the school. It wasn't until years later that I rejoined the community as a board member. I watched Greenspire struggle in its early years as it worked to expand its facility, balance enrollment and retain great, consistent teachers and leaders. Kevin accepted the position of school leader at a pivotal time when crucial leadership and vision was necessary to grow the school without stifling the small, project-based supportive environment the parents and students had come to love and expect. Under Kevin's leadership Greenspire has flourished: enrollment has doubled with a yearly waitlist; we have a talented, committed staff; the school has self-financed facility expansions and we are planning for a second middle school expansion and the addition of a high school. Kevin works diligently to manage a tight budget and he personally champions the school as the fundraiser-in-chief. Kevin alone has developed a highly successful social media and press strategy and steers an annual capital giving campaign that raises significant revenue to grow the school. He is excellent at communicating, networking, and building trust and respect in the community as a leader and believes wholeheartedly in the Greenspire mission, which has paid off two-fold in attracting needed donors. This is a hard job and Kevin executes his responsibilities masterfully with care and respect for students and families at the center.

In his many leadership capacities, Kevin excels as the Superintendent of operations: working, managing and organizing state and federal compliance matters, researching, negotiating and managing the school's human resources contracts; monitoring and managing facilities issues and maintenance, managing a staff and leading and preparing the board in governance. Kevin is skillfully adept at running board meetings, is a quick learner and when he doesn't know something, he figures it out. There are no "loose ends" with Kevin – the work gets done and done well.

As the Superintendent of a charter school district, Kevin wears and juggles many hats. Kevin shines wearing all of these hats but he truly stands-out as an instructional leader. He is steady in his efforts to protect, support and promote teacher growth and retention and puts education quality above all else. Our Greenspire staff retention is high because of the supportive teacher and student culture he has developed; Kevin represents both the public face and the behind-the-scenes, operational and instructional hard work and leadership that has made this school district a success.

It will be nearly impossible to find a Superintendent that matches Kevin's diverse skill-set, work ethic and respect for students and families. Our community is

selfishly sad to see him go. However, we know that Kevin aspires to new professional challenges and growth and that new communities and districts should be as fortunate as we have been here to flourish and grow through his steady leadership, support and innovative thinking.

Thank you,
Meagan Batdorff
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