

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Today's Dedication Tomorrow's Success

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May 15, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Kevin Kelly since his employment with this district as a teacher in 1996. Kevin's reputation is outstanding among students, teachers, and administrators. As a social studies instructor his students found him interesting, innovative, and approachable. As Department Chairperson in social studies he was able to improve the quality of instruction through his personal leadership. He also served as a negotiator for the teachers' bargaining unit where his skill at bringing opposing sides together was highlighted.

His ability to work well with others was quickly recognized by the district, and he was appointed Assistant Principal at Belleville High School in 2001. As Assistant Principal he was in charge of student discipline, curriculum and MEAP testing. Again he used hard work, encouragement, and intelligence to promote change. When it became apparent that the principal was not doing an effective job, Mr. Kelly was selected by the Board of Education to fill that position.

His performance as principal has been truly remarkable. He brought a disparate and disgruntled staff together and was able to get them focused on improving both the climate of the school and the academic performance of the students. He has been highly successful. MEAP scores have improved and the attitude of both students and staff is very positive. As you walk down the halls with Mr. Kelly students and staff easily interact with him; he is very approachable.

Kevin brought forward a proposal this fall to reform the high school, months before the legislature mandated such changes. He was in the forefront identifying what needed to be done and accomplishing it. Key to his proposal was a "Pyramid of Interventions" to counteract and prevent student failure. The proposal was based on the best available research and current thinking. The Board of Education approved his recommendations.

While I would be sorry to lose Kevin as one of our team, I know that he will make valuable contributions wherever he goes. I recommend Kevin full heartedly and without any reservations. If you would like more information feel free to contact me at (734) 697-9123, ext. 213 or rgross@vanburenschools.net.

Sincerely,



Raymond Gross
Director of Instruction
Van Buren Public Schools