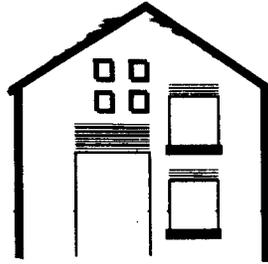


Suffield High School



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January 19, 2006

To Whom It Concerns

I am pleased to write this recommendation for Mr. Richard Therrien for a leadership position in science education. I have known Mr. Therrien for the past six academic years in my role as the principal of Suffield High School.

From the outset when Mr. Therrien joined our faculty in 2000, he raised the level of professionalism in the science department. His broad and varied experiences as a member of professional committees throughout his career give him great credibility among his peers.

It is remarkable and praiseworthy that Mr. Therrien has maintained an ongoing, intensive plan of personal professional development during his entire career as a science educator. He has a reputation for his contributions to the development of strong science and technology programs both locally and statewide, including such important venues as PIMMS, ARC, BEST, CSTA and NSTA. In addition to his expertise in science education, Mr. Therrien is also an experienced mathematics and technology teacher. His broad experience and credibility have qualified him to offer a number of workshops to his professional colleagues over the years.

Mr. Therrien has approached his leadership responsibilities as the Curriculum Chair of our science department earnestly and professionally. He has also been a leader of our school improvement teams. He manages change effectively and always promotes professionalism. In addition, Mr. Therrien has gained considerable experience working with administrators and other school leaders districtwide. In these dealings, he has demonstrated the ability to balance the needs and interests of both teachers and students to ensure that the both are served with fairness and sensitivity.

We have relied heavily upon Mr. Therrien's leadership to mentor our new teachers, providing support to them in the areas of instruction, classroom management, lab design and lesson structure.

During his tenure with Suffield, Mr. Therrien has been involved with a number of significant improvements to our program. We now have a 3-year science requirement for graduation, and the percent of students taking four years of science has risen from 20% to 60%. His work on experimentation skills, open-ended labs, performance-based assessments, and the use of technology have resulted in an increase in CAPT scores even placing Suffield among the top 3 schools in the state in our CAPT experimentation scores. In addition, our innovative courses now include chemistry-for-all and *Agriscience Biology*.

I endorse Mr. Therrien's candidacy for a leadership position. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information that you desire.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas L. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Thomas L. Jones, Principal

Home of the Wildcats