

April 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my extreme pleasure to write a letter of support for Robert Cawson as you consider him for a principalship in your district. I've had the opportunity to both work with Mr. Cawson in my role as Deputy State Superintendent at the Michigan Department of Education, and as a parent, who's two daughters had Mr. Cawson as their 5th grade teacher. I cannot express enough how professional, caring, and engaged Robert is with his students, classroom, and school community.

Mr. Cawson is a student first teacher who understands the impact relationships have in the educational outcomes of his students. He does a fantastic job personalizing and differentiating learning for his students. He has a unique ability to connect with his students, attends their sporting/extracurricular events, facilitates after school clubs to give students additional educational opportunities, and builds school culture through fostering things like a talent show and other school-wide events. I've also had the opportunity to coach girls' basketball with Robert, working with 5th grade girls. His ability to build relationships with his students is evident by former students returning to visit him at school after they have moved on. My daughters are always excited to see Mr. Cawson whenever they can!

One specific example of Robert's commitment to his students has been through his leadership forming a partnership with Michigan State University to provide the Honors X2 program. Honors X2 is a student-run program that reflects the values of mentorship and education. MSU students volunteer their time to mentor elementary students on fun projects and activities related to their respective academic fields. Both of my daughters participated in the program, and had a wonderful experience exploring STEM related content outside of their curriculum. Robert understands the significance of forming community partnerships to establish better learning outcomes for his students.

Mr. Cawson has mastery knowledge of curriculum and best practices in teaching and learning. He has taught multiple grade levels which has assisted in the expansion of his pedagogy of content and curriculum. He continuously participates in professional development opportunities to improve his skills and knowledge. Robert is of multiple Blue Ribbon schools (Glencairn Elementary School, and Gaines Elementary School) and Glencairn boasts the highest achievement scores in East Lansing Public Schools.

The day before teaching assignments were posted for 5th grade last year, my daughter Maddox told me she had her fingers crossed that she got Mr. Cawson. Both her, and I are grateful she did. Mr. Cawson is an amazing teacher and instructional leader, and you would greatly benefit with Mr. Cawson's addition to your leadership team.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Guerrant