

17 Flintlock Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
November 2, 2009

Superintendent of Schools
Norwalk Public Schools

Dr. Bob Polselli is very interested in Norwalk Public Schools' Director of Technology position. Having carefully reviewed the multi-page job description and having spoken at length with Dr. Polselli, I believe that he is eminently qualified for the position and would serve the Norwalk school district admirably and effectively should you choose to hire him. He is among the finest educators with whom I've worked and hands down the best educational technology professional I've met.

When I recommended that Middletown hire Dr. Polselli seven years ago, we were looking for someone who would make using educational technology attractive to teachers, students, and administrators alike. We were also looking for someone who could head a promising but fledgling department, build an effective infrastructure, and put Middletown on the short list of technology enriched school districts. Bob greatly exceeded expectations. His enthusiasm, knowledge, positive – and irrepressible – energy immediately propelled him into a district leadership role. He trained teachers before, during, and after school, not to mention during the summer. He enlisted and trained students to provide break and fix services to support his tech team; he supervised a director of computer facilities (now the district's student data manager) and its IT manager, two technicians, eleven educational technology specialists, an intern, an administrative assistant, as well as several outside contractors/consultants. He also implemented and still supervises Middletown's Virtual High School.

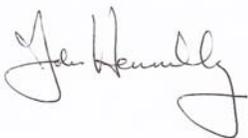
Bob understands the importance of success, access, and long-range planning. Among his first achievements was enlisting 50 teachers to participate in the Intel Teach to the Future program. That in turn led to many demands for additional training in web design, performance learning, and, of course, new technology. Educational technology use quickly expanded from computer labs with LCDs to classrooms with Smartboards and classroom with videos to classrooms with synchronous and asynchronous distance learning. Concomitant with these training and support initiatives was Bob's impressive skill in garnering grants, negotiating with companies, and developing lean but compelling budgets. In that area, his most impressive accomplishment to date was the planning and implementation of the Middletown's new high school's (\$114 million) instructional technology infrastructure and services.

Although Bob's leadership is clearly evident in his work with teachers and with the Educational Technology Specialists he supervises, it also figures significantly in his work with administrators, Board of Education members, parents, and students. Several years ago Dr. Polselli was Middletown's whistle-blower on MySpace.com, drawing national attention to the risks of unsupervised student use and establishing strong alliances between the public schools, the state department, and local and regional law enforcement. He shepherded the Board's adoption of *e-Meeting*, making Middletown a pioneer in this paperless and time-saving approach to Board of Education meetings.

In Norwalk's job description, the qualities service and representation also caught my attention. Dr. Polselli, a licensed pilot and flight instructor, has provided Angel flight services for seven years. He coaches sports, supports career fairs, works with many sectors of Middletown's community, and represents his district wonderfully. A short while ago, I traveled to China with Bob to set up a sister school in Shandong Province. We had a delightful and productive time, largely because of Bob's ease and enthusiasm, his ability to work on three hours sleep, and our having supported each other's efforts to learn Mandarin for the six months preceding our visit. Bob works exceedingly well both in familiar and unfamiliar settings.

Having retired this past June as Middletown's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, I've had occasion to take stock of some of my contributions and achievements. Working with Dr. Bob Polselli as his colleague, friend, and 'boss' remains among the most significant and gratifying. I enthusiastically support his candidacy for Norwalk's Director of Technology. Please call or contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



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