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Dear Search Committee Members,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Dr. Jerrod Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler has in all points proven himself worthy of the many accolades he has received. His leadership, dedication, and positive outlook are sure to enhance any school district's performance in all areas of performance.

I have known Dr. Wheeler since June 2003 when he began his employment as Principal at Chadwick R-1 Schools. I worked with Dr. Wheeler as Curriculum Director for Chadwick Schools from June 2003 until June 2004. During his employment with the Chadwick School District he provided leadership for the faculty, staff, students, and parents, implemented the district's CSIP, played a key role in the MSIP process, worked on the district's building and renovation projects, and completed countless other tasks. The Chadwick District underwent the MSIP process in October 2003, when Dr. Wheeler began his employment with the district in June 2003 the district's APR was 42. Due to his dedication and hard work the district was able to obtain accreditation and an 84 on the APR. There has never been a moment when I doubted his desire to improve teacher effectiveness or student learning; neither have I ever worried the job would not get done under his capable leadership.

From 2004 until present, I have collaborated with Dr. Wheeler while he was Principal at Espy Elementary in Nixa, Superintendent of the Sherwood-Cass School District, and Superintendent of West Platte Schools. While at Espy Elementary, Dr. Wheeler's leadership and vision inspired his teachers, students, and parents to continually strive to improve academic achievement. This focus enabled Espy Elementary to win the Blue Ribbon Award in 2009. During his tenure at Sherwood-Cass, he led the district to achieving Accreditation with Distinction with the district's first ever perfect score. In West Platte, he has innovatively reformed the instructional program, including the technology requirements of the upcoming CCSS tests.

Dr. Wheeler has demonstrated many desirable traits while carrying out his duties as both Principal and Superintendent. He has provided leadership both in and out of the classroom. He has worked with a wide range of veteran and neophyte teachers and administrators and has been able to assist each in becoming a more effective educator.

Dr. Wheeler brings a refreshing professionalism into the school setting as well. He has developed a trustworthy reputation with administrators, board members, faculty, staff, parents, and students. His impressive knowledge and sense of humor has a definite positive effect on the climate. He has high expectations for everyone he works with and constantly impresses me with his ability to get the community, educators, and students to reach beyond the status quo.

The district which has the good fortune to hire Dr. Jerrod Wheeler will not regret their decision. He is a gifted communicator who goes the extra mile to ensure educators and students succeed. His dedication to getting the job done clearly shows in his enthusiasm and in his results.

I highly recommend Dr. Wheeler for the superintendent position. If you would like to discuss his attributes in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Amy Youngblood
Executive Director
EduOptimus