

Huajing Maske
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Dear Search Committee members,

It is my great pleasure to write to support Dr. Gregory Ross for his application for the Superintendent of the Fayette County Public Schools.

I have known Dr. Ross since 2016. His breath of knowledge and experience in public education, his passion as an educator and his caring for others are what draw me to work with him in this past five years.

Dr. Ross is open minded which is an essential quality in a successful education leader. I first met Dr. Ross in one of the Confucius Institute's Kentucky Educators' Study Trip to China which I led. This was a trip designed for Kentucky education leaders to learn about the Chinese educational system. We spent a great deal of time visiting the Chinese K-12 schools, urban as well as rural schools. Dr. Ross showed great interest even during the pre-departure orientations. He inquired about books to read and resources to tap into to prepare for the trip. During the two-week long trip, he immersed himself in learning to understand a totally different educational system. In the long bus rides to visits to schools, he started and engaged in dynamic discussions with fellow principals and teachers. During school visits, he was among the first to engage in deep conversations with Chinese teachers, students and administrators.

Dr. Ross is a visionary leader. As a principal, Dr. Ross always has his students and their future in mind. He is a firm believer that as educator he has to see the tomorrow for his students. He sought out opportunities to enrich the curriculum and the learning experience for the students. He started the Chinese language program in Millcreek Elementary in an effort to increase the global awareness for the students. He was resourceful in identifying the full-time Chinese teacher through the support of the Confucius Institute at very little cost to the school and the district to jumpstart the Chinese program. The students of Millcreek Chinese language program he started have won various awards in Chinese language speech competitions and arts contests.

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Dr. Ross's passion for education goes beyond his own school and students. Because of his profound knowledge and his experience in K-12 education, I have sought out his help in teaching in the Professional Development Workshops for the Chinese teachers coming to teach in American schools from China. Despite of his busy schedule, he used his weekend time to present to our teachers. His presentation received the most favorable evaluations from the teachers. This very well demonstrates Dr. Ross teaching style: focused, clear and full of fun activities that fully engage his audience/students. I have engaged many discussions with Dr. Ross on international education in K-12, teacher training and school community building. Every time it is inspiring and thought provoking, and I left the discussions with much food for the brain.

Not only is Dr. Ross an effective and passionate leader in education, he is also a serious researcher. He keeps abreast with the most recent new styles of teaching and research in the field of education. Many of his presentations and publications are the key issues confronting education. For example, "Changing School Culture by Celebrating Diverse Students and Staff," prove to be a very important issue in schools, especially his argument of diverse recruitment of staff.

I found Dr. Ross the most pleasant person to work with. He is very sensitive to the feelings and emotions of those around him. In his unique way, he is able to effectively communicate his ideas to others. He worked well with others and because he is empathetic and sensitive to others, he has the respect and confidence of those around him. This quality in a leader wins the respect and trust of parents, students, teachers and other constituents, and thus will help move the work forward effectively and efficiently.

Open-minded, visionary, passionate about learning and teaching, strategic, resourceful, hard-working, caring and humble are the qualities Gregory Ross possesses. It is not often seen that these impressive qualities gathered in one person. Dr. Ross has them all. Therefore, I highly recommend Dr. Gregory Ross for the Superintendent's position in a dynamic, diverse and "It's All About Kids" community such as the Fayette County Public Schools. He is highly qualified for the job and FCPS deserves him well.

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Thank you in advance for your favorable considerations for Dr. Gregory Ross's application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huajing Xiu Maske', written in a cursive style.

Huajing Xiu Maske (修华静)

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