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Jefferson County Public Schools
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3610 Bohne Avenue
Louisville KY 40211
February 14, 2021

Superintendent Search Committee
Fayette County Public Schools
450 Park Place
Lexington KY 40511

Dear Superintendent Search Committee:

Dr. Gregory Ross is seeking consideration for Superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools. I have known and worked with Dr. Ross for the past 20 years. I have served as his KTIP mentor, taught together at Cooper-Whiteside Elementary, worked with him while he was assistant principal at Morgan Elementary School and principal at McNabb Elementary School. I have also engaged in committee work under his leadership at KDE and have provided professional development training for his kindergarten teachers at The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek in Lexington. I consider him a respected colleague and mentor as well as a trusted friend.

While it is common practice in letters of recommendation to highlight achievements, I hope through my words to convey the person Dr. Ross is on a daily basis. Because I have known him for such a long time and have worked with him in a variety of setting and roles, I feel I can speak to his character and leadership abilities.

One quote that I believe exemplifies Greg is, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." ~Aristotle. When I think of Dr. Ross, I think of excellence. For the past 20 years, I have had the opportunity to see him live this out on a daily basis. He teaches much by the words he says, but exponentially more by the way he lives and approaches each day and each opportunity that arises. Through daily affirmations, innovative thinking, and focus on helping each student succeed and achieve at the highest levels, he truly embodies excellence in all he does.

I believe another quality that Dr. Ross possesses is his ability to create change through intentional, caring relationships. I have witnessed this through his work with students and colleagues. Knowing that learning occurs best in the context of caring relationships, he has placed those relationships as a priority. His spirit of seeking first to care and understand, and then act in ways to help, support and challenge, demonstrates the kind of leader he is. He has a true passion for education, and creates visions to bring others to high levels of success.

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Finally, he is an educator with a passion for what he does and an innovator in designing programs that are inclusive, and provide meaningful learning opportunities for all students. Through programs he created in Paducah, I saw him continuously think outside of the box to bring together resources for ALL students to broaden their experiences, increase opportunities for learning across the curriculum and light the spark of passion in children, school staff and community members. He is a master at bringing people together to positively influence the students and families he serves.

I know that your mission is to select a Superintendent who will ensure that all students achieve at high levels and graduate prepared to excel in a global society. I sincerely believe Dr. Gregory Ross is a candidate who has proven his commitment to this mission. His dedication to excellence, understanding of the importance of relationships, and passionate, visionary leadership deserve thoughtful consideration as you make this important decision.

Please feel free to contact me at 270-978-0182 with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Hilton

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Instructional Coach, Jefferson County Public Schools