

McLean County Unit District No. 5
1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761-4339



August 27, 2019

Re: Dr. James Harden

Dear Search Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Dr. James Harden as an administrator in your district. As his former superintendent and having had a working relationship with him, I believe him to be a person of high integrity, honesty, and character. Most importantly, Dr. Harden strives to develop means to best serve students, their families and community. From his background, Dr. Harden has experience and a deep understanding of how to reduce academic and behavioral gaps of students.

In regards to Dr. Harden being accused of sexual harassment toward two administrative assistants, an outside law firm investigated the allegations and they concluded Dr. Harden's actions did not violate the Board of Education's sexual harassment policy. Therefore, the media report by WGLT was not accurate and WGLT did not provide journalistic integrity regarding the information they received from anonymous sources. Regrettably, many times social media does not have all the facts about a situation and misreporting is often the result.

I wish Dr. Harden the best as he begins a new position and service to your district and community if you select him. Lastly, I would gladly work with Dr. Harden in the future if the opportunity would arise.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Mark Daniel'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Mark Daniel
Superintendent