

January 26, 2023

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Jane Beeninga for a position in your organization. Jane is extremely dedicated to meeting the needs of all students. She provides challenging opportunities to grow academically and linguistically, and builds nurturing relationships that give students a sense of belonging in the school community. Additionally, Jane is very highly regarded by her colleagues at Gideon Pond Elementary School. She collaborates regularly with the EL team, grade-level teams, and building and district leadership. I believe Jane will be an invaluable addition to your school, district, and/or organization.

Jane Beeninga and I have worked together in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage (MN) school district for five years, she as an English Learner teacher at Gideon Pond Elementary School, and I as Coordinator of Multilingual Education. During that time, Jane and I have collaborated on several projects, including a comprehensive review of multilingual programming, learning walks to observe EL instruction, data cycles to review students' English proficiency levels and design programming to meet their needs, and development of curriculum and instruction for newcomers. Jane has approached every project with a positive attitude and determination to ensure her students have access to the curriculum and achieve at the highest possible levels.

Jane has demonstrated to me that she is an invaluable team player. Each time I have needed her assistance with a project, she has accepted the challenge and approached it with optimism. In the fall of 2022 Jane enthusiastically volunteered to be a member of the steering committee for the Multilingual Program Review. She worked with other committee members to examine current practices, gather and analyze stakeholder feedback, and review pertinent data to identify areas for improvement in district programming. Another example of Jane's collegial nature was her participation in our SIOP Cohort in 2021-22, which included extensive planning and practice with her co-teaching partner to implement SIOP strategies. She has fully embraced the SIOP framework. She seeks opportunities to share her learning with colleagues and promote the use of SIOP strategies across the district. Finally, as an EL Teacher, Jane is often asked to provide support to elementary classrooms when there are staff absences. Her consistent willingness to fill in and ensure that students' learning is uninterrupted is further evidence of Jane's commitment to her work, students, and school community.

One of Jane's most admirable qualities is her dedication to creating a culturally proficient school environment. Jane prioritizes giving students equitable access to learning in a school free of discrimination, injustice, and cultural destructiveness. She advocates for English Learners and families, takes care that students see themselves in the curriculum, and holds high expectations for all. Jane encourages everyone to regard diverse life experiences and linguistic abilities as assets, not deficits.

I recommend Jane Beeninga without reservation. I feel confident she will demonstrate the dedication, capacity, enthusiasm, and advocacy that you are seeking for your organization.

Sincerely,

María B. Kreie Aragón
Coordinator of Multilingual Education