



# FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT 72

7040 Laramie Avenue – Skokie, IL. 60077 – (847) 929-1050 – Fax: (847) 929-1060

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June 22, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this recommendation on behalf of Dr. Joseph Porto. As Superintendent of Fairview School District 72, I have worked with Dr. Porto over the last year as he served as the facilitator of the District's Strategic Planning process. Throughout this process, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Porto one on one, in a small sub-committee and observed his work with the District's Strategic Planning Committee, which included thirty teachers, administrators, parents and school board members. In each setting, Dr. Porto did an excellent job!

At Fairview, a one school, K-8, highly multi-cultural school district, Dr. Porto did a fantastic job of bringing together a wide range of stakeholders with varied special interests. This was not the first Strategic Planning process that the District had undergone, and in comparison to the previous experience, Dr. Porto's philosophical perspective on planning was refreshing and fitting for our school district. All of the participants found the process to be a tremendously meaningful learning experience.

The basis for Dr. Porto's planning process is Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great*, which he was able to translate into an educational context that we could then apply to our school district. As the District moves forward, the plan has provided a wonderful springboard from which our future plans and goals will emerge.

I can highly recommend Dr. Porto and his process for Strategic Planning for a variety of reasons. Dr. Porto's grounded personality and strong interpersonal skills allow him to facilitate this type of process with ease. In addition, his knowledge and experience as a lifelong educator, provide him with a wealth of experiences to draw upon when problem solving with a group. Fairview District #72 couldn't be more pleased with the experience and the Strategic Plan that we will utilize for the next three years. I would be happy to answer any further questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me at 847/929-1050.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cindy Whittaker'.

Cindy Whittaker,  
Ed.D. Superintendent