



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

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Cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is without hesitation that I can highly recommend Dr. Joseph Porto as a facilitator for strategic planning. I am presently the President of the Board of Education for District 29 in Northfield, Illinois and had occasion to observe Dr. Porto “in action” as he served as the facilitator for our district’s strategic planning sessions. He did an outstanding job.

Even though we had never gone through the strategic planning process as a school district before, many of the participants, including me had gone through similar exercises in their other business or professional pursuits so we had some familiarity with the process. Among those people there was a consensus that Dr. Porto compared favorably with our previous experiences. Dr. Porto is a strong leader with a great deal of experience in this area and was an able guide throughout the sessions. He took the time to understand our district and did not just rely on the experiences of his own district.

Dr. Porto was especially good at translating the lessons from Jim Collins’ book *Good to Great* into an educational context that was meaningful for all involved. In the end we came up with an exciting strategic plan which was developed and accepted by all the stakeholders represented in the planning sessions. The plan has truly become a “living document” which has guided the decisions we have made since adopting it.

If you are considering a strategic planning process I would strongly recommend that you give Dr. Porto an opportunity to show you what he can do; we are certainly glad that we did.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Fischer

President, District 29 Board of Education