

500 N. O'Plaine Road • Gurnee, IL 60031 • 847-662-1400 34090 Almond Road • Gurnee, IL 60031 • 847-662-1400

November 22, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is written on behalf or Dr. Joseph Porto. Dr. Porto recently facilitated the strategic planning process for Warren Township High School District 121 in Gurnee Illinois. We are a comprehensive high school district with two buildings and a total enrollment of nearly 4500 students.

Writing letters of recommendation is a routine part of my job but from time to time, that task is one that I approach with a great deal of enthusiasm. This is just such a letter. The Board of Education of District 121 recently asked me to become the next Superintendent effective July 1 and as part of my transition to that important position, they directed me to lead the strategic planning process. As my first official act, you can understand that it was of critical importance to me that all went well. As a result, my team and I spent weeks recruiting and interviewing candidates and firms and finally settled on JMP and Dr. Joseph Porto. I am happy to report that as a new Superintendent, I could not have made a better first decision.

Aside from being highly organized and having a clear sense of purpose, Dr. Porto brought an enthusiasm and excitement to the process that was embraced by our entire 41 member planning team. His proven experience as a successful school leader and change agent made him a perfect fit for our district and our process. His Good to Great model is exceptional and will now anchor our already established continuous improvement model. As a result of his work and our process, Warren Township High School now has a truly meaningful and concise mission statement, a core set of beliefs that will ground our words and actions, and a clear and achievable set of goals and timelines. Best of all and because of Dr. Porto's Good to Great strategic planning model, we now also have a set of Greatness Indicators that we will use to define a three year process that will truly move Warren from good to great.

I have been involved in strategic planning before but this process exceeded all our expectations due largely to the efforts of Dr. Porto. Warren is already a better district because of his assistance and leadership and I know we will achieve even greater things because he guided us through the process of developing a vital, meaningful plan. I am completely confident that you will not be disappointed if you select him for your own strategic planning process and it is with great pleasure that I offer my most enthusiastic recommendation on his behalf.

Sincerely,

Principal,

Dr. Jeff Brierton

Warren Township High School-O'Plaine Campus



