



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Craig A. Kelley
City Councilor

March 2010

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I write on behalf of Principal Rebecca Vyduna. Sadly, Ms. Vyduna will be leaving the Baldwin School in Cambridge at the end of this school year as her husband takes a job in California. The Baldwin community is very sorry to lose someone who is fast becoming a friend as well as an educational leader and I encourage you to give her serious consideration for the position to which she is currently applying.

At age 47, I have spent the last 25 years as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, and environmental consultant and, for the past four years, a City Councilor in Cambridge, MA. My two boys, ages 10 and 12, attend the Maria L. Baldwin school where Ms. Vyduna is the Principal and I have had the pleasure of working with her both as part of the School Advisory Committee and as a run-of-the-mill parent. Everyday, Ms. Vyduna impresses me more as the sort of leader I wished I had worked with in the Marines, the type of customer I like to support as a consultant, the dedicated Principal every child should have and the educational visionary that would be a benefit to any school system.

From the start, Ms. Vyduna's ability to communicate complex issues to parents without overwhelming them with information has struck me as an important attribute. For example, when explaining why children shouldn't go to the playground before school, Ms. Vyduna might easily have said, "Because it's school policy," but instead she explained how the teachers' contract allows only certain extra duties be asked of them and that the complexities of the bargaining unit make pre-school playground supervision unfeasible. Similarly, when allocating School Improvement Funds and professional education dollars during a time of diminishing resources, Ms. Vyduna is able to explain the rational behind decisions that will have a huge impact on her students in a manner that makes the parents allies rather than antagonists in a zero sum game.

Ms. Vyduna's embracing of technology also sets her apart from many of her peers. Whether it is distributing electronic bulletins to keep the staff informed of important school events, creating on-line workflow procedures to help a five-story school run more smoothly or just responding to emails, Principal Vyduna understands technology's role in the modern educational workplace and has mastered its various applications. This technological mindset, coupled with a deeply humanistic approach to management, allows Ms. Vyduna to maximize not just her own efforts but those of the teachers and staff with whom she works as they sort

