

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

159 THORNDIKE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141



March 2, 2010

To Whom This May Concern:

It is a bittersweet experience to write this letter of reference and summary of performance reflections for Ms. Rebecca Vyduna, current principal of the Maria L. Baldwin Elementary School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is difficult to lose a person of her abilities and cooperative spirit, but it is nice to be able to acknowledge the work of a professional colleague.

As Interim Superintendent [2009] and in my present position as Deputy Superintendent, I have had numerous opportunities to collaborate with Rebecca regarding issues related to not only the daily operation/administration of an urban elementary school but also school-based/district-wide connections. Without a doubt, she is a gifted educator with a vision for the future who works tirelessly to advocate for all children in her care.

Rebecca's strengths are many. She is insightful, compassionate, proactive, articulate, energetic, organized and a strong problem solver. In what could be considered a relatively short period of time, her professional manner has allowed her to cultivate a wide range of relationships with students, faculty, families, community members, central office staff, and fellow principals across the district --- a skill critical to the successful navigation of the complex world of education.

Rebecca has served as a building-based administrator in Cambridge for two years.

In her capacity as principal she has been responsible for the overall operation of her school with a primary focus on the continuous improvement of the school's instructional program and increased academic outcomes for all students.

In addition, as a principal in Cambridge, Rebecca has been expected to meet an array of indicators under the umbrella of five standards of personal performance. The standards are designed to ensure that school programs, procedures, and practices foster positive change as identified within both the School-based and District-wide Improvement Plans. The categories are as follows:

1. Planning & Assessment
2. Instructional Leadership
3. Safety & Organizational Management
4. Communication & Community Relations
5. Professionalism

Based on Rebecca's tenure in the Cambridge Public Schools, I can say with confidence that she meets and/or exceeds all indicators in each stated evaluation category.

In summary, I hold Rebecca Vyduna in the highest professional regard. She is an extremely competent, dedicated educator who knows the business of education well, is conversant with new developments and current trends, and is well grounded in the research that affects her work. I believe her high personal standards, expertise as a public school educator and professional manner will make her an asset to any position she pursues and wish her good luck in her educational journey.

Should you have need for further comment, please do not hesitate to contact me either at work [617-349-6419] or at home [617-968-6131].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn L. Turk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carolyn L. Turk, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Teaching & Learning