

April 10, 2018

Mr. Phillip Virden, Board President

Hinsdale County School District RE-1

Lake City Community School, PO Box 39, 614 N. Silver St, Lake City, CO 81235

Dear Mr. Virden and Selection Committee Members:

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as the next interim Superintendent of the Hinsdale RE-1 School District. I have lived in southwest Colorado for the past 15 years, and I am committed to the Western Slope. I have visited Lake City, and I am very interested in assisting your school community transition to a new Superintendent. As I research the Hinsdale School District, I am intrigued and excited by the high level of community involvement, academic standards, student achievement, and the individual attention that the staff provides to the students and families in the district. I would look forward to working with the community, faculty, staff and students of the Hinsdale RE-1 School District and continue this successful trajectory.

I have 29 years of experience in the field of education and 20 years of school administrative experience. I have worked at all levels in PK-12 administration, including as a middle school assistant principal (5yrs), high school assistant principal (6yrs) an elementary school principal (6yrs) and as a K-8 principal (2yrs). I have one year of experience working part-time in the Durango Central Office and serving as a principal for a homeschool/shared school program. I have also served as a board member at the state level as the Region 4 Director of the Colorado Association of Elementary School Principals (CAESP). In 2014, I was elected to serve as the President of the CAESP Board. My resume will show my involvement at the district and school level along with my recently acquired administrative certification. Two years ago I was one of four finalists for the Montezuma-Cortez superintendent position. I believe the experiences I have gained from the school, district, and state level have truly prepared me to be a successful interim superintendent of the Hinsdale RE-1 School District.

Living in rural Southwest Colorado has helped me to gain a full understanding of the opportunities and challenges related to educating students in rural Colorado. Some of those challenges include declining state funding and teacher retention. I feel very strongly that as we move forward in

our efforts to improve our schools, we will work on implementing programs that will help us to retain our staff. The lack of adequate state funding is a major concern for everyone involved in education. As a board member of CAESP, I have had many opportunities to lobby for educational changes at the state level. I would like to use my experience to advocate for the school district at the state level so we may work with state legislators who have the power to make changes with how our schools funded.

I believe in order for children to succeed, they must have a sense of belonging, a purpose and be appropriately challenged. Students need to connect to others in their school and feel a sense of community with their surroundings. This connection helps them to understand how the world around them works and why it is important to do good works for others. Being connected to the students and staff is something I enjoy. I believe I will continue to model this as I visit schools and participate in various school activities.

As a school administrator, I have always prided myself in creating professional development opportunities for the teachers at my schools. I have helped my teachers learn how to use their student data to evaluate their programs and improve instructional practices. Understanding student data is one of my strengths and I have utilized Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to review student data and develop learning plans in all of the schools I have worked in. I also initiated book studies to help teach instructional practices that addressed student learning styles, writing programs, and reflective teaching practices. I strongly believe in providing opportunities for every member of our school community to participate in professional development activities so they may learn and grow. In my work with CAESP, I created and helped develop professional development opportunities for principals and administrators around our state.

I feel that I have the qualifications and experience needed to be an effective interim Superintendent of the Hinsdale RE-1 School District. I also have the desire, determination and drive that are required to ensure that all of our students learn what they need to know to be successful graduates who are ready for the 21st century workforce. I am committed to helping all of our students succeed and I truly look forward to the opportunity to work with, and lead, the Lake City students, staff, and community into the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. John J. Marchino Jr.