

January 29, 2020

Dear Flagler County School Board Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Colleen Conklin, a candidate for Superintendent of Schools.

I had the pleasure of serving on your board for eight years with Colleen. During those years we had many difficult issues to deal with from students misbehaving, staff issues, money troubles, rezoning, as well as building new schools. This is just to mention a few. Although we didn't always agree with each other all the time, we were always able to come to an agreement or simply vote the other way.

The strengths I remember most about Colleen was that she was true to her convictions. Her strongest characteristic is that she always fights for what is best for the students and staff. She has demonstrated this many, many times by serving on the DOE committees as well as traveling to Washington to do as much as she can do to help the entire system. She has also been an advocate for the non-instructional personnel just as strongly as she is for the teachers.

Colleen has many times been very frustrated, just as I was, that there were great ideas out there that could bring the joy back into teaching but there were always roadblocks in the way. She is one person that I am absolutely sure she would fight with every breath she has to remove those roadblocks . I know that she will lobby Tallahassee and Washington to revamp this testing of students so that teachers can teach, be creative and begin to enjoy their career again. We all know how persistent she can be when she wants to do something that will be better for the system.

Another area that I know Colleen is passionate about is those staff members that no longer have the fire in their belly for teaching and are not being creative as they could be. As a result, they fail to have the patience to go that extra mile for those students that need their help the most. I believe she would do whatever is necessary to get that fire. She truly believes that everything we do has to be so the students succeed.

Flagler County School System is an awesome school system with many innovative programs going on that are reaching students that could very easily be left behind. Colleen has many ideas up her sleeves that could help

bring those students to feel like school is for them as well as the future college students.

The last area I will mention is the safety of our students. I know that is on the minds of everyone these days. She will work with local agencies as well or state agencies to help keep the students, staff and schools safe.

The bottom line is that I think Colleen would be a great Superintendent for Flagler County School District. If I had any reservations at all, I would not be writing this letter on her behalf. Therefore, if I can be of any further service to you as you make this decision, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn Shellenberger
Former Board Member
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