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To Whom It May Concern:

Teresa Rizzo is a compassionate educator and community leader and it is my honor to provide a letter of recommendation on her behalf for the position of Executive Director of the Flagler County Education Foundation. I have had the privilege of working with Teresa over the past 12 years as her colleague, supervisor and as a parent with a child in her kindergarten and first grade class. It has been a joy to watch Teresa grow as a leader in her schools where she led standards based planning and its implementation, as a Media Specialist where she created a media center that became the center of instruction in the school, and now as a State Regional Literacy Director where she has engaged school districts throughout the state of Florida by building relationships and engaging in their respective communities.

Teresa's success in every aspect of her career is in her ability to build relationships. Whether it has been motivating five and six year olds to become readers, coaching teachers to implement best practices of teaching, or assisting school districts in professionally growing their district staff, Teresa understands how to build a relationship of trust and compassion that motivates each and every person she works with to "buy in" and become successful. Teresa will use these same characteristics as the Executive Director to build on her already strong ties to the Flagler community and continue the success of the Education Foundation.

Mrs. Rizzo has a great depth of organizational and institutional knowledge of both Flagler County Schools and The Flagler Education Foundation. The knowledge of both organizations as well as her already developed community and district relationships will provide her the opportunity to make an immediate impact on both organization from the day she steps into the Executive Director position.

Teresa has qualities you will not find in other applicants for this position, all that will develop and grow the Flagler Education Foundation. However, above all these qualities, her passion for Flagler Schools and the Education Foundation stands above it all. I have been blessed to work with Teresa Rizzo and witness first-hand this passion and an unmatched work ethic all based out of her love for Flagler County and Flagler Schools.

I am excited to see Mrs. Rizzo take this next step in her career, but even more excited for the school district, community and students she will without a doubt impact. I recommend her without reservation and am available to speak to a deeper level at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dustin Sims

Dustin Sims
Florida Department of Education
Regional Executive Director of School Improvement

JACOB OLIVA
SENIOR CHANCELLOR