

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development

Office of the Commissioner

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September 30, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Matt LeGassick since 1996, and between the years of 1997 and 2003, I was principal at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School where I was his supervisor for four of those years. During two of the years while I was principal at Dzantik'i Heeni, Mr. LeGassick was an exchange teacher in Japan. I knew Mr. LeGassick mostly as a strong teacher, but recognized during that time his administrative skills and abilities, and fully supported his desire to move into the administrative role in the Juneau School District. As a teacher in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, he exemplified what a good instructional program looks like: active engagement, high expectations, meaningful instruction, and hands on learning. Mr. LeGassick's instructional experience as a teacher will provide him the necessary tools for developing shared instructional leadership with the teachers in a school.

Mr. LeGassick is organized and able to work with the multiple tasks placed before an administrator, and particularly an assistant principal's role, which requires instructional leadership, facilities management, activities supervision and student discipline. Because of his organizational skills, the management will become second hand, and his knowledge about good instruction will allow him to become an instructional school leader. A good teacher, who is well organized, can become an excellent school administrator who focuses on improving student learning. Mr. LeGassick's experience working with standards based instruction in mathematics, facilitating instruction of students deeply engaged in complex learning of algebra and geometry, and engaging in science experiments that involve community provides him an excellent instructional leadership foundation.

Mr. LeGassick's high academic expectations of students, and his desire to work with all kids were evident when I observed him in his classroom. High expectations of students are key to success as an administrator, not only for the student, but to convey to staff the importance of maintaining high expectations for each child. Mr. LeGassick was a natural leader with his peers, looking for creative solutions to issues and problems, and taking the lead in setting up projects and community contacts. He has taken the lead on technology as a teacher, and therefore will be able to lead staff not only in appropriate management of technology, but also in guiding staff in the use of instructional technology. Mr. LeGassick has a plethora of talents and skills he has developed that are key to success as a school administrator.

Mr. LeGassick's background as a teacher provides an excellent knowledge base for working with teachers, classified staff, parents and students in multiple school settings. Additionally, his

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experiences working with students from different cultural backgrounds, working in summer instructional camps, serving as a leader on committees will enhance his skills to be a successful school leader. It is a pleasure to recommend Matt LeGassick to serve a teacher or school leader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Les Morse".

Les Morse
Deputy Commissioner