



June 26, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Steve Colvin who has been a teacher at Maple Leaf International School - Dalian from August 2008 to present. MLIS-D is an international school in northern China serving a predominantly Chinese student body. We have been accredited by the British Columbia Ministry of Education to June 2022 and are currently accredited by Cognia with UK-ENIC benchmarking our new curriculum. During his time with us, Steve has taught English Language Arts grades 10 - 12.

Steve is a masterful teacher with deep content knowledge and a passion for his subject area. He plans thoroughly to meet the needs of all his students while holding them all to high standards and expecting them to give their best. Steve works hard to get his students to actively engage with the content and skills that they are learning both in and out of the classroom. When studying the novel, *Lord of the Flies*, Steve brings props such as a conch shell into the classroom to help students connect to the characters and their experiences. Last year, when teaching a unit on activism, Steve supported his students in their wish to be active in their community. He went to the trouble of arranging field trips for each class to go to the local beach to pick up trash.

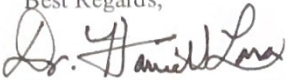
Steve is also a strong mentor and partner for his colleagues in our school. As an international school, we often have new teachers that are fresh out of the university and living abroad for the first time. Steve is always willing to share his resources and insights with these young teachers and support them in their growth. This May and June, he served as a mentor to a student teacher from the University of Technology - Sydney, Australia's teacher training program who had practicum placements at our school. Steve participates actively in cross-grading and marking calibration in his department on a regular basis.

Steve maintains a strong, collaborative relationship with our Success Room that supports students who are struggling in their studies. He communicates clearly with them on the needs of

his students who are being served by the SR and often pops in on his own time to support students in the SR. He engages actively in all professional development opportunities at our school and is continually, independently researching and applying best practices in teaching English. Steve is a staff member whose opinion I highly value. I look to him to ask great questions when we are discussing new policies or procedures to improve our school - he is able to help anticipate and avoid potential problems and facilitate a smoother implementation.

I can wholeheartedly recommend Steve Colvin for any position that he may apply for. His work ethic, knowledge, experience, and passion will always push him to excel. He consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty in our school and would be an asset to anyone lucky enough to hire him. If you need any further information, please contact me at Harriettlara@mapleleafedu.com.

Best Regards,



Harriett Lara, EdD

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