
1A

Action

Ad Hoc Committee

Interview and Selection of Members for the Committee of Credentials

AGENDA INSERT

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides information about the selection process for the appointment of one Elementary Teacher to serve on the Committee of Credentials (COC) and the selection of possible alternates.

Recommended Action: To recommend to the Commission the appointment of one Elementary Teacher to the COC, and the recommendation of possible alternates.

Presenter: Nanette F. Rufo, Director, Division of Professional Practices

Strategic Plan Goal

I. Educator Quality

- ◆ Effectively, efficiently, and fairly monitor the fitness of all applicants and credential holders to work with California students.

Interview and Selection of Members for the Committee of Credentials

Addition

Attached is the interview schedule and additional applications for interview and selection of the Elementary Teacher Member on the Committee of Credentials.



**ELEMENTARY TEACHER MEMBER VACANCY
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

October 8, 2014

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 3:00 p.m. | Lisa Erixon |
| 3:20 p.m. | Heidi Chipman |
| 3:40 p.m. | Mario Moya |
| 4:00 p.m. | Mandy Redfern |
| 4:20 p.m. | Dana Morelini |

Mario Moya



**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS
OF THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

A. IDENTIFICATION:

1. Name MOYA MARIO
Last First Middle

2. Address [REDACTED]
Number Street

City LOS ANGELES Zip Code 90039

3. Business Phone: [REDACTED] Home Phone: [REDACTED]

4. E-Mail Address [REDACTED]

B. CATEGORY OF APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

Elementary Teacher. Must be a full-time certified classroom teacher in the public elementary schools with not less than five years of classroom experience.

C. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

High School Graduate Yes No

Passed High School Equivalency Tests Yes No

| 1. Name and Location of College or Univ. | Course of Study | Completed Semester | Degree | Date Completed |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------|------|--------|
| CSU, LOS ANGELES | ENGLISH MAJOR | Quarter | B.A. | 6/1998 |
| CSU, LOS ANGELES | READING INSTRUCTION | | M.A. | 6/2003 |
| CSU, LOS ANGELES | EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION | | M.A. | 6/2000 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| CSU, LOS ANGELES | Ed.D. in Educational Leadership | | Doctoral candidate | expected 11/14 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|

2. Business, Correspondence, Trade, or Service Schools Course of Study

Allesandro Elementary School (1998 - present)

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2210 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

LOS ANGELES, CA 90039

3. Currently valid certificates of professional or vocational competence, licenses, and expiration dates.

Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential 2/2017

4. Membership in professional associations. Please include dates of membership.

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION 2011-present

5. Evidence of recent educational involvement, i.e., committees/commissions. Please include dates of membership.

Allesandro School Site Council Member 2010-present
United Teacher Los Angeles Chapter Chair for Allesandro ES 2011-present
LAUSD Common Core Mathematics Fellow (Facilitated District PD) 2012-2013
LAUSD BTSA Support Provider 2008-2009
Teacher Supervisor of Multiple Subject Student Teacher 2007-2008
Leader Teacher at School Site for District's Teacher Evaluation Program (2011)

D. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: (Teacher Growth & Development Cycle) 2013-present

Please summarize your accomplishments and involvement in community service which you believe would contribute to your value as a member of the Committee of Credentials:

I have been an active community leader and volunteer at my school. In 2000, I received awards from the City of Los Angeles and the State of California for my volunteer work. From 2003-2007, I served two terms in a community Neighborhood Council in Los Angeles. Currently, I am a member in my school's Site Council and facilitate parent workshops.

E. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

The work of the Committee of Credentials requires sensitivity to or experience with community standards of behavior as applied to certificated persons. It also requires an ability to analyze evidence as it relates to such behavior and the circumstances and conditions under which certificated persons are employed. What skills/experiences do you have that will assist the work of the Committee?

As a teacher leader, I have firsthand knowledge of classroom and school issues. I also have the academic background as a doctoral candidate, to critically analyze data from multiple perspectives. I have experience collaborating and supporting teachers at different stages of their careers: pre-service and induction BSA programs: facilitating Common Core professional development workshops.

F. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR?

Yes No

(If yes, attach explanation)

G. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All applicants must provide at least two (2) letters of recommendation. These letters must be submitted with your application.

VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and correct. I understand that if I am selected for appointment I must execute an Oath of Office and abide by the laws and rules applicable to officers of the State of California.

Mavis Moye
Signature

9/23/14
Date

You may attach a resumé and other materials you wish the Commission to consider.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Allesandro Elementary School
2210 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039
Phone: (323) 666-7162 FAX: (323) 669-8096

DR. JOHN DEASY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ROBERTO A. MARTINEZ
INSTRUCIONAL AREA SUPERINTENDENT

LYNN ANDREWS
PRINCIPAL
MATEO MARQUEZ
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
VERONICA ESTRADA
MAGNET COORDINATOR

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to recommend Mario Moya to serve on The Commission on Teacher Credentialing as Elementary Teacher member. As Principal of Allesandro Elementary School, I have had ample opportunity to observe and evaluate Mario's teaching competency, professional growth, and leadership potential.

Mario is completing his 17th year as a teacher at Allesandro. Mario has consistently received high marks in his teacher evaluations and classroom observations. Mario has developed into an accomplished teacher by continually working to improve his capacity as a teacher. Mario's dedication for the profession is reflected in his desire to provide learning opportunities for his students. He also collaborates with his colleagues in planning and implementing lessons.

Mario is an active contributing member of the community surrounding Allesandro ES. He is involved in social justice activities. For example, he co-facilitates a college awareness program for 5th grade students and their parents. Mario also serves as a volunteer at Elysian Valley United, a community-based services organization.

Based on the experiences listed above, it is my opinion that Mario is a very talented, hard working and responsible teacher.

On a personal level, it should be noted that Mario is an extremely congenial, affable and personal individual. He is highly esteemed by the entire school community.

For the reason outlined above, I have no hesitation in strongly recommending Mario Moya as a member of The Commission on Teacher Credentialing. He exemplifies the work ethic and commitment to excellence that would assist the work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Andrews".

Lynn Andrews
Principal of Allesandro Elementary School

Los Angeles Unified School District
Central High School/Tri-C
Elysian Valley Branch
2812 Newell Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039
(323)666-9239

September 23, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am privileged to write in support of Mario Moya. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Moya in a variety of educational and community projects for the past 18 years.

Mr. Moya began his teaching career in the same elementary school he attended as a young child. He is very active in bringing additional resources to his students, school, and community. He participates in his school as the Chapter Chair union representative, as a teacher representative in the School Site Council, and as a community advocate in the local Neighborhood Council.

He is an avid life-long learner. This is evident by his ability to use research-based strategies in his classroom and collaborating with his peers implement sound instructional practices that will be the most beneficial for the students.

He has been a Master Teacher numerous times to student teachers from various colleges. He is committed to ensuring that they develop the discipline, commitment, and drive that the teaching profession requires. He provides the guidance and support they need to meet the challenges they will encounter when they have their own classrooms. These experiences with student teachers and his work as a Support Provider for new teachers, led Mr. Moya to make this the focus of his doctoral dissertation,

As a fellow teacher, I recommend Mr. Moya for the Committee of Credentials. He has the dedication and passion that keeps our teaching profession moving forward. I truly believe he would be an excellent candidate.

Sincerely,



Gloria Vargas
Central High School Teacher
National Board Certified

Mandy Redfern

3. Currently valid certificates of professional or vocational competence, licenses, and expiration dates.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Multiple Subject Teaching Credential- Clear | Expires June 1, 2016 |
| Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development Certificate | Does not expire |
| | |
| | |
| | |

4. Membership in professional associations. Please include dates of membership.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| California Teachers Association | Fall 2000-present |
| National Education Association | Fall 2000-present |
| Delta Kappa Gamma | Spring 2007-present |
| American Education Research Association | Fall 2011-present |
| | |

5. Evidence of recent educational involvement, i.e., committees/commissions. Please include dates of membership.

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Study presentation, American Education Research Association | April 2012 |
| Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment, Consulting Teacher | 2012-2013 |
| State Legislation Subcommittee, California Teachers Association | 2006-present |
| State Council, California Teachers Association | 2005-present |
| President, La Canada Teachers Association | 2003-2007 and 2010-present |
| Commission on Professional Competence, Panelist | 2007-present |

D. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

Please summarize your accomplishments and involvement in community service which you believe would contribute to your value as a member of the Committee of Credentials:

I began working in public education in 2000 and immediately fell in love with all aspects of educating students. Initially I worked with my grade level team to develop strong lessons and then began expanding my role as a leader within my school and my community. I now enjoy the opportunity to work closely with teachers, administrators and parents to ensure that we provide the best possible education for our students. I have taken on leadership roles at the state level through the California Teachers Association, working with professors to write TPA Task 1 for beginning teachers, embarking on my own journey to earn my doctorate degree, working with new teachers through the BTSA program and joining together with other members of Delta Kappa Gamma to reward promising teacher candidates with scholarships. I am committed to the success of our schools and believe strongly that it is my responsibility to provide support whenever possible.

E. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

The work of the Committee of Credentials requires sensitivity to or experience with community standards of behavior as applied to certificated persons. It also requires an ability to analyze evidence as it relates to such behavior and the circumstances and conditions under which certificated persons are employed. What skills/experiences do you have that will assist the work of the Committee?

I initially was surprised when my colleagues asked me to become the President of my local teachers association. I
quickly fell in love with the opportunity to assist colleagues and help assist the school district in meeting our many
goals for students. I find that this partnership has been instrumental as we face the many challenges in front of schools
today including the integration of technology into our classrooms, providing differentiated instruction to meet the
many learning needs of our students and the implementation of the state common core standards. I work closely
and confidentially with teachers as I represent them and help them to resolve any issues in order to ensure that our
students have the best possible education. I sincerely believe that when we all work together we are able to create
and develop a stronger public education.

F. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR?

Yes No

(If yes, attach explanation)

G. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All applicants must provide at least two (2) letters of recommendation. These letters must be submitted with your application.

VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and correct. I understand that if I am selected for appointment I must execute an Oath of Office and abide by the laws and rules applicable to officers of the State of California.

Mandy Redfern
Signature

9/23/14
Date

You may attach a resumé and other materials you wish the Commission to consider.

La Cañada Unified School District

...a learning community committed to personal growth
and academic excellence

Wendy K. Sinnette
Superintendent

Anais Wenn
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

Patricia S. Hager
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources

Mark Evans
Chief Business &
Operations Officer

September 23, 2014

Dear Commission on Teacher Credentialing,

It is with whole-hearted enthusiasm that I submit this letter of recommendation for Ms. Mandy Redfern who is applying with you to serve in the Elementary Teacher position on the Committee of Credentials. I have worked with Mandy since 2002 in a variety of capacities. Our closest work together began when I became the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources in 2008 and Mandy served on the La Canada Teachers' Association bargaining team. Our collegial relationship developed even further when she became the Association's President and I the District's Superintendent. I hold Mandy in the highest regard. She is an exceptional educator whose outstanding pedagogy is matched only by her impeccable knowledge of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, our district's collective bargaining agreement (and Education Code in general), her grade level content standards, and – most importantly – her dedication and commitment to students.

In her role as President of the La Canada Teachers' Association, Mandy is an advocate for her certificated colleagues. However, she undertakes that advocacy role judiciously, fairly, reasonably and intentionally. When she and I discuss issues where the District and the Association may have different interests or perspectives, the greatest degree of mutual respect and cooperation accompanies those interactions. Mandy is intelligent and insightful. She is a resourceful problem-solver. She is sensitive to competing needs and interests and capable of exercising solid judgment and making difficult decisions. Mandy is a teacher-leader of the highest caliber.

Additionally, I have always been impressed by Mandy's work ethic. In addition to her full-time teaching assignment and leadership role with LCTA, she is currently completing her doctoral work. The level of her scholarship speaks to her exceptional abilities to communicate, use spoken and written language effectively, and engage in higher order reflective and analytic work. She balances her significant professional work load with grace, compassion, confidence and humility – emphasizing that beyond being a highly valued colleague and teacher, she is a remarkable person.

Without bias, I do not think you could fill this position with a more qualified individual. I can confidently attest that her attributes as a candidate exceed all of the requirements and selection criteria put forward by the Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Wendy K. Sinnette
Superintendent

Wendy K. Sinnette
Superintendent

Anais Wenn
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

La Cañada Unified School District
...a learning community committed to personal growth and
academic excellence

Patricia S. Hager
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources

Mark Evans
Chief Business and
Operations Officer

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Division of Professional Practices

1900 Capitol Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95811-4213

September 23, 2014

RE: Letter of Recommendation – Mandy Redfern

Mandy Redfern has served as an elementary teacher at La Canada Elementary School in the La Canada Unified School District since 2001. She holds a California Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential that is current until 6/1/2016. Mandy is in the process of completing a doctoral program through Claremont Graduate University with the focus on Teaching and Learning.

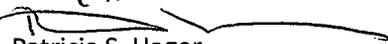
I have worked closely with Mandy Redfern for four years because she has served as the President for the La Canada Teachers Association and I am the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources for LCUSD. We quickly developed an extremely positive, professional, genuine working relationship based on mutual respect, honesty, and integrity; with a consistent focus on student achievement and teacher support.

Our negotiations incorporate the principles of Interest Based Bargaining, and we embrace the values/norms associated with IBB because it allows both teams an equal voice at the negotiations table. We believe in transparency, we encourage open minded dialogue, we appreciate creative problem solving, and we also understand the importance of accountability. Mandy is an excellent role model for her colleagues and coworkers because she maintains a high level of polished professionalism in her daily conduct, communications, and interactions with children and the community.

In my experiences with Mandy, she has always been reasonable, practical, flexible, personable, persuasive, and responsible. Mandy is extremely intelligent, but also exercises common sense. She is very good at patiently narrowing down an issue, researching relevant information regarding an issue, objectively analyzing the information gathered, and appropriately using data to draw conclusions and in decision making. Due process and individual rights are important to Mandy and is very good about keeping all of us on task when it comes to process and policy.

Over the past four years, Mandy and I have dealt with five serious situations involving LCTA members who were suspected of engaging in questionable conduct. Throughout each, we have both upheld confidentiality and we have maintained our respective roles, but have also managed to navigate through each situation cooperatively, even when employee discipline has resulted. She is an advocate for educators but is also intolerant of teacher misconduct proven with clear evidence. Given these qualities, I am confident that Mandy Redfern would be a valuable asset to the Committee of Credentials.

Sincerely,


Patricia S. Hager

4490 Cornishon Avenue, La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011 Phone: (818) 952-8300 Fax: (818) 952-8331

La Cañada Unified School District

...a learning community committed to personal growth
and academic excellence

Wendy K. Sinnette
Superintendent

Anaïs Wenn
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

Patricia S. Hager
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources

Mark Evans
Chief Business &
Operations Officer

September 23, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Mandy Redfern. I have had the privilege of working with Mandy for nine years. She has been doing an outstanding job both as a Kindergarten teacher and La Canada Teachers' Association President. I continue to work with her as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and benefit from her sound judgment and recommendations which I use often to support our teachers in their challenging work. Mandy's fair and impartial attitude, superb communication skills and outstanding character make her one of the key people in the district.

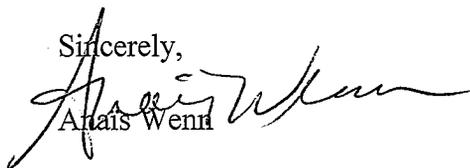
Mandy's enthusiasm and love for teaching is apparent in her daily interactions with students. Her curricular knowledge combined with her love for students is admirable. Her kindergarteners enjoy coming to school because she makes learning fun, interesting, and interactive. Difficult math and science concepts come alive in her classroom as students interact with each other through meaningful structured talk and participate in hands on activities. Open ended questioning strategies and critical thinking skills are part of every lesson. Through the use of technology, she inspires her students and motivates them to learn and encourages them to be the best they can be.

In addition to her superior teaching skills, Mandy is a strong leader. She coordinates the collaboration work for her grade level and guides her team as they design instructional materials, share teaching strategies and implement new Common Core aligned assessments. Mandy establishes and maintains cooperative working relationships not only with her grade level colleagues but all LCUSD teachers. She serves on several site and district level committees and generously shares her knowledge with others.

Though she full heartedly supports her colleagues, when discussing inappropriate conduct of a teacher with administration, she demonstrates sound judgment in analyzing the misconduct and proposing fair solutions. Mandy is also highly confidential when it comes to sensitive topics associated with employee discipline and exercises utmost professionalism in every case.

I highly recommend Mandy Redfern for the Elementary Teacher position on the Committee of Credentials. Any employer will be fortunate to have such an exemplary professional on their team.

Sincerely,


Anaïs Wenn

Dana Morelini



**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS
OF THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

A. IDENTIFICATION:

1. Name Morelini Dana Joyce
Last First Middle

2. Address [REDACTED]
Number Street

City Sebastopol Zip Code 95472

3. Business Phone [REDACTED] Home Phone [REDACTED]

4. E-Mail Address [REDACTED]

B. CATEGORY OF APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

Elementary Teacher. Must be a full-time certified classroom teacher in the public elementary schools with not less than five years of classroom experience.

C. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

High School Graduate Yes No

Passed High School Equivalency Tests Yes No

| 1. Name and Location of College or Univ. | Course of Study | Completed | | Degree | Date Completed |
|--|-----------------|-----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| | | Semester | Quarter | | |
| San Jose State Univ. | RTVF | | | BA | 1992 |
| Sonoma State Univ | Teaching cred. | | | | 1999 |
| Empire College, Santa Rosa CA | | | | MLS | 2014 |
| Empire College, Santa Rosa CA | | | | J.D. | (2015) |
| 2. Business, Correspondence, Trade, or Service Schools Course of Study | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |

3. Currently valid certificates of professional or vocational competence, licenses, and expiration dates.

CA multiple subject teaching credential (renew '16)

4. Membership in professional associations. Please include dates of membership.

Petaluma Federation of Teachers (PFT) local 1881 (2001-)

CA Bar Assoc. (2012-)

5. Evidence of recent educational involvement, i.e., committees/commissions. Please include dates of membership.

McNear Elementary, School Site Council (2012-14)

D. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

Please summarize your accomplishments and involvement in community service which you believe would contribute to your value as a member of the Committee of Credentials:

Governor's Teaching Fellow 2000-2004; I was committed to finding the best practices for at-risk children in my community.

Small claims legal clinic, Sonoma Co - Assisted general public w/ their small claims complaints.

E. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

The work of the Committee of Credentials requires sensitivity to or experience with community standards of behavior as applied to certificated persons. It also requires an ability to analyze evidence as it relates to such behavior and the circumstances and conditions under which certificated persons are employed. What skills/experiences do you have that will assist the work of the Committee?

Executive Council Member - PFT local 1881, 2003-08

Elder Law Clinic - with the supervision of an attorney, I assisted seniors w/ a variety of legal issues. I feel that I can balance 'practical/analytical' w/ compassion very well.

F. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR?

Yes No

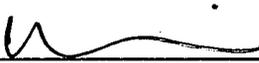
(If yes, attach explanation)

*** G. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

All applicants must provide at least two (2) letters of recommendation. These letters must be submitted with your application.

VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and correct. I understand that if I am selected for appointment I must execute an Oath of Office and abide by the laws and rules applicable to officers of the State of California.

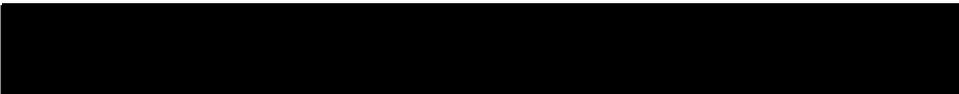

Signature

9/24/14
Date

You may attach a resumé and other materials you wish the Commission to consider.

* Due to time constraints, the 2 letters are nearly a year old. However, the authors are aware that I have used them as references.

DANAMORELINI



EDUCATION

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Empire College-School of Law, Santa Rosa CA Juris Doctor | in progress |
| Empire College-School of Law, Santa Rosa CA MLS, Masters of Legal Studies | 2014 |
| Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park CA Multiple Subject Teaching Credential | 1999 |
| San Jose State University, San Jose CA BA Radio, Television and Film | 1992 |
| Minor: Photography | |

AWARDS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Governor's Teaching Fellow <i>Governor Gray Davis</i> | 2000 – 2004 |
|--|--------------------|

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| McNear Elementary School, Petaluma CA Primary Teacher | 2007- current |
| McKinley Elementary, Petaluma CA Primary Teacher | 2001-2006 |
| Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa CA Adjunct Faculty- Aquatics | 2000-2002 |

RELATED EXPERIENCE

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Petaluma Federation of Teachers Local 1881 Site Representative | 2003 – 2008 |
|--|--------------------|

Oct. 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to be able to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Dana Morelini to pursue her professional interest toward a greater political effectiveness and career through the Emerge Program. In her time and as a public school teacher of young children in Petaluma Dana has stood out as a champion of child and community health, vitality, equality, and improvement. Dana has gone the distance to insure that individuals, families, the school, the Petaluma School District, the city, and the state are doing all that they can do to improve our society, particularly in the areas of education, civil rights, gender and race equality, and the environment.

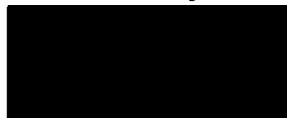
The opportunity to work with Dana as a colleague at a former elementary school was a rare treat of professional excellence for me and the community. I witnessed her very personal encounters and successes with families and students as well as her engagement at the other political levels to make a difference. This often involved the school's leadership and district's administration, but her commitment also went through all the necessary political hierarchy, from attending a Senator Huffman's education forums in Novato, to speaking to the California State Legislature in behalf of California students and teachers to end 2nd Grade high stakes testing. Dana has taken 'walking the talk' to heights that very few education leaders ever do, let alone teachers. I am excited by this new prospect of gaining an effective training program for her further political successes.

The work that Dana has done on the behalf of individuals and our society has not been an easy road. It has taken personal sacrifices, and sometimes even unpopular stances against those in positions to make the greater changes. Regardless of all the difficulties of taking on the mantle of political action, Dana has been gifted a resiliency and a perseverance that has kept her in pursuit of betterment for all.

This opportunity to recommend her for a political training program and an induction into the Emerge Program could not come at a better time for Dana or our societal need. Dana has nearly completed her law degree while teaching part-time and will be ready to launch herself in a new professional direction when she chooses and when she is best prepared through programs with your record. The Emerge Program will serve as such a worthy support, training, and partnering experience for Dana to pursue her future political career. I give my highest recommendations for accepting Ms. Dana Morelini into the Emerge Program. Please don't hesitate to contact me for questions or further information regarding Ms. Morelini.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Emery
Elementary Teacher
Petaluma City Schools



10/2/13

To: Emerge California
From: Gary Ravani, President, Early Childhood/K-12 Council of the California Federation of Teachers
Re: Ms. Dana Morelini and the Emerge Training Program

I am Gary Ravani and I was president of the Petaluma Federation of Teachers (PFT) for nineteen years. I am currently an executive officer (President, Early Childhood/K-12 Council) with the California Federation of Teachers.

During my time as president of the teachers' bargaining unit in the Petaluma School Districts, I had the great pleasure to work with Ms. Dana Morelini as she served for many years as a Site Representative and served on the PFT Executive Council.

During those years Ms. Morelini demonstrated consistent leadership ability at both her school and in the district. She was always a champion of children's rights and supported best practices and research based instructional methodology.

It should also be mentioned that Ms. Morelini had a particular focus on Petaluma's growing population of English Language Learners and was a strong advocate that the voices of the parents in the second language community be heard.

All of this leadership took place in the context of California's, always turbulent, school funding situation. Ms. Morelini demonstrated over and over that could act as an articulate liaison between the classroom teachers, the union Executive Council, and the school district.

After I retired from the classroom and my position at the local level I moved into the politics and policy arena at the state government level.

Again, at this new level, Ms. Morelini has proven to be a valuable partner in advocating for the schools and children. On two occasions I asked Ms. Morelini to come to the state capital to testify as a classroom instructional expert on the, always controversial, issue of student testing. During testimony she was a forceful and articulate spokesperson. She argued for the elimination of instructionally and developmentally inappropriate standardized testing being imposed on second graders. It should be mentioned that recent legislation now signed by the Governor has, indeed, eliminated second grade testing.

Education is a profession dominated by women at the grassroots level and yet, at the political level, the education policy narrative has relatively few women. It is far past time when this situation should be remedied with new voices and new viewpoints.

Ms. Dana Morelini has demonstrated time and time again that she possesses the skill sets and moral commitment to represent and articulate new and progressive perspectives in the political arena.

I highly recommend that Ms. Dana Morelini be accepted into the Emerge Training program for Democratic women.