



**Richard M. Machesky, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Troy Union Elementary School**

1340 East Square Lake Road  
Troy, Michigan 48085

**Michael J. Cottone**

Principal  
Phone: 248.823.3100

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am very pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Nick Fisette. Nick was the Troy Union Building Guest Teacher and promoted to Long Term Fourth-Grade Guest Teacher during the 2021-2022 school year. As a fourth-grade teacher Nick created a welcoming, nurturing, and engaging learning environment. The success of his students was always a top priority, and he handled ALL challenges with a high level of care and professionalism. Over the course of the school year, Nick nurtured thinking and learning in his classroom. He challenged his students to be active participants while being reflective on their own learning process. Nick's students flourished both academically and socially each day. He consistently lifted his peers and students up during traumatic events like the pandemic and a local school shooting which impacted the social-emotional well-being of the community.

Nick quickly developed a positive rapport with the entire Troy Union Elementary School community. He was very patient and promoted open lines of communication in and out of the classroom. Nick showed great respect for all students and his high expectations encouraged them to do their best. He anticipated situations that could possibly impede student learning and provided smooth transitions between activities. Nick used a variety of instructional strategies and addressed the diverse learning styles of all children. Nick was actively engaged in helping Troy Union Elementary develop itself as a "Culture of Thinking" and he consistently integrated "21st Century tools" (Schoology, Office 365, iPad, Twitter, etc). Additionally, Nick sought out opportunities to learn with Troy Union Literacy Specialists to improve his craft. He was willing to be coached both inside and outside of the classroom. Nick confidently studied the Lucy Calkins Units of Study curriculum to provide rich opportunities for his students. The students and staff looked forward to working with Nick each day.

Nick is passionate about the thinking and learning process and has fostered that great characteristic in his students. He has familiarized himself with the fourth-grade curriculum and consistently developed meaningful and exciting lessons. Nick has facilitated and nurtured student thinking by empowering his students. Nick has a unique background with law enforcement and social work. By leveraging those experiences, he exemplifies a passion for teaching and a sincere commitment to the success of his students.

Nick Fisette will be a very inspiring teacher and I highly recommend him for a teaching position. Furthermore, Nick possesses the skills necessary to relate well with both students and adults. Nick will be an outstanding educator and a positive addition to any learning community.

Respectfully,

  
Mike Cottone

February 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write a recommendation on behalf of Nick Fisette for the position of an elementary school teacher. I have known Nick now for the past three months since he took over a fourth-grade long term position at Troy Union Elementary. As one of the literacy coaches in the building I have had the pleasure of partnering with Nick as a coach to support his growth and learning in the classroom. During this short time together, I have been able to witness firsthand his passion, creativity, innovation and dedication that he brings to the teaching profession daily. Nick is a true champion for kids, working tirelessly to foster relationships and build an environment in which all students can and will succeed.

One of his strengths that come to mind first is his ability to connect and form relationships with his students. Nick prioritizes the social emotional learning of all his students above everything else. He understands that in order to support a child academically he must first provide an environment where students feel safe, are encouraged to be their own true self, and are accepted for who they are. Nick built these relationships during small group instruction, one on one conferences and even whole group instruction in which he would share and connect personal stories within his lessons. When you walk into Nick's classroom you immediately see and feel a joy of learning that is contagious. Students are always engaged in their work and Nick is right in the middle facilitating the learning in a way that meets the needs of all his learners, not just one. He sees children for who they are and then helps them shine.

Another strength that stands out is his desire to learn and grow by collaborating with others and receiving feedback. This has been evident from day one as Nick jumped right into the long-term teaching position without hesitation and took initiative to seek out support. Partnering with Nick I quickly realized that he had what it takes to be a successful teacher. He is a seeker of knowledge and a deep reflector always striving to improve. On a daily basis I would see Nick arrive to school early and stay late in order to find opportunities to connect with other teachers in a collaborative way. Whether it was meeting with his team to plan, the school social worker to collaborate around our school's new Therapy Dog program or studying student work with the ESL teacher to support shared students, Nick was creating opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. Nick's constant pursuit to collaborate with staff outside of his classroom established him as a teacher others could count on.

Nick would be a tremendous asset to any elementary school staff bringing passion, joy, dedication, and a growth mind-set to his classroom and entire school community.

Sincerely,

Karen Bush

Email: kbush@troy.k12.mi.us



Troy Union Elementary School  
1340 E. Square Lake Rd  
Troy, MI 48085

Feb 12, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Nick Fisette as a candidate for a teaching position. When I first began to work with Nick, he was a guest teacher at Troy Union. His passion, adoration and patience was immediately evident through his interactions with both students and staff. He has a skill set that brings a calm and loving demeanor to students when they need it most.

During Nick's time as a guest teacher at Troy Union, I was able to provide professional development around LLI and small group intervention. Nick was eager to learn, attentive to details and asked questions in areas he needed to grow. I have since witnessed him implement the learning around small group intervention. He demonstrated the ability to understand the importance of individualized instruction even within a small group of students. He further demonstrated the need to engage students and provide just the right amount of scaffolding to make them feel successful and continue to grow.

Above all, I witnessed over time, the enthusiasm and passion of a truly dedicated educator that goes above and beyond to produce a positive classroom culture and make every student feel seen and heard. Beyond his dedication to students, Nick values the importance of collaboration and maintains a growth mindset. He continually seeks input from others to be the best version of himself each day and provide World Class instruction to his students. Nick is a delight to work with and a joy to have on your team.

I recommend Nick Fisette to you without reservation. I am confident that he will fulfill and exceed your expectations. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call (586-850-4335) or send an email at [hgordon@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:hgordon@troy.k12.mi.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Gordon". The script is fluid and cursive.

Holly Gordon  
Literacy Specialist  
National Board Certified Teacher

February 23, 2022

Dear Hiring Committee:

I am writing to recommend Nick Fisette for the K-5 teaching position. Mr. Fisette has made such a positive impression and impact in a short period of time; I'd love to share some of what I've observed here.

After my daughter's 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher took an unexpected leave, we were informed that Mr. Fisette would be his replacement; I was absolutely an unhappy nay-sayer (e.g., The building sub is taking over for a seasoned teacher?! He doesn't have a teaching certificate?!).

However, Mr. Fisette quickly overcame these worries by making *purposeful and personalized connections* with us (the parents), by *building strong relationships with his students* (I know this both from my daughter and from soccer carpool – where 3 other students rave about him weekly in my back seat), and most importantly – by *making my daughter feel supported and cared about as a person and as a student*. Mr. Fisette demonstrates leadership, adaptability, compassion, and persistence – week in and week out.

He expertly leverages available resources (i.e., literacy specialist, math specialist, etc.) to ensure that that my daughter/his class is academically on-track and challenged. For example: my daughter has never been a fan of math ... it doesn't come naturally to her, and she has traditionally lacked confidence in this subject. After expressing this concern, Mr. Fisette proactively invested in learning a variety of approaches and worked through each to find the one(s) that were 'just right' for her – and then followed up to make sure we were seeing a difference/share ways we could help. She's right on track and even likes math now!

Mr. Fisette's Social Work background also shines through; my daughter and her classmates feel heard whether it be re: academic struggles, personal struggles and/or social struggles. Additionally, the stories I hear tell me he's a pro at conflict resolution, and that he goes above and beyond in terms of managing the social-emotional needs of the class. One example occurred after the Oxford school shootings; Mr. Fisette acted as a calming force – open to discussing, encouraging sharing of emotions/concerns, etc. My daughter came home and told me that she feels "safe" with Mr. Fisette; as a parent this means the world to me.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Fisette will be an excellent addition to your teaching staff. As a parent and someone personally invested in the TSD community, I see very clearly that he is passionate and invested; I see him driving the culture and district goals forward; I see my daughter and her friends/classmates thriving. I see him making an impact now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Phillips

Please feel free to contact me at 248-520-7851 or [s Corp@hotmail.com](mailto:s Corp@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Christine M. Doddy

19570 Gloria Drive

Macomb, MI 48044

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Nick Fisette

To Whom it may concern:

Nick was a school social work intern for me at Carkenord Elementary for the 2019-20 school year. Previously, he had served in the position of a special education paraprofessional in our building. I observed Nick working with very challenging students when he worked as a special education paraprofessional. He picked up quickly on strategies to utilize when working with students. He was always kind, calm, patient and professional. He took direction and was able to execute the duties being asked of him in an efficient manner.

As a school social work intern, Nick participated in running small groups, he performed crisis intervention building wide and facilitated restorative practices with students. Nick participated in parent meetings, child study meetings, special education evaluations, IEP meetings and in direct sessions with students. Nick was quite skilled in administering social emotional learning with students. He built relationships easily and was effective in implementing intervention strategies that significantly helped students be successful at school.

Nick was able to gain experience by using de-escalation techniques with students and by managing crisis situations. Nick collaborated with staff, parents, and outside support staff to plan and care for student's well-being. Building rapport with challenging students can be a hard task for many adults. However, Nick demonstrated a real skill set in this area. He was an empathic listener and is very observant in student behavior. Nick was always calm under pressure and was able to step into action to help diffuse situations. Nick has exhibited good judgement and intuition on numerous occasions.

Nick is extremely responsible and finishes his tasks in a timely manner. Nick was always on time for work and was willing to stay over if his assistance was needed. Working in education can be a stressful field of work and he was often called to help in the most heated situations. Nick consistently showed that he has the mindset and judgement to be a real asset in these situations.

Nick is a compassionate person and also has a good sense of professional boundaries, which is crucial when working in education. He understands the importance of confidentiality and integrity required for being an educator. I was always very impressed with his intelligence, skill set and maturity he displayed as an intern.

I would highly recommend Nick for the position of a teacher. His background in social work and experience with behavior intervention will serve him well in this field. He knows how to build relationships effectively which is the cornerstone of being a good educator. He is willing to accept feedback and has a desire to exceed. I have no doubt that he would be an asset to your building and district.

Sincerely,



Christine M. Doddy, LMSW

School Social Worker

Carkenord Elementary

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

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