



Roseburg Public Schools

Roseburg, Oregon

February 9, 2010

Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue District
P.O. Box 117
Manzanita, OR 97130

Attn: Selection Committee

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Paul Bentley. I have known Paul for eight years. I was first introduced to Paul when I became principal of McGovern Elementary School in Winston, Oregon in 1998. In that role, I worked with Paul as he was the architect who the district had contracted with to do several building projects.

In January of 2003, the Winston-Dillard School District opened Brockway Elementary School. This K-3 school was designed by Paul. It was his first attempt at designing a school, and Paul hit the jackpot! I had the fortune of working with Paul on this design and build project from start to finish. To say it was a great experience does not do it justice. It truly was one of the most exciting experiences of my 22 year career in education!

Not many districts have the good fortune of passing a bond these days. Winston-Dillard was one of the lucky districts. Paul was involved in the bond project from day one. He met with the Bond Committee regularly to discuss planning on concept design. There was more than a new elementary school that was to be included with the bond. Paul also did design work on building improvements and additions that included a new science wing at Douglas High School.

From start to finish, I spent over three years working directly with Paul on the Brockway project and then other district projects as I was promoted to the position of Superintendent. I have never been involved in such a professional experience with an architect. Paul Bentley exemplifies everything you would like to see in an architect, planner, and visionary. Paul spent the first 12 weeks of the project taking us around the state to look at new schools. We then took the best of what we saw at each school and created the vision for Brockway.

Paul not only listened to what folks would like to have seen in Brockway, but he continued molding each classroom until he knew the customers were satisfied. In my 22 years of educational experience I have never seen a closer relationship between an architect and the district employees. Paul took the time to get to know the personalities of each and every teacher who was going to be teaching in Brockway. He then took that information and personalized each and every classroom. There was not one teacher who was not in complete awe of the final project.

Paul works very well with students and adults. Paul took the time to visit with some of the students about what they would like to see in a new school. He then did his best to incorporate all of the ideas and information he received. Paul's listening skills have helped him identify and prioritize important components and concerns that folks had when considering a new facility.

Paul commits himself 150% to any task he approaches. He is willing to do whatever it takes to provide quality facilities for students, staff, and families to enjoy for years to come. Not only is Paul a great architect, but he is an amazing human being. Paul cares about everyone. Paul has my highest respect and admiration for the work he does, and the impact he has on everyone he comes in contact with. If you decide not to go with Paul you will be missing out on a very positive building experience. I would recommend that you give Paul the opportunity to meet with your team and discuss what role he might play with your organization. If you should require further information please call the district office at (541) 440-4007.

Sincerely,

David Hanson
Assistant Superintendent/Human Relations