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To Whom It May Concern:

“It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not lived at all. In which case, you’ve failed.” J.K. Rowling, Harvard Commencement, 2008

This quote embodies who Ms. Kimberly Martini is. As a model to her students and peers, Ms. Martini took risks in trying new techniques to best facilitate the curriculum to her students at Minooka Junior High School. As her building principal, I could not have asked for better from Kim.

During her time at MJHS, Kim faced both personal and professional challenges, all of which she confronted with a sense of pride and decorum rarely seen in anyone with whom I have worked. It is this type of strength in personal and professional character that I believe J.K. Rowling was referring to at the same ceremony at Harvard, “You will never truly know yourself or the strength of your relationship until both have been tested by adversity.”

This thought could not have been truer than during her first year. Ms. Martini faced pushback from colleagues for not accepting the status quo, her father suffered a severe stroke, and Kim still stepped forth to sponsor the founding of the school’s Rachel’s Challenge club, “A-Okay.” Ms. Rowling went on to say, “It is our choices... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” While unintentionally, this world renowned author captured who Ms. Kimberly Martini is, an educator who cares, and one who has a drive for excellence in herself and all with whom she comes into contact.

Kim’s way of helping others to grow is a testament to her many talents. Do not let her quiet demeanor fool you. Benjamin Franklin queries, “Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What’s a sundial in the shade?” In the case of Ms. Martini, she is a young and vibrant beacon lighting the path to a future of continued growth and improvement for herself, her students, and her colleagues.

It is through her professional experiences that Ms. Martini has guided stakeholders to reach their full potential and seek out that for which they have the heart, drive, and determination to be successful. In closing, it is clear to me that Ms. Kimberly Martini is the standard by which others will be measured, and I am honored and humbled to offer this letter of recommendation without any reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Skogsberg", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dirk Erik “DJ” Skogsberg, Ed.D