



Classical Magnet School

Dr. Leslie Torrez-Rodriguez, Superintendent

Bethany Sullivan, Principal

May 19, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Richard de Meij's application for continued employment as a teacher of Spanish and French at Hartford Public High School. Mr. de Meij possesses the experience and skills required of a successful candidate for this position, and I believe he is an asset to the Hartford Public High School community, as well as the profession of language education.

I first met Mr. de Meij in 2012 when I served as the Teacher-in-Residence for World Languages in the Office of Academics. Mr. de Meij's passion and enthusiasm for the teaching and learning of languages was immediately apparent, and he soon joined our new team of language professionals in revising Spanish curriculum for Hartford Public Schools. We continued to collaborate on the development of Spanish curriculum and common end-of-course assessments from 2015 to 2017 during my tenure as Director of World Languages. In addition to his work in curriculum, Mr. de Meij frequently contributed to professional learning in the department through the sharing of extensive resources and the facilitation of adult learning activities.

Richard taught under my supervision during the 2017-2018 school year, when I served as assistant principal at Hartford Public High School. He amply proved his capacities as a teacher. As his evaluator, I observed Richard on several occasions as part of the teacher evaluation program, and a number of times informally as well. Richard employs instructional and assessment strategies that are not only engaging for students, but indicate a thorough understanding of language acquisition. Richard truly believes all students can learn a second, or even third or fourth language, and he holds all students accountable to high expectations. He is firm but kind in his interactions with students, and he readily communicates with parents, guardians, and other community stakeholders. He performs his responsibilities not only with professionalism, but with passion and integrity.

I am pleased to recommend that Richard de Meij be considered for rehire at Hartford Public High School. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the event that you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bryan C. Daleas, Ph.D.

Classical Languages Teacher

Non Scholae Sed Vitae Discimus