



Paramount Unified School District

August 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Robert Kaplinsky. Last year, we had the privilege of having Robert provide a district-wide training to all of our secondary math teachers. He is an extraordinary staff developer who possesses absolute mastery of mathematics content and curriculum and who is masterful at engaging an audience.

Last year, one of our high school math coaches attended a training provided by Robert and came back praising his ability to show teachers what a Common Core classroom actually looks like. Prior to having him present to our teachers, I was asked to preview his work—I was so impressed with what I experienced. Through meaningful, problem-based learning activities teachers could see how these content and math practice standards translated into daily instructional practice. They participated as students would in the classroom—working collaboratively to persevere in solving real-world problems, discovering concepts through exploration, strategizing, sharing ideas and articulating mathematical reasoning. Robert's thought-provoking techniques enable *both* teachers and students to become effective problem-solvers, collaborators, communicators and ultimately...mathematicians.

In visiting classrooms since Robert's presentation to all the middle and high school math teachers, I continue to see the positive impact his work has had on instruction and student achievement. Teachers are working to develop their questioning skills to facilitate strong mathematical discourse, provide opportunities for inquiry-based activities and allow students to engage in productive struggle. Students participate in student-centered discussions where they explain their reasoning, engage in strategic thinking, learn from their mistakes and take ownership of their learning. In addition to Robert's excellent presentation skills, the resources he makes available to teachers are extensive providing opportunities for real-world problems that address the Common Core standards.

I highly recommend Robert Kaplinsky as an educator, professional and staff developer. His work is powerful, meaningful and inspirational.

Sincerely,

Kelly Morales
Curriculum Specialist