

Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Robert Kaplinsky

To Whom It May Concern:

I am excited to have the opportunity to recommend Mr. Robert Kaplinsky as an outstanding staff developer in the area of mathematics. As the Director of Secondary Education for Tustin Unified School District, I have worked with a large number of consultants and experts in the area of education. While many have done a good job with presenting the information to teachers, none have captured and held the attention of a difficult audience like Mr. Kaplinsky.

It is very clear in a few seconds of observing him that Mr. Kaplinsky is an expert teacher and presenter. He commands attention in any room, is relatable, communicates well, uses inflection, has a sense of humor, and is an absolute master of his content. He is a great role model to put in front of teachers.

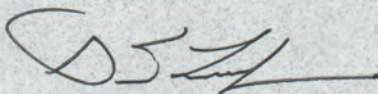
Another reason that Mr. Kaplinsky is an outstanding candidate for any staff development or consulting role that you may have is his grasp on the instructional shifts necessary to execute the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). There are few consultants that truly “get it” when it comes to teaching teachers how their practice needs to change. Robert can not only explain the needed changes, but reason with teachers practically, give examples of real application, and model lessons.

Tustin Unified School District hired Robert (and his counterpart Andrew Stadel) to tackle a 3-day kickoff workshop on effectively implementing the Common Core along with our 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative for every math teacher in Tustin Unified School District. We gave them a huge task, and they tackled it with enthusiasm. That enthusiasm was contagious as a very critical and anxious group of teachers, facing the largest academic shift of their careers, left the room on day number three thanking them and asking for more opportunities to meet. I don't think I've ever had “fun” in a math workshop before, but I can honestly say that I have now! We have since had Robert back to continue working with our teachers on instructional shifts, CCSS, and to help build both pacing guides and benchmark exams. He has been a great asset to every teacher and student in TUSD.

I would highly recommend Mr. Robert Kaplinsky for any development opportunity you are facing. He has a wealth of knowledge, is an easy person to work with, and is an amazing presenter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 714-730-7301 x323.

Sincerely,



Grant Litfin, Ed.D.
Director, Secondary Education