



June 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a privilege to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of **Robert Kaplinsky**. We originally connected with Robert through the Southern California Math Teacher Specialist Network in January 2014, which he organizes with the intent to share collective wisdom between mathematics specialists throughout Southern California. We were immediately struck by Robert's engaging and open personality, as well as his insightful vision for mathematics education. Over the past two years, Robert has become an incredible ally and mentor. In looking for a presenter for our district-wide professional learning day, we knew immediately that Robert would be the perfect motivator and supporter for our secondary math teachers.

When Robert presented to our staff on March 6, 2015, our district was going through an incredible change with our secondary mathematics program: we had just made the decision to move to an integrated mathematics pathway, which triggered tremendous stress and anxiety in teachers. Robert provided clear and practical guidance for teachers on how to make instructional shifts in their classroom. Not only did he demonstrate engaging problem-based lessons and effective classroom discourse, he inspired teachers to implement these lessons immediately in their classes. Most importantly, he reassured teachers that a wealth of problem-based lessons are readily available online, and they do not need to create these lessons on their own. He valued the perspectives of all teachers – beginning, veteran, and everyone in between – renewing much-needed joy and enthusiasm in teaching math.

Robert is an innovative and inspiring professional learning facilitator. He has an incredible gift for simultaneously challenging and reassuring teachers. Here is some of the feedback we received from teachers and administrators from Robert's presentation:

Robert Kaplinsky was fantastic! He kept a room full of math teachers engaged and interested. He is knowledgeable and touched on areas most needed as we develop more authentic tasks for our students. – High School Teacher

[The most valuable part of this training was] Robert Kaplinsky's keynote address – he was inspiring and practical all at the same time. – District Office Administrator

For the first time, I understand why it is important to change the way we are teaching math, and how to teach something conceptually rather than just teach the procedure. – Middle School Principal

Robert's dedication to professional learning for teachers and teacher specialists is evident in everything he does. Our experience with Robert reinvigorated our secondary math teachers and administrators. We would highly recommend Robert for any professional learning opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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