

Jim Vidak

County
Superintendent
of Schools

7000 Doe Avenue Visalia, CA 93291

www.tcoe.org

**Child Care** 

Suite C (559) 651-3022 fax (559) 651-3802

**Choices** 

Building 300 (559) 651-0155 fax (559) 651-0172

Educational Resource Services

Suite A-B (559) 651-3031 fax (559) 651-1012

**School Health Programs**Building 700
(559) 651-0130
fax (559) 651-1995

**Theatre Company** Building 300 (559) 651-1482 fax (559) 651-0172

April 5, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a professional recommendation for Mr. Robert Kaplinsky. Robert joined us as a featured speaker for a professional development workshop through the Tulare County Office of Education. The high quality of Robert's work and message are a testament to his commitment to mathematics education.

Robert's craftsmanship and attention to detail are present in everything he does. The quality of his workshop is incredible, with terrific pacing, tight messaging, and an inspiring message that balances theoretical principles with the practical techniques that teachers can implement right away. Robert makes some very difficult topics accessible. He gives teachers time to examine their own cognitive processes as they engage with his materials, consider the matter from their teaching perspective, then gives them a wealth of resources to use. Teachers raved about his ability to demystify difficult topics like depth of knowledge (and its application to mathematics), engaging students in deep, rich problems, developing stronger questioning and listening strategies, and highlighting techniques that help get the most out of every lesson.

In addition to having an extremely engaging and practical workshop, Robert does a terrific job articulating exactly why pedagogical changes are necessary, building a tremendous imperative. The fact that "why" is at the center of his message was something many teachers in attendance cited as compelling and motivating. He does all of this while being funny, honest, and with an incredibly efficient with time. It is impressive how much he is able to get across throughout the day.

Robert's workshop was wildly successful from any perspective. The content was terrific and the response from our teachers was overwhelmingly positive. We are really happy Robert will be joining us for another series of workshops this coming year. He is great to work with and an amazing person, as well. Robert has nothing short of our highest recommendation. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Javier Garcia Mathematics Specialist Tulare County Office of Education