



Huron High School
Committed to Academic Excellence

October 23, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Roger Blevins. I have been a science educator in Ohio for nearly eighteen years and have taught middle and high school science. I currently teach high school honors biology as well as dual enrollment Anatomy & Physiology. Previously, I was the head of our science department for twelve years. As an educator, I've been the lead or part of a team on many successful school improvement initiatives during my career. Examples include the "High Schools that Work" program at Little Miami High School, as well as an "Effective Schools" curricular leader in the Huron City School District. I am also a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar. I have been an active member of the National Science Teachers Association and National Association of Biology Teachers for nearly eighteen years. I am writing this letter because I am very excited to support our district's initiative to obtain funding through the "Straight A Fund".

It was Lee Iacocca, who once said in the car business you need to "lead, follow, or get out of the way". The time has come to live by that same mantra when it comes to how we educate our children in Ohio. As our world becomes "flatter" through technological advances, it creates huge opportunities for businesses, schools, and other institutions to make tremendous advancements in the products they produce. It also means that those who aren't looking forward will fall further and further behind.

By creating high quality digital curricula, we can leverage the impact that our best educators have on the children in our district, while at the same time reducing the overall cost to educate those students. In short, digital curricula will most certainly allow us to do more with less. The benefits of well authored, high quality digital curricula are tremendous. For a district our size, it would allow us to offer students an opportunity to study many subjects they might not otherwise have a chance to study. In addition, when coupled with mastery based learning, a digital curriculum offers an easy manner to differentiate instruction for diverse learners. Our students have many different needs, interest levels, and directions. The standard offerings are less and less sufficient to meet the growing diversity of learners coming through our hallways.

Personally, as a science educator, I get excited when I think about the possibility of helping students take ownership of their learning. Our goal as educators has to be to teach students how to learn and access information in a digital age, to inspire them to take charge of their own learning, and to not limit them to the offerings we have within our brick and mortar classrooms. It is my hope that as a partner in this initiative, that I can develop dynamic, engaging, digital curricula that will provide our students with the best possible education to meet their needs in the 21st century. Thank your for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Blevins
Roger Blevins

Huron High School Science Instructor