

EMMA C. SMITH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Trustees Bueno, White, Prusso, Guzman and Wang,

I am writing today to endorse Chris Van Schaack for the position of LVJUSD Superintendent. Mr. Van Schaack has been nothing short of a true leader in my time as Principal at Emma C. Smith Elementary. He has been able to connect with site leaders during the Covid-19 Pandemic and guide us gracefully through challenges on a weekly and monthly basis. Not only was he there to support us, he went out of his way to ensure we had direction, clear information, and someone to connect with in the event of any kind of emergency.

Over the past two years Mr. Van Schaack has met with me monthly 1-1 to discuss LVJUSD happenings across all departments in an effort to make sure that we, on the ground level at the sites, have a picture of where we are heading. His collaborative approach as a leader is what separates him from any other candidates. He has a wide breadth of knowledge of not only what would fall under the Deputy Superintendent but also the curriculum department and operations of the district. He is an excellent listener and would take as much information from us as site principals in an effort to relay back to our various district leaders.

In the 4 years I have served as Principal at Emma C. Smith Elementary Mr. Van Schaack and Dr. Bowers have worked to maintain a high quality relationship with our district unions. One of the reasons I left my previous district was specifically because of the way the management group could not agree or be professional with the teachers and staff union groups. We are one Livermore family here and that is not common in these tumultuous times. We have an incredible working relationship with all union groups making positive outcomes for our students.

Academics, social emotional growth, and behavioral expectations are all a part of the MTSS system we are using to guide our community forward. Mr. Van Schaack is the right person to continue guiding us and I strongly believe his knowledge and understanding of LVJUSD will take us into the next years in a positive light. Please, if you have any questions I would be happy to speak to you on his referral for the position.

Sincerely,

Joe Meunier
Principal
Emma C. Smith Elementary School