



Manheim Central School District

Preparing Responsible Citizens, Who Are Lifelong Learners

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Peter J. Aiken, Ed.D. – Superintendent
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great privilege I write this letter of endorsement for Erik Bentzel. I had the opportunity to serve under Dr. Bentzel's leadership for a little over a year. During this time, I found him to be a dynamic leader poised for success.

Dr. Bentzel has a wide variety of experience. He has served as a classroom teacher, building administrator, central office leader, and currently, as an assistant superintendent. This varied experience allows him to see situations through a multi-faceted lens. His insight and perspective was always spot on. Regardless of the position he has held, it was highly evident he always put students first. He cares about students; this was always evident in his decision-making process. Often, it has been my experience that as school leaders move away from the classroom, they forget what it's like to be in the classroom. Not Dr. B.

Dr. Bentzel introduced me to the book *Fierce Conversations*. Of all the many accolades that I can bestow on him, I believe his greatest, strongest attribute is the ability to have productive, meaningful, fierce conversations. Dr. Bentzel did not shy away from having these types of conversations, even though they can be tough to have. Simply put, he is a straight shooter who wants to see the schools he leads be the best. His fierce conversations challenge you to look inside and be introspective. In turn, the level of growth I have had being under his leadership was top notch.

It is without hesitation or reservation that I fully endorse Dr. Bentzel for a position in your District. Simply put, I believe he would make your District better. I welcome the opportunity to speak on his behalf. I can be reached at 717-664-8540.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Peter J. Aiken
Superintendent
Manheim Central School District