

July 20, 2021

Dear Crosslake Community School Board of Education:

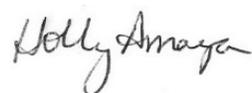
I am writing to express my interest in the Director of Online Learning position at Crosslake Community School (CCS). Given that I have been working in this role in an interim capacity since March 2021, I have a deep understanding of the responsibilities and work involved in this leadership role, and would embrace the challenge of moving into it more permanently. I believe that I have demonstrated my capacity to excel as the Director of Online Learning and have several ideas about how to improve our program and school that I would love to have the opportunity to implement.

I came on board at CCS in the spring of 2016 as a part-time school counselor. Since then I have held a number of additional roles with the school including registrar, electives teacher, and learning coach, which has given me multiple perspectives on how we serve students. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with the online program, and together with my phenomenal colleagues we provide an excellent learning experience for students. As a leader, I am supportive and compassionate while clearly communicating expectations to students, families, and staff. While I am skilled at identifying areas for potential improvement, I am also a strong advocate of preserving what works. I am committed to collaboration and creating unity between the seat-based and online programs and have done my best to take steps towards this in staff meetings, committees, and communications.

I have a vast knowledge of charter school law and policy. Beyond my CCS experience, I bring more than 16 years of experience in charter schools which began at the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS), right out of graduate school. I secured my first school counseling position at Twin Cities Academy and was a founding staff member at its high school, which is now known as one of the best schools in the state of Minnesota. From there, I went to the Charter Center at MDE, where I directed the State of Minnesota's \$26.8 million Federal CSP grant program. After MDE I worked for Osprey Wilds as the Performance and Accountability Manager. I then moved into freelance grantwriting work which is how I initially became connected with CCS while it was working on its expansion grant application. Over my career I have served as a consultant for charter authorizers, startup schools, nonprofits, and educational programs that have sought out my expertise.

I have enjoyed my time in the Interim Director role and believe that I thrive and excel as an administrator. I have received numerous emails from staff members thanking me and commending me on my performance in this role; I invite you to contact any of the online staff to ask them for their input on my candidacy for the Director position. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my ideas and background more thoroughly with you in an interview; in the meantime, please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful for me to provide.

Sincerely,



Holly Amaya