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Being a mentor and cooperating teacher is a position I would be honored to hold. For me, helping new teachers find their way and develop their craft is an important way to enhance our school community and our own students' educational experience. Some of my greatest strengths as an educator that would benefit a beginning or student teacher are the variety of instructional strategies I use within the classroom, my ability to reflect and revise lessons and classroom systems, and my ability to foster positive relationships with students through honest communication. I rely on these daily in my professional practice and I think that helping new educators fine tune their skills in these areas is critically important to their success as they begin their careers in education.

I feel as though I am highly qualified to serve as a cooperating teacher/TEAM mentor. My professional practices, experience, and positions I hold in my school community make me an ideal candidate for this position. As a colleague I find myself naturally checking in on new teachers, offering lesson materials, and answering any questions they may have. I serve as my school's climate coach and in this position I have a unique understanding of our school's systems and have undergone multiple professional development sessions on creating classroom and building wide systems and structures. This would be an asset in this position because I can provide specific guidance both on understanding schoolwide systems and helping new teachers develop their own classroom based system which are so critical to an effective classroom. Serving as climate coach has afforded me the opportunity to view my colleagues as learners when implementing protocols and developing activities for professional development sessions. This has allowed me to experience delivering information to adults as learners while respecting their expertise as educators, their different learning styles, and high demand on their time. This experience would serve me well as a mentor because I would be able to help deliver important information while respecting their time and helping them work through their ideas.

As educators we strive to create a lifelong love of learning in our students and I believe that in order to create lifelong learners you need to be one yourself. As a result, I am always looking for professional development activities that will deepen my content knowledge, enhance my classroom management and instructional craft, and continue to ignite the spark of creativity that helps keep my lessons and classroom engaging for students. In addition to the numerous PBIS trainings I have attended over the past three years I have attended a restorative practices training offered through SERC. I attended the three days of climate training offered by the district where we were further exposed to circles and improving school climate and systems. Previously, I have attended training by expeditionary learning focusing on learning targets and attended the 5 day AVID training in Philadelphia, PA.