



Derby Public Schools  
Exit Interview

Background Information

Employee Name: Beata Cragan  
Assignment: Teacher (6th Gr. Science) & MS  
Date of Hire: 8/27/2007  
Exit Date: 2/06/2015  
Interview Date: 2/04/2015  
Interviewer: By mail

Questions

(Please use the back of page if necessary.)

1. What are the key factors in your decision to leave the Derby Schools?  
The commute from my home to Derby was a key factor in my decision to leave Derby Schools.
2. Where do you plan to work next?  
I have accepted a position as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the Bethany school district.

3. What do you regard as the strengths of the school or the district?
- Having had the opportunity to plan our science curriculum with DMS colleagues this past summer, I feel this has greatly improved focus and continuity amongst 6th-7th- and 8th grade science curriculum.
  - A supportive "team" of colleagues
4. What recommendations would you offer for the improvement of your school or the district?
- A renewed focus on reducing behavioral issues
  - Attempt to diminish class sizes; 8 yrs ago average class size was 17; today's class size is 27; it is a daily struggle for teachers to support struggling students with teacher to student ratio being so imbalanced 1:27
5. What was your greatest disappointment during your time in Derby?
- My greatest disappointment was the lack of organized and useful professional development opportunities as well as the seemingly constant turnover of administration / staff.
6. What was your proudest accomplishment during your time in Derby?
- My proudest accomplishment during my time in Derby was my constant encouragement of students to think like scientists on a daily basis. With such a diverse community of learners, I feel I was able to engage even the most academically and/or behaviorally challenged students in scientific inquiry via many hands-on activities.
7. Do you have any other observations or suggestions that might be of benefit to our school district?
- Actual classroom visits of administrators would be welcome; administrators would be more aware of classroom content and I feel positive teaching habits would increase. So many of my colleagues go above and beyond, every single day - it would increase morale to be appreciated. It would also identify those not as effective in the classroom.