Laura Gilmartin and Mark Pagel, Co-Principals

Elizabeth Ide Elementary School
Center Cass School District 66
699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516



Memo

To: Dr. Wise, Superintendent

From: Laura Gilmartin and Mark Pagel, Co-Principals (Elizabeth Ide Elementary)

Date: October 21, 2025

Re: Recommendation to hire Holly Janotta, Long-term Leave-Kindergarten

We highly recommend **Holly Janotta** for employment as a long term sub for Jamie Staiton from Dec. 1 through the end of the school year. Holly brings eight years of experience as a paraprofessional, during which she demonstrated exceptional dedication to student growth and classroom collaboration. Having recently earned her teaching license, Holly is excited to apply her knowledge and experience in a lead teaching role. Our interview team was particularly impressed by her calm, confident demeanor and her child-centered approach, both of which are essential qualities for supporting our youngest learners.

In speaking with her references, several described Holly as an individual who "steps in and takes initiative wherever needed," reflecting her strong work ethic and commitment to the team. Holly's former principal even remarked that if she were "starting a school from scratch, Holly would absolutely be a person she'd recruit to join her staff"—a testament to the high regard in which she is held. Based on her experience, professionalism, and strong ability to connect with students, we wholeheartedly recommend Holly for our long-term kindergarten assignment. She will be an outstanding addition to our school community.

Respectfully,

Laura Gilmartin and Mark Pagel