

July 20, 2021

Dear Crosslake Community School Board of Education:

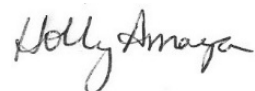
I am writing to express my interest in the Director of Online Learning position at Crosslake Community School (CCS). Given that I have been working in this role in an interim capacity since March 2021, I have a deep understanding of the responsibilities and work involved in this leadership role, and 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Holly Amaya". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Holly" being more prominent than the last name "Amaya".

Holly Amaya