

To: West High School Community Council (WHSCC)
From: West High Alliance
Date: Friday 26 August 2011
Re: SCC Meeting of 29 August 2011: Request that SCC petition the Board of Education to overrule the involuntary and inappropriate transfer of Dan McGuire from West High School to Horizonte Instruction and Training Center

Purpose of this Letter and Request

We request that the West High School Community Council (SCC) serve as our agent to bring the following request to the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education (SLCSD BOE):

"That the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education (SLCSD BOE) convene an emergency meeting to review the facts of record and overrule the decision regarding the involuntary and inappropriate transfer of Dan McGuire from West High School to Horizonte Instruction and Training Center."

This letter and associated documents have been generated by a committee approved at the meeting of the newly formed West High Alliance on 8/23/2011 to implement the Motions passed at that meeting.

Mission Statement for West High Alliance

Mission Statement:

The West High Alliance is a group of concerned parents, students, graduates, and citizens associated with West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah. We support students, teachers, and the quality of public education, and the adherence to fair and equitable policies and procedures that sustain these goals.

Purposes:

1. Safeguard and respect teachers, students, and community members, and incorporate their input into decision making;
2. Promote transparency in the decision-making process; ensure that appropriate procedures, standards and criteria be used, and that grievances be fairly reviewed and resolved.

Ad-hoc issue:

We seek the reversal of the involuntary and inappropriate transfer of Physics teacher Daniel McGuire from West High School to Horizonte High School.

The District's stated reasons for this transfer are demonstrably false. Involuntary transfers must be based on need. The transfer to Horizonte is clearly not a better fit for Mr. McGuire; and leaving advanced classes without appropriately trained and certified teachers is not a better fit for West.

We request that this reversal be implemented as quickly as possible, in order to minimize the damage being done to the education of students at West High who were left without a suitable replacement.

We emphasize that the central issues are larger than this specific situation. The issues are not restricted to Mr. McGuire, to the subject of Physics, to honors/AP/IB classes, or even to West High. The main issues are that procedures are not being followed, and decisions are being made that are generating outcomes that are not in the best interests of the students or the faculty needed to teach them.

These larger issues, which are so well represented in this particular case, require the immediate attention of the BOE and appropriate corrective actions to help ensure that educational and personnel policies are implemented equitably and fairly.

Facts of Record

The facts of record are documented by materials provided in the appendices. Key points are summarized below.

1. Involuntary transfer

The transfer of Dan McGuire from West High to Horizonte Instruction and Training Center was involuntary, and was put into action against his clearly stated position.

Although Mr. McGuire had indeed previously requested a transfer in June, he had officially rescinded that request (his e-mail of 8/10/2011). The District clearly understood and explicitly acknowledged that the transfer was involuntary (8/10/2011, 3:23 PM e-mail, and 8/10/2011 formal letter from Dr. Patrick Garcia, Director of Human Resources).

Despite this knowledge, the District issued a Statement (8/23/2011) that willfully omitted this key information, thus incorrectly representing it as a voluntary transfer, and thereby misrepresenting the situation to the public and further undermining the District's credibility.

2. Inappropriate bases for involuntary transfer

2.1. *The officially stated reasons for the involuntary transfer are demonstrably false.*

The two officially stated reasons for the involuntary transfer are that this transfer would provide a better fit both for Mr. McGuire and for West High (e.g., Dr. Garcia's e-mails of 8/10/2011 8:24 AM and 3:23 PM; letter of 8/10/2011). Contractually, involuntary transfers must be based on need (Clause 14.2.3.). Mr. McGuire's transfer did not meet this standard, as elaborated further below. Sham pretexts do not provide a defensible basis for action.

2.2. *The transfer to Horizonte does not provide a better fit for Mr. McGuire, in direct contrast to District claims.*

Mr. McGuire is a Physics and Chemistry teacher, certified to teach AP and IB Physics. He has been highly successful in that capacity, as evidenced by the high level of success of his students, by the numerous awards he has received, by his ability to implement and mentor numerous educational extracurricular activities, and by the multitudes of strong letters of support he has received (see Appendices).

In contrast, four (of six) courses that he has been involuntarily assigned to teach at Horizonte would be new, and he was given only days' notice for preparation. Further, these courses include Personal Finance, which requires a three-day Professional Development course that he has not taken. In short, he is neither prepared nor fully qualified to teach these involuntary assignments.

Still further, his involuntary transfer to Horizonte is not in good keeping with the guidelines for the Federal School Improvement Grant at Horizonte, which indicate that the District may ensure that the school is not required to accept a teacher without the consent of the teacher (clause E-5(3)).

The District's repeatedly stated official position that this involuntary assignment to Horizonte provides a better fit is demonstrably false. Sham pretexts do not provide a defensible basis for action.

2.3. *The transfer from West does not provide a better fit for West, in direct contrast to District claims.*

One reason formally given by Mr. McGuire for declining a possible transfer from West is that it would not be possible to provide a suitable replacement in time at West to fill the IB and AP endorsements, and it would be irresponsible to place students and faculty at West in that position (e-mails of 8/08/2011 and 8/09/2011 to Dr. Garcia). When the school year started, this was indeed the result. The District's repeatedly stated official position that this involuntary assignment is better for West (Dr. Garcia's e-mails of August 10, 8:24 AM and 3:23 PM) is demonstrably false. Leaving advanced classes without appropriately trained and certified teachers is not a better fit for West. Involuntary transfers must be based on need. The only real need associated with this transfer was the need to find a replacement for McGuire at West *after* the transfer had taken place. Sham pretexts do not provide a defensible basis for action.

3. Repeated Pattern of Involuntary Transfers

The repeated pattern of inappropriate use of involuntary transfers indicates a systematic problem that the BOE must address and rectify.

Both Mr. McGuire and Ms. Kimberly Winn were members of the School Improvement Committee (SIC) at West High, and had expressed their strong disappointment with West's decision to implement a schedule change immediately prior to the 2010-2011 school year. This decision was arrived at without the shared consensus of the faculty, in violation with the Teacher's contract with the School Board and the Written Agreement, and was implemented

despite the recommendation of mediator Fleshaw King, who had recommended that the decision be taken back to the individual school's SICs. Ms. Winn, the Chair of the SIC, was involuntarily transferred at the end of the 2010-11 school year. The reason given was that she was a "roadblock" to progress at West High. Now Mr. McGuire also is being involuntarily transferred, for stated reasons that are not credible.

Conclusions

The transfer imposed on Mr. McGuire from West High School to Horizonte Instruction and Training Center was both involuntary and inappropriate, and should be reversed.

We request that the SCC petition the Board of Education to call an emergency meeting to overrule this involuntary and inappropriate transfer as quickly as possible.

We thank the SCC for its consideration of this issue.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the West High Alliance,

Gregory A. Clark, Ph.D.
Co-spokesperson

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801-580-6048 (cell)

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Co-spokesperson

davegalvan@gmail.com
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Appendices

- Documentation of events
- Letters of support
- "We Want McGuire Back!" petition signatures

Appendices

1. Documentation of Events

Mr. Dan McGuire's description of events that led to his involuntary and inappropriate transfer from West High to Horizonte; correspondence between Mr. McGuire and various administrators, documenting that this transfer was involuntary and that the district was aware of that; contractually specified procedures to be followed in the transfer of teachers; Mr. McGuire's assessment of his performance at West; and his teaching schedules at West and Horizonte. This information is provided by Mr. McGuire and is accessible at <http://www.xmission.com/~dmcguire/InvolTrans/index.htm>.

2. Support Letters

Compilation of letters from students, alumni, and parents to the SLC School Board Members, administrators, and the Teacher's Union representative providing support for Mr. McGuire and/or protesting the transfer decision and asking for its reversal.

3. "We Want McGuire Back!" petition signatures

Approximately 250 students, parents and teachers signed the "We Want McGuire Back!" petition at the West Back-to-School event, Friday afternoon 8/26/2011.

Appendix 1

1. Documentation of Events

Mr. Dan McGuire's description of events that led to his involuntary and inappropriate transfer from West High to Horizonte; correspondence between Mr. McGuire and various administrators, documenting that this transfer was involuntary and that the district was aware of that; contractually specified procedures to be followed in the transfer of teachers; Mr. McGuire's assessment of his performance at West; and his teaching schedules at West and Horizonte. This information is provided by Mr. McGuire and is accessible at <http://www.xmission.com/~dmcguire/InvolTrans/index.htm>.

Regarding Dan McGuire's Involuntary Transfer

In this document I attempt to recount the facts relating to the District's desire to involuntarily transfer me from West High Physics to the Horizonte Center.

A Phone Call and the Initial Emails

On Monday August 8th I received a phone call from Patrick Garcia, the Director of Human Resources at the Salt lake School District, concerning a possible position at Horizonte. He asked if I would be interested since I had placed an transfer request in June. He said that this position involved innovative teaching methods and would prove to be worth the time to investigate. I told him that I might be interested, but later reconsidered because of the closeness of the new school year . I sent an email to Mr. Garcia and to Mindi Holmdahl, the principal of Horizonte, indicating this (below):

From: Daniel Mcguire
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2011 9:27 PM
To: Mindi Holmdahl; Patrick Garcia
Subject:

Mindi & Patrick,

After consideration I have decided it is too short a time before the beginning of classes to change positions. It would take my replacement at West months to fill the IB & AP endorsements, and would be irresponsible of me to put the students & faculty at West in that situation. I have also started a new program for a computer competition (see attached letter sent out today before I talked to either of you) and have gotten some immediate positive response from Carl Lyman at USOE as well as the U. This program should be a positive influence not just in the SLSD, but statewide.

The truth of the matter is that I do need a change of venue from West, but I need a bit more lead time. Please keep me in consideration for next year.

Thanks,
Dan

The next day, Mr. Garcia sent another email encouraging me to reconsider the position:

From: Patrick Garcia
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 11:17 AM
To: Daniel Mcguire
Subject: RE:

Hi, Dan,

I'm sorry to receive your email. I do understand that the timing may be shorter than any of us want but this position just opened up. I can appreciate your concern for West and not wanting to leave but this could really be a very positive opportunity for you. In your email you reiterate that you could benefit from a change of venue and I concur. Last spring, I indicated that I would help facilitate a transfer for you if you wanted one and that is what I am doing. I would encourage you to reconsider and move forward with accepting the placement. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Patrick

I responded in the same manner:

From: Daniel Mcguire
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 8:48 PM
To: Patrick Garcia
Subject: RE: Transfer Request

Sorry, but I will have to stay with my current position. Next year with some more warning to both myself and to the West IB/AP program would be more appropriate. Thanks for your concern.

At that time his response took on a more ominous tone:

From: Patrick Garcia
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 8:24 AM
To: Daniel Mcguire
Subject: RE: Transfer Request

Hi, Dan,

I'm really sorry to hear this. As you can probably surmise, I think that a move for you is positive for both you and for West High. I'm not sure that your decision to remain at West is one that I can support. We'll be talking soon. Take care.
 Patrick

I responded that I was no longer interested in a transfer:

from McGuire, Dan

subject **RE: Transfer Request**

to Patrick Garcia <Patrick.Garcia@slcschools.org>

cc You

8/10/2011 8:57 A

other actions

reply
 reply all
 forward
 archive
 junk
 del

In that case I officially rescind my request for transfer.

To cover my bases, I also sent this email that expresses that we have had no conversation previous to the ones documented above about the transfer. "The following thread" refers to the sum total of the previous emails:

From: Daniel McGuire
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 3:05 PM
To: Patrick Garcia
Cc: dmcguire@xmission.com
Subject: RE: Equity in Involuntary Transfers

A search of the district mail server yields the following thread as the only discussion that we have had concerning any type of transfers. I know that I have not discussed this with you, nor seen you in person, so this is the entire domain of the conversation that I have had with District personnel or with Administration at West. Just to clarify that point.

Thanks.

Then a even more ominous response ensued:

From: Patrick Garcia
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 3:23 PM
To: Daniel McGuire
Subject: RE: Equity in Involuntary Transfers

Hi, Dan,

You are correct. I was encouraged when I received your transfer request back in June that perhaps you were open to my offer of helping facilitate a transfer for you. I have kept my eye open for a position that I thought would work well with your skill set. When the position at Horizonte opened up, I called you to talk about the position as a new assignment for you.

I would always rather go down the path of seeking solutions that will work for all. Sometimes this isn't possible but it doesn't deter me from trying. You indicated that you wanted a change, I believe that I found an assignment that will work for you. Your concern about the short notice shouldn't preclude us making the change because it is what you wanted. I also think that a change will be good for West. Fresh starts for both you and the school will be beneficial for both of you. This is what I am trying to accomplish. Since you have rejected the transfer, I am considering what other options are open to me. I will be in touch with you.

Patrick

A Letter from Mr. Garcia

On Thursday, August 18th Mr. Garcia showed up at my residence in Sugarhouse hand-delivering a [letter](#) informing me of my involuntary transfer from West High School to the Horizonte Center.



August 18, 2011

Mr. Daniel J. McGuire
1239 Roosevelt Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

COPY

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I'm writing to inform you that your teaching assignment for the 2011-2012 school year has been changed. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful at contacting you directly. Dr. Parley Jacobs sent you an email last week which was returned to him with an automatic reply indicating that you were unavailable to respond to emails until August 22, 2011. I called your home and left you a message to return my call so that we could schedule a meeting to discuss this change. Since I have not heard back from you, I am sending you this letter.

You and I have had several communications via email and the phone about your request for a transfer and the assignment at Horizonte. Unfortunately you decided that there was insufficient time to accept the placement thus you rescinded your transfer request. At that time, I indicated that I would explore other options regarding a change for you. Dr. Parley's and my efforts were attempts to contact you to further discuss this matter. I regret that we were not able to meet in person.

Your new assignment at Horizonte will give you an opportunity to bring your skills and abilities to a group of students who can benefit from your expertise. Your ability to connect curriculum content to real life settings will be valuable and appreciated. I had wished that you would have accepted this placement voluntarily as you had requested a transfer rather than doing this through the involuntary transfer process. Please know that this action is being taken to provide you with a new opportunity where you will be able to help many students and not as a disciplinary action.

Your assignment will be housed at the old Northwest School, located at 1400 West Goodwin Ave. Your supervisor will be Ms. Mindi Holmdahl, who is the principal at Horizonte. Her phone number is 801-578-8574 ext. 414. Please contact her for more specific information regarding this assignment. I have included a copy of Horizonte's schedule for next week. As you can see, you begin with a staff meeting at Horizonte on Monday, August 22, 2011.

HUMAN RESOURCES

P 801.578.8340
f 801.578.8689

Salt Lake City School District
440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

www.slcschools.org

Respectfully,



Dr. Patrick Garcia
Executive Director
Human Resources

Cc: Dr. Parley Jacobs
Mindi Holmdahl
Personnel file

The Salt Lake City School District prohibits discrimination based on the basis of age, color, disability, marital status, pregnancy, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

On reading the letter you will find that there is no doubt that this transfer is involuntary. There is also no indication that this transfer is due to any shortcoming on my part, but rather that I would be a better fit at Horizonte. The timing, less than a week before the beginning of classes, is reminiscent of the way in which the school daily schedule was changed. There is little doubt that the transfer is bypassing the normal procedure outlined in our contract, included below. If you wish, just skip down and I will outline the two simple steps.

14.2 Involuntary Transfers and Assignments.

- 14.2.1 Necessary Changes and Appeals.** The Board and the Association recognize that some involuntary transfer of teachers from one (1) school to another or reassignment within a school is unavoidable. Therefore, teachers shall be available for involuntary transfer and changes in placement or assignment as necessary. The Superintendent may transfer a teacher to any unit when a particular service is needed in that unit. Such transfers shall be made in consultation with the Association and are subject to appropriate appeals available to the teacher in the District.
- 14.2.2 Meeting for Review.** An involuntary transfer or reassignment shall be made only after a meeting between the teacher involved and the Human Resources Administrator or the principals involved, at which time the teacher shall be notified of the reason for the transfer. In that a teacher objects to the

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transfer or reassignment at this meeting, upon the request of the teacher, the Association shall meet with the Board's designee to review the matter.

- 14.2.3 Consultation.** Teachers and administrators shall be consulted before a decision is made. Transfers shall not be automatic but based on needs.

The procedure requires a meeting with the teacher by the HR Admin or the Principal. This did not occur. It also provides for an appeal process at which the teacher can meet with the Board's designee to review the matter. This did not happen, either. These are two clear violations of the contract.

The School Day Schedule Controversy

For the last two years when I was the Academic Representative (representing the interests of teachers of the academic subjects like Math, Social Studies, Languages, etc) on SIC (School Improvement Committee) at West, I argued to keep control of the school

day schedule at West. I think that the hour and a half classes are too long, and I feel that the five minutes between classes is too short. Studies are inconclusive as to the efficacy of the longer class durations, but the longest class in existence in any high school is an hour and a half, which probably indicates that it is not optimum. The five minute passing time (time between classes) is frantic. Any time saved by this change is lost by students asking to use the restroom as soon as they get to class. Now, according to the Written Agreement, the Teacher's contract with the School Board, the decision to do this should be arrived at with the shared consensus of the Faculty and the Administration. Felshaw King, a mediator hired by the District to resolve the dispute, [recommended](#) that the school day schedule decision be taken back to the individual schools' SICs and discussed. It also advised that the Shared Governance Process, in which all parties reach consensus, should be followed. The recommendation was ignored by the District.

Ms Kimberly Winn, myself and other members of the SIC were quite disappointed when the mediator's recommendation was ignored. Ms. Winn, the Chairperson of the West High SIC, was involuntarily transferred at the end of last year. The reason given was that she was a "roadblock" to progress at West High. As you can see from the Garcia letter, I am being transferred because it will "give you an opportunity to bring your skills and abilities to a group of students that will benefit from your expertise".

The main issue is the procedures that are not being followed and decisions are being made that are generating outcomes that are not in the best interests of your students. It is curious that at Charter Schools and even at the Alternative School at Horizonte there is a large amount of latitude allowed to handle local decisions locally. But at West, East and Highland, this is not allowed. The ironic twist is that in personal communications between myself and Ms. Winn, both of whom would have rotated out of the SIC this year anyways, we admitted that we were championing a lost cause and that the best plan for the 2011-2012 year was simply to "hunker down".

Reviewing the District's Rationale for the Involuntary Transfer

For the purposes of my Involuntary Transfer, the District's assertion is that my skills would be better utilized at Horizonte than at West. Let's investigate their claim.

A Short Biography *(Skip this paragraph at will)*































I have Bachelor's degrees in Physics and Mathematics, a Masters in Physics and I finished the coursework for a PhD in Astronomy after working as a Technical Specialist at [NRAO](#) for two years. My first son was born before I finished the thesis so I started work as an electronics engineer, later as a software engineer. This part of my life lasted about twenty two years. I have been a teacher for ten years, receiving the MIT Excite Award twice in 2008 and 2010, the MIT Exceptional Teacher Award in 2009 (Thanks, Gleb) and I accompanied a team of six West High students last summer to MIT presenting our InvenTeams project, the [UXO Grazer](#). I was awarded the Stanford Outstanding Teacher Award in 2009 (Thanks, Evan). Two years ago we had two students admitted to Caltech (Dan & Carson) and this year two of our students are part of the 165

member class at Harvard Medical School (Vishesh and Sam). I have taught IB Physics at West for eight years, and Honors for four. I voluntarily taught AP Physics for two years to demonstrate that there was a need for it at West, and now it is a standard part of the curriculum.

2010-2011 Test Results in Physics

As far as the efficacy of my teaching: seven of our IB Physics students received "7's", the highest score on the IB exam this year. I remember when I took the IB training in New Mexico, some teachers were recounting proudly how one of their students achieved a seven on the test the previous year. We are amongst the best IB Schools in the nation. Furthermore, fifty percent of our AP Physics students received "5's" the perfect score for AP tests. The average for the school was 4.0. In defense of the other subjects, Physics is a very well-defined curriculum and the secret to getting good marks is to cover the syllabus completely and in detail.

Below is my 2011-2012 Class Schedule at West High School

1-2(A)	Physics Honors					
1-2(B)	IB Physics SL					
3-4(A)	Physics Honors					
3-4(B)	AP Physics B					
5-6(A)	IB Physics HL					
5-6(B)	Chemistry					

The Position at Horizonte

Let's examine the position to which the District thinks I am more suited. Below is my anticipated teaching schedule:

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
	45	60	55	30	40	40	40	45	45
Teacher	8:20 – 9:15	9:15-10:15	10:15 - 11:10	11:10 - 11:40	11:40-12:20	2.236863426	1:00-1:45	1:45-2:30	2:30 - 3:15
Dan	Advisory	Geom	Algebra	Lunch	Math lab Personal Fin	Algebra	Math lab Personal Fin	Earth Science	Prep

I can teach Algebra fairly effectively, but I have never taught Earth Systems, Geometry or Personal Finance. So four out of the six classes would be new in this assignment. I do not have the training to teach Personal Finance, which requires a three day Professional Development course. Nothing more needs to be said than this is a bad fit for me.

Endangering the SIG (Federal School Improvement Grant) Grant at the Horizonte Center

Finally, the school that they wish to transfer me to is a Title 1 School Improvement Grant (SIG) school. SIG schools have guidelines about who you can transfer into them. From the 2010 SIG Grant Guidance:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigguidance02232011.pdf>

E-5. In addition to the required activities, what other activities related to developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness may an LEA undertake as part of its implementation of a transformation model?

In addition to the required activities for a transformation model, an LEA may also implement other strategies to develop teachers' and school leaders' effectiveness, such as:

- (1) Providing additional compensation to attract and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of students in a transformation school;
- (2) Instituting a system for measuring changes in instructional practices resulting from professional development; or
- (3) Ensuring that the school is not required to accept a teacher without the mutual consent of the teacher and principal, regardless of the teacher's seniority.

I have copied out the appropriate section, but you can check it in the original source document pointed to by the hyperlink above. We are interested in part (3) that specifies that the transfer requires the mutual consent of the teacher and the principal. I am being involuntarily transferred, and I am not fully qualified to teach the classes assigned. (LEA = Local Education Authority = District)

Local Education Agency (LEA)	School to be served	School Improvement Grant Award
Salt Lake School District	Horizonte Instruction and Training Center	\$2,200,000
San Juan School District	Tse'bii'nidzsigai Elementary (formerly Mexican Hat Elementary)	\$1,200,000
Tooele School District	Wendover High School	\$1,000,000
Uintah School District	Eagle View Elementary	\$1,775,000

Summary

The Involuntary Transfer of Dan McGuire from his Physics position at West to a position at Horizonte is a bad idea for three reasons:

- 1) His skill set more closely matches the West High Physics position, as opposed to the Horizonte position.
- 2) Horizonte is a SIG Grant School and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding that includes "innovative" teaching methods that include close interaction with the students that would be uncomfortable for a traditional teacher.
- 3) The West High Physics program will irrevocably be damaged for not one, but two years of West High graduates due to the way in which the IB SL/HL classes are being compressed this year.

Appendix 2

2. Support Letters

Compilation of letters from students, alumni, and parents to the SLC School Board Members, administrators, and the Teacher's Union representative providing support for Mr. McGuire and/or protesting the transfer decision and asking for its reversal.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mimsy <sunflowerharvest@gmail.com>

To: West Parents for McGuire <west-parents-for-mcguire@googlegroups.com>

Subject: Letter of support for Mr.McGuire (for Ania's compilation)

Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 07:40:56 -0700 (PDT)

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a freshman at West High this year, and I've been in the ELP program since fourth grade. Last year I took Mr McGuire's AP Physics B class. All I knew of physics was the little I had glimpsed through my science fair projects, but Mr McGuire's class was one of the most interesting and in-depth I've ever been in. He is an amazing teacher who didn't just prepare us for the AP test, he gave us an understanding of and love for physics. Although the class moved very fast to cover the entire syllabus, we never felt we were being forced to work- we just looked forward to those 90 minutes! It's easy to tell that Mr McGuire loves his subject and his excitement is contagious. Because of his fantastic teaching, I scored a 5 on the AP test last May. I was also hoping to take IB Physics with him in the future. If Mr McGuire is forced to transfer, West will lose one of its most inspiring, hardworking teachers- I can't imagine the science wing without his classroom.

-Anushka Dasgupta

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Oliver Richardson <orichardson95@gmail.com>

To: kris_anna_kubica@juno.com, dmcguire@xmission.com

Subject: Letter of support for McGuire (Oliver)

Date: Wed, 24 Aug 2011 22:56:01 -0600

I sent this letter earlier, but I didn't realize it wouldn't be public.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Oliver Richardson; I am a student at West High School going into eleventh grade. I took AP Physics B from Dan McGuire in 8th grade, a full 3 years before the school's schedule suggests. I went into the class a bit nervous and scared, having not taken chemistry or biology, but to my surprise, I immediately found the class a very friendly, casual, and cheerful atmosphere, if not 100% emotion-sensitive. Sure, my friend and I were always the butt of jokes due to the fact that we took the course early, but they were not out of line; they were hilarious. McGuire's teaching style is not as standard or "politically correct" as other teachers, which is precisely what makes him a captivating teacher. He knows how to grab students' attention and he is very good at teaching what he does, the way he does. I am aware that not everybody likes his teaching style, but it is brutally effective in motivating gifted students to perform well. Not only is McGuire an outstanding teacher, but also incredibly devoted to the students. He pours countless hours and a large sum of his own personal money into the robotics team, as well as the UXO project, and before that, the BridgeBuilder project.

As a direct result of McGuire's effort and commitment, I got a 5 of 5 on AP Physics B -- my very first AP test -- and, moreover, I am now a central member of the robotics team. He was my favorite teacher in the school and I would hate to see him go; I can't imagine any replacement being as good.

Furthermore, I feel that McGuire's new position at Horizante is a waste of a valuable teacher. Although I have no doubts that he could continue to teach his new subjects well, he is one of a very select few people who not only have the physics and mathematical expertise to qualify as a physics teacher and mentor, but also enjoys teaching high school students. Why would he not teach physics when the district is in such dire need for physics teachers? He is one of a very select few people who is able to push gifted students to engage in extracurricular activities. Why would he not head these extracurricular programs he's started when there is a lack of qualified leaders? In short, McGuire's unique teaching styles and strengths would be of most benefit in a school with motivated and gifted students. It would be a squandering of resources to allow a teacher such as he to teach personal finance to students who are not as motivated to learn.

Cheers,

-- Oliver

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andy Law** <andylaw888@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Aug 21, 2011 at 3:27 PM

Subject: A Daniel McGuire Testimonial

To: tz@utea.org

Cc: necotter@xmission.com, dmcguire@xmission.com

To whom it may concern:

During this coming year, I will be a senior at West. During my six years (if you include the ELP program), I have met few teachers with the tenacity and dedication as that of Daniel McGuire's. This last year, I took his AP Physics B class. Frankly, I was initially frightened at the prospects of his class; rumor had it that McGuire was a horrible teacher, as well as a deranged lunatic. The moment I walked through his doors, this unfounded perception altered.

I began to see him as a role model and an inspirational teacher. Each physics lecture contained a corresponding experiment, to reinforce textbook principles to those of real life. In a matter of weeks, he performed more experiments than all of my past teachers had done. He connected each concept to a humorous anecdote, a powerful tool in retaining his teachings. His class was not easy; he gave daily quizzes that challenged our thinking, but I would gladly take his classes again. Somehow, he made painful learning so worthwhile.

His class was not my only enriching experience with him. In 2010, I worked with him on West's FRC robotics team. We would work late into the night, with McGuire guiding us every step of the way. Originally, I was shocked to see a teacher outside of school hours, but I came to expect this unparalleled dedication from McGuire. He connected physics in the classroom to physics in real life. He mentored and prodded us, with his trademark jovial character every step of the way. This is no doubt his omnipresence jolted us to success in the national, let alone regional, championships.

Early this year, McGuire did not continue mentoring the robotics team, in pursuit of other activities for students. While I have great respect for the new mentor, he walks in McGuire's shadow. Instead of domination at the regional tournament, the robot would not function until the final moments of the competition. The new mentor could not replicate the success of McGuire, because he lacked McGuire's hallmark dedication to students and their endeavors. This experience serves as an omen of the post-McGuire years.

While I do not have the necessary knowledge to judge impartially the circumstances of his transfer, I can make this claim: his absence will irreparably harm physics and students at West. As a putative student studying IB physics, I am frankly disappointed.

West often prods itself as the "home of scholars and champions." I believe McGuire was this home's foundation.

Imagine what would happen if the foundation was removed.

With all due respects,
Andy Law

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a West High senior, and I volunteer weekly in the Math Department at West High. I have known Dan McGuire for the past five years, and he one of the most brilliant people I know. He is also one of the best teachers I have ever seen. I suspect he is the most qualified teacher for high-level AP and IB physics and math classes in the state, if not the country. Having attended Caltech (BS in EE) and Stanford (MS in EE, MS in Math, PhD in EE), and having taught for 25 years at the University of Utah, I have met a number of bright people, but I have never seen the combination of intellect and energy for teaching that Dan McGuire has.

I feel Dan is a truly superb teacher, reminiscent of "Stand and Deliver". I have had the privilege of sitting in on several of his classes. In one class, he posed a difficult problem from number theory that inspired me to go home and spend an entire evening solving it. That was a high-level IB course. In another class, he prodded, gesticulated, and encouraged the students to solve math problems until they were fairly jumping out of their seats. Those were the students in the lowest-level course--the students who had failed their previous math classes.

Facts support my impressions. Diana Taggart, a former mathematics teacher at West High whom I nominated for a Huntsman Award, has told me that one year West High had six students accepted at Caltech. Given that Caltech's freshman class consists of about 200 students--who historically have had the highest average standardized test scores of any school in the world--having six students accepted from one high school is staggering. Given also that Caltech is known for physics, (Einstein spent time there), there is little doubt that Dan McGuire had a huge hand in that success. The success extends to placing students in many other prominent schools, too.

Simply put, Dan McGuire is a treasure. For West High, he is the equivalent of a franchise player.

-Neil Cotter
Associate Professor (Lecturer)
ECE Dept, University of Utah
necotter@ece.utah.edu

Kasper Kubica
kasperkubica@gmail.com
(801) 941-2737

In my freshman year at West, Mr. McGuire taught my AP Physics B class (officially called Honors Physics, but he covered most of the AP material in class and filled in the remainder through teaching students after school - for free, and volunteering his own time). I received a score of 5 out of a possible 5 on the AP test, and felt more prepared than I have for any other AP test. This year, I am an incoming junior, eager to work on the MIT Grazer project (an MIT-funded mine detecting robot development and construction project, which Mr. McGuire secured for West last year, and has actively led, in his Higher Level Physics IB class), and West's FIRST robotics team (3006), which Mr. McGuire started three years ago (with a large amount of parent and student help, of course), and has led for two years, devoting a large amount of personal time and money. He took a break from the FIRST team last year, so as to devote all his time to the Grazer project, but was to return this year to a team that very much needed his guidance and support. I believe this transfer to Horizonte doesn't give that school all his amazing abilities, but rather squanders them on classes such as Algebra, Geometry, Earth Systems, and Personal Finance, the latter three of which he has never taught - His years of experience as an AP and IB physics teacher are not being put to use.

Ultimately, I and the other students at West on an engineering/physics career path are being deprived not only of an amazing teacher with years of experience (including an unbelievable track record of student test scores), but also of a man whose passion and commitment to his students - and the extracurricular activities they need to succeed as they graduate from high school - I have never seen equaled by anyone else.

Simply put, we need Mr. McGuire back. Even the most passionate and qualified physics teacher out there will take many years to accumulate the skills of how to teach specifically for the AP and IB tests, and many more to become as deeply committed and comfortable (with the many projects we students need to truly cultivate our love of physics and engineering) as Mr. McGuire was.

I have not heard, from anyone, a single reason why this transfer will help students. Shouldn't the first priority of the Salt Lake City School District be to help those of us being taught in its schools? Those of us for whom the public school system was made?

--- On Mon, 8/22/11, Tong Zheng <tzheng_hulu@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Tong Zheng <tzheng_hulu@yahoo.com>

Subject: A Letter of support for Dan McGuire

To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org, parley.jacobs@slcschools.org,
marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org, rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org,
ken.devries@slcschools.org, Mindi.Holmdahl@slcschools.org, west-parents-for-mcguire@googlegroups.com

Cc: tz@utea.org, elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org, amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org,
alama.ulave@slcschools.org, doug@mdxperts.com, rosemary.emery2@gmail.com,
heatherbennett@xmission.com, laurel.young@slcschools.org,
kristi.swett@slcschools.org

Date: Monday, August 22, 2011, 11:05 PM

To whom it may concern,

My son is an incoming 10th grader in the West. He will take AP Physics this year. For the students best interest, I am writing to support Dan McGuire.

My son hasn't taken a lesson from Mr. McGuire yet, but he has heard many good things about his teaching ability and willingness to mentor student in Science projects. Actually Mr. McGuire is the major reason my son chose the West. He spends 30 minutes one way each day to the West because he can study his truly loved Physics with devoted Mr. McGuire. My son has been looking forward this school year, but so disappointed this few days because of this sudden change.

I don't know what happens between Mr. McGuire and the Administration. But I know those students who love science like him. I also know those students who are willing to achieve higher goal need him. Not only students get solid knowledge and skill from his passionate teaching, but also West earns the superior academic reputation because of his work.

It's so hard to find a good Physics teacher in today's public school. Mr. McGuire has been proved an excellent Physics teacher. Please retain him in the West. The students will benefit the most. I think this should also be the top priority of the school district.

Tong Zheng M.S.
Data Dissemination Program Manager
Office of Public Health Assessment
Center for Health Data
Utah Department of Health

Dear Ms. Tzourtzouklis,

We, Gunseli Berik and Cihan Bilginsoy are professors of economics at the University of Utah.

Our son took Honors Physics from Mr. Dan McGuire in 2010-2011 during his junior year. He enjoyed this course so much that he decided to continue to higher level IB Physics with Mr. McGuire in his senior year. He was impressed with and proud of the quantity of material he learned in this course.

But there were two other things that were far more important. The first is the excitement of learning. Questions of “Did you know ...?” became common at home, around dinner table, and our son's satisfaction of learning and motivation to move forward was very apparent. That is why IB Physics was the most attractive prospect for Mehmet in his senior year. The course was not in his intended course schedule at the beginning of the junior year. Mr. McGuire transforms students by infecting them with excitement of science.

Even more important, however, throughout the last school year Mehmet always reiterated that he is “learning how to learn.” This is less tangible than all the other achievements of Mr. McGuire but we believe the most important. Details of course content are inevitably forgotten over time, unless one specializes in the subject in later life. As professors teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, however, we intimately know the value of asking the right questions, analytical thinking and reasoning, and problem solving. These skills never die because they are applied in all contexts after school and college. It is the most important skill anyone can bring to higher education and workplace.

In economics we pay a lot of attention to efficiency. As teachers we know that a teaching assignment cannot be taken lightly to be rearranged at the last minute. We spend weeks to prepare courses for the new semester, even for courses we taught in earlier semesters. Departments make sure that the expertise of the instructors matches the courses they teach. The transfer of Mr. McGuire would be an inefficient decision on both counts. If it goes forward, it is wasteful of a valuable resource and is going to reduce welfare of all students across the board.

West High School administrators should be proud to have a teacher like Mr. McGuire, instead of trying to transfer him.

Please feel free to share our testimonial with the District. We hope that you will take the necessary steps to keep Mr. McGuire continue teaching at West High School.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Gunseli Berik and Cihan Bilginsoy

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Letter of Support for Dan McGuire

Date:Sun, 21 Aug 2011 18:34:17 -0600

From:Mary Claire Huber <mch@xmission.com>

To:TZ@UTEA.org

To whom it may concern:

My son is a senior at West High. He was in Mr. McGuire's AP Physics class last year and is registered for the HL Physics class this year. Mr. McGuire is an exceptional teacher; my son's knowledge of and enthusiasm for the study of physics is testimony to this. It would be a tragedy for the school and students were Mr. McGuire to be transferred at this point.

Thank you very much,
Mary Claire Huber

From: Doug Clark [<mailto:doug.bock.clark@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2011 6:21 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Recently, there has been some controversy about the involuntary transfer of West High School math and physics teacher Dan McGuire to Horizonte High School. Such a transfer would be a great loss to West High School and its IB program.

When I took Dan McGuire's IB Math Methods class at West High School in 2004 I was a weak math and science student: the previous semester I had received a "D" in introductory chemistry. Yet, despite my lack of aptitude for science and math, he took an interest in me, probing to find my interest in English literature and then encouraging it. He even went so far as to buy me a copy of T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*, which I still have, and to discuss it with me.

Any teacher can work with passionate students, but one mark of an excellent teacher is how that individual deals with students who are less than fully engaged. Instead of discounting me, Dan McGuire went out of his way (and pedagogic field) to help me succeed. Dan McGuire's interest in me was one of the pivotal turning points in my high school career, prompting me to become a serious student and setting the stage for later academic success (Duke University 2009, Graduated with Highest Distinction; Fulbright Fellow ETA, 2010; Senior Fulbright Fellow ETA, 2011).

I know from observation, anecdotes, and the outpouring of recent support that I am not the only person whose life Dan McGuire has altered in such a positive way. He deserves to be honored by West High School's administration, not unceremoniously kicked out the door,

Doug Clark

West High School 2005

From: philjohnson8@msn.com
To: necotter@xmission.com
Subject: Keep Dan McGuire at West HS
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:38:43 -0600

Neil,

I have been following the continuing drama regarding Mr. McGuire's assignment at West High School with great dismay. As an involved parent, I have been serving on the SCC for the past two years at West and in both our son's Elementary and Middle Schools and have met or worked with most of the players in this political cluster. I am very frustrated by the apparent last minute games and the lack of consideration for the students being impacted.

Our son will be starting 11th grade IB this year and is scheduled to take both AP Physics and IB Physics with Dan. Based on Dan's success with other students taking AP and IB exams, my son was very excited about this year's schedule. A schedule that also includes AP English Lit, IB Math, AP/IB Music, French III, US Govt and World Civ. As parents, we were pleased to see his interest in taking on such a heavy schedule. It is the caliber of the teachers, like Dan, that drew us away from Highland to West two years ago.

On a professional level, my organization has hired over 800 employees (engineering/technical trades) each of the past two years. Last year, we had Dr. Shumway visit our facility and I personally had the opportunity to speak at the State legislature and with Governor Herbert about the need to continue supporting STEM education at all levels. In looking at the high school pipeline, I also had the pleasure of speaking with Dan about the Robotics program and his ability to help his students apply class theory in real ways. Something that we struggle to find with today's high school graduates. (consistent with a recent NBC news report that a Siemen's facility found that only 10% of the work force can pass their pre-employment test related to the application of math and science).

This type of move, regardless of how it started, does nothing but disrupt the planning that is required to prepare and deliver high quality education - whether at West or Horizonte. The students at West are now caught in the middle of a labor dispute between administrators and teachers. In our shared governance model, Patrick has presented the parents and students as part of the decision making body. It is obvious that the parents and students are in favor of retaining Dan at West. As such, I would like to add our voice to support retaining Dan McGuire at West High School and can only hope that the administrators and teachers will strive to solve their conflict outside of the educational arena.

Thanks!

Phil Johnson
Maksymilian Cegielski-Johnson
West HS Junior

From: philjohnson8@msn.com
To: larry.shumway@schools.utah.gov
Subject: SLC School District
Date: Tue, 23 Aug 2011 23:24:33 -0600

Dr. Shumway,

As you are probably already aware, there has been a significant disruption at West High School as we anticipate the start of the new school year. The event involves the last minute, involuntary transfer of one of the IB Science faculty members.

Mr. McGuire was informed over the past week that he will be transferred to the Horizonte School immediately. As a parent, member of the school council and an employer, I am disturbed at this last minute decision and the impact this change will have on the students and to the school.

At West High School, Mr. McGuire was scheduled to teach the following classes:

- Physics Honors (2X), IB Physics SL, AP Physics, IB Physics HL and Chemistry

This transfer leaves West High School without a qualified IB Physics instructor.

In his new job at Horizonte, Mr. McGuire is scheduled to teach:

- Advisory, Geometry, Algebra (2X), Personal Finance, Earth Science and Lunch

In a letter from Dr. Garcia, he states that this involuntary change will be a better fit for Mr. McGuire, Horizonte and West High School.

I guess Mr. McGuire's success over the past 10 years with his students academic achievement (AP/IB exam scores and college acceptance) and successful extra curricular program (Robotics Team) didn't warrant consideration. I don't see the comparison and now West is struggling to find a replacement with the appropriate teaching credentials.

This kind of action, under the cover of finding a better fit, undermines the credibility and the competence of the school district's administration. This situation has drawn the ire of both parents and students who see the school district and West High School administration using this tool (involuntary transfer) to manage conformity.

In our conversation last year after a school board meeting, we spoke about the need to continue to improve STEM education in Utah. You had stated your general support and expressed a vision for advancing these "hard" subjects with the state legislature and the general public. As an employer (you visited our facility), this situation would be like me

hiring an electrical engineer to build cables. I may get great cables, but would go out of business in short order. We need to hire the right person for the right job.

The intent of the parents and students is to seek appropriate redress from the school district to ensure that education for our children is not being sacrificed to internal politics. We have and will continue to ask for Mr. McGuire's reinstatement at West High School for the coming year and that any future actions be conducted openly and honestly.

Being "almost" an engineer, I would ask for your personal review of this situation and support to ensure that the students of West High School continue to have access to a high quality education. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Phil Johnson
Salt Lake City, Utah
801 673 3621

From: Rebecca Nickerson <nickerson.rebecca@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 11:30:19 -0600

To: <larry.shumway@schools.utah.gov>

Cc: <tz@utea.org>, Amanda Thorderson <amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org>, <alama.uluvave@slcschools.org>, "Doug@mdxperts.com" <Doug@mdxperts.com>, <rosemary.emery2@gmail.com>, "heatherbennett@xmission.com" <heatherbennett@xmission.com>, <laurel.young@slcschools.org>, <kristi.swett@slcschools.org>

Subject: Dan McGuire's Involuntary Transfer

Mr. ♦ Shumway,



My name is Rebecca Nickerson, and I had the honor of meeting you on August 5th at your offices for the ACT Recognition Ceremony. ♦ ♦ I greatly appreciate that you took the time to acknowledge the Utah students who earned a score of 36 on the ACT.

I am writing to you because I am concerned about recent issues regarding the involuntary transfer of a West High teacher, Daniel McGuire. ♦ The details surrounding the matter are still somewhat unclear, but when I heard about the possibility of Mr. McGuire ♦'s transfer I was troubled. ♦ Mr. McGuire is one of the finest teachers at West High and is critical to the IB program. ♦ He is not only the sole physics teacher we have at West, but is also one of the most interesting and instructive teachers I have ever had. ♦ His classes, including all the AP and IB Physics courses at West High, continually teach and challenge students, forcing us to work harder to understand new concepts and acquire a love of learning. ♦ He leads the robotics team at West and has pushed the team to become strong and competitive as well as to learn. ♦ In addition, many of his students score exceptionally well on national tests, receiving 5s on AP Physics and 7s on IB Physics, each of which are the highest possible respective scores.

After reading Mr. McGuire ♦'s webpage, I believe it is clear that Mr. McGuire wants to continue teaching at West High for the 2011-2012 school year. ♦ Furthermore, an overwhelming number of students and parents want him to remain at West and fully support him. ♦ The needs of West High students to have such an exceptional teacher as Mr. McGuire for the IB program and for the student body as a whole should be the

foremost concern when considering this transfer. ♦ Any other issues, including disagreements between Mr. McGuire and the school administration which may have contributed to this transfer, are secondary to the students' needs. ♦ In order to provide students with the best possible education and uphold the values of the Salt Lake City School District to create and maintain high standards of education excellence, the School District must recognize the vital role that Mr. McGuire holds at West High. ♦ An involuntary transfer, for whatever reason, clearly does not meet the needs of the students that the School District claims to represent. ♦ A school system that asserts that it stands for the rights and needs of its students should see that Mr. McGuire's transfer order violates the purpose of the School District to do what is best for its students.

Please consider the wishes of West High students, as well of those of Mr. McGuire, before involuntarily transferring one of our best teachers. ♦ I sincerely hope that Mr. McGuire will continue teaching at West High. ♦ He is necessary for the IB program and for the continued inspiration and success of many of the students at West. ♦ I hope that the School District will recognize that needs of its students in making its decision.

♦

Thank you for your time,

♦

Rebecca Nickerson

From: Yasemin Miller <milfam@gmail.com>
Date: August 25, 2011 2:22:08 PM MDT
To: whipsnet@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: [whipsnet] Letters of support for Dan McGuire

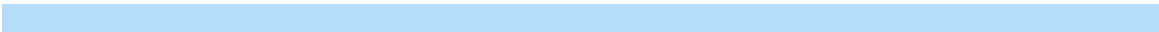
Dear Anna- I would like to write a letter in support of Dan McGuire.

My daughters, Anne Miller and Emily Miller were both students in Dan McGuire's advanced math classes at West High School. Anne and Emily felt that Mr. McGuire was an outstanding teacher and they looked forward to taking his courses. He not only explained difficult concepts very well and covered the material completely but he challenged his students and expressed a personal interest in whatever they were doing. He prepared them well for the IB exam and for further math and science classes on a University level. Anne is a third year student at Stanford Medical School and Emily is a first year student at Johns Hopkins Medical School. They both feel that Mr. McGuire was one of the best teachers they had at West High School and that he contributed greatly to their success.

We wish him all the best and thank him for adding so much to their education.

Thank-you,
Yasemin Miller
parent of two former IB students

.



Attached Message

From: cynthia.furse@utah.edu
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Cc: necotter@xmission.com; daniel.mcguire@slcschools.org
Subject: My experience with Dan McGuire, encourage retention of exceptional physics teacher
Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 16:25:29 -0600

Dear School Board,

I am writing to you as a university professor who has worked with numerous teachers & students around the valley and who is concerned about expanding the pipeline for well trained scientists and engineers in our state. Dan is exceptional in this regard. Very very few teachers have the motivation, the excitement in their classroom, the passion, and the success with students of Dan McGuire. He has done a fabulous job of motivating, exciting, challenging, and teaching students to THINK at West High. This has been imminently clear from working directly with Dan, and working with his students. The students who come out of his program are well prepared to move immediately into higher level engineering and science programs, and what is more, they WANT to. When I heard he had been transferred to Horizonte, I was dumb founded. Dan is one of the valley's very top physics teachers, who has been transferred to a school that doesn't have a physics program???? At a time when our state is working so hard to increase the number of science and engineering graduates? We need more highly motivational teachers like Dan McGuire, and we need him in a place he can help create the next generation of Utah scientists and engineers.

I recognize the needs of the students at Horizonte, and they also need high quality teachers. But it doesn't seem like they particularly need a physics teacher, when the students at West high do. This seemed like such a strange re-assignment that I wanted to strongly encourage you as a school board to look into the change and be sure that it was really done with the needs of the students in mind. It does not have that appearance. This peculiar decision definitely needs school board review.

Thank you, Cynthia Furse

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Attached Message

From: paige@paigeshelton.com
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Subject: West
Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 10:02:58 -0600

Hello -

I would like to address the situation regarding the Physics program at West High School. I don't quite know what is going on but I know for certain that my son doesn't have a physics teacher and there seems to be a well-qualified one who wants the job. It seems that the students' education is the last thing being considered.

I don't know Mr. McGuire. Until recently I didn't even know of him. From what I've seen, it looks like he made a request for transfer at the beginning of the summer which he later rescinded. It looks like the Salt Lake City School District has some sort of reason to make him suffer for that decision. From my perspective, **this is not important.**

What is important is, again, the fact that my son doesn't have a teacher for a pretty important class, and there's a teacher with a proven track record at the ready.

If this situation is truly something other than what it appears to be, it would behoove the board to better explain their actions. As it is it just looks like a bunch of bullying.

Please, someone, figure this out – for the students.

Thank you,
Paige Ferre

Attached Message

From: dmdibe@comcast.net

To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org

Subject: Dan McGuire

Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 09:15:15 -0600

To whom it may concern,

Could you please explain to me why my son thinks he is going to fail his IB Physics test and not get an IB diploma?

Is it true that Mr. McGuire will not be at West? Who is set to replace him? What is going on?

A very concerned parent of an anxious Senior who has worked very hard throughout his 5 years at West,
Emi

Attached Message

From: montgomerykurt@comcast.net
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org;
necotter@xmission.com
Cc: whipsnet@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: Dan McGuire
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 11:55:58 -0600

Dear SLC School Board:

After watching the events unfold in Libya over the weekend, isn't it refreshing to see the ideals of Democracy continuing to break out all around the globe.

Unfortunately the evident of your actions demonstrates that the forces Totalitarianism are alive and well in the SLC School District, since your main emphasis here seems to be on stifling dissent.

Have you no shame?!

Sincerely,

Kurt Montgomery



Attached Message

From: minniekick@hotmail.com
Subject: Keep McGuire!
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 10:21:21 -0600

To All Concerned,

Last year was my first year taking physics. I signed up for IB physics with Mr. McGuire. I was in way over my head, the only junior in the class. Mr. McGuire didn't kick me out, even when I wanted to quit. He kept pushing me and believed in my ability to succeed. This was one of the hardest classes I have ever taken in my life and now the most satisfying. McGuire not only taught me physics, but made me realize my strength and potential to succeed in a challenging environment. He taught me an important life lesson. I will always remember how Mr. McGuire believed in me as I move on to my senior year, college, and beyond.

Last May, Mr. McGuire's entire IB physics class scored a 7 on the IB test, including me, much to my amazement. Thank you Mr. McGuire!

Minnie Horvath
IB Student

Attached Message

From:	zoso95@hotmail.com
To:	elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org
Subject:	mcguire
Date:	Mon, 22 Aug 2011 08:21:24 -0600

I am currently a U student, former west high student. I had Mcguire for both AP physics and robotics. He was one of the best mentors/ teachers i had at west and strongly supports students learning and getting involved. I know this year he is help getting the school involved in a computer challenge, he started FIRST robotics at west, and is the best teacher i had at my 6 years at west. I would advise you to reconsider your decision.

- Geoff Bradway

Attached Message

From: jesse_yem@yahoo.com
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.uluaave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Subject: Dan McGuire's Involuntary Transfer
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 01:21:28 -0600

August 22, 2011

Dear whoever it may concern,

I am a senior at West High School this year. I like most of my fellow peers took or was planning on taking a Physics course during our time at here at West High. Dan McGuire was always the person students at West associated with Physics.


Today I found out about Dan McGuire's recent transfer news and was applauded and deeply saddened by what is and could happen. Dan McGuire is a phenomenal teacher no matter what anyone tells you, and to abruptly take him away from the place that needs him and where he has dedicated so much time and effort under the justification of "bringing his skills and abilities to a group of students who can benefit from his expertise" seems crude. Dan McGuire is the AP/IB teacher of Physics, put together a well respected computer club, and is someone whom constantly talks to the school board on behalf of students' complaints while encouraging them to engage more in their own education.

If Dan McGuire was to leave for Horizonte then all of what he does for West High whether it be known or not would be lost for future students that would have taken AP/IB Physics, wanted to join Robotics Club, or noticed how much he actually cares about his students.

I am sure Horizonte is in need of a teacher like Dan McGuire but as of right now West High needs him more and to take him away would be ill-advised and most likely harm more than it would help anyone.

Thank You,

Jesse Yem



Attached Message

From: cjerry@sas.upenn.edu
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.uluaave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Letter of Support for Dan McGuire
 Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 00:31:00 -0600

To Whom it May Concern

After reading quite a few of the support letters regarding Mr. McGuire's involuntary transfer from West High School I realized that almost everything that can be said has been said. But if I may I'd like to offer a different perspective. My name is Jerry Chen a 2009 graduate from West High School. I currently attend the University of Pennsylvania and am majoring in a program called the Biological Basis of Behavior. Like almost every other self-motivated student at West I was enrolled in Mr. McGuire's AP/IB Physics Class. However, perhaps unlike others I did not enjoy the class nor truly like the subject of physics afterwards. If anything AP/IB Physics taught me just how terrible physics could truly be: complex, confusing, and most importantly different. Mr. McGuire taught differently, thought differently, and affected everyone at a personal level differently. It was not rare to hear people whispering in the hall about how much they thought Mr. McGuire hated them or perhaps how unusual or funny their most current class with him was.

With a unique personality Mr. McGuire affected me perhaps differently than others you have read about. As stated previously I did not enjoy physics nor to this day probably will ever enjoy the subject. But yet, I stayed in the class when I had already been accepted to a prestigious university, when I had already fulfilled my "high school" duties to further my education. This sounds absurd, but I stayed because Mr. McGuire was different just like me. What other genius physics teacher cheers you on from the sidelines as you practiced lacrosse on the football field? What other teacher berated you for your handwriting in a science class? Yet I stayed because Mr. McGuire, as cheesy or pedestrian as it may sound, made a meaningful impact on my life. He didn't see me as the little brother of the genius Niel Chen who had walked the halls of West High School only three years prior. Instead he saw me as the uncaring smart mouth that really hadn't done a lick of work throughout high school. He saw through my smoke and mirrors, and saw that really I had no idea what I wanted to do in life. He showed me first-hand the passion he had for physics and his students, and more importantly the passion I so sorely lacked in my own life.

To this day physics still confuses me and robots even more. But one thing that I never find myself lacking is passion. Mr. McGuire may have failed to ignite a spark for physics within me, but he truly did sculpt who I am today. I feel passion in what I study today, dread when I have to take my next physics class, and most importantly live with no regrets. He may be crazy, eccentric, and at times brash, but that in a nutshell is my college life. Could I have survived my freshman Physics 051 Class at the University of Pennsylvania without Mr. McGuire? Almost certainly. Would I have gotten a decent grade regardless? Possibly. Would I have stayed in it and fulfilled my Pre-Med requirements? No. Things in life aren't made to be easy or simple and Mr. McGuire taught me that. He taught me that if you truly want something in life you have to be passionate and you have to be willing to sacrifice the time and effort. Many of us that go to West High School are on the single minded track to simply get into top-tier colleges. Many of us walk into these colleges confused and disoriented; unprepared for the rigors and passion they require to survive. I toiled through his class, listened to his intellectual critiques, and doodled pictures as he lectured. However, those lucky enough to take his class were prepared for their difficult education ahead.

If you can find one teacher as passionate, as involved, or as important to people on a personal level as McGuire than I implore you to transfer him. The AP/IB program at West High School is special; it consistently churns out some of the brightest minds in Utah to some of the finest schools in the nation. At the heart and soul of program as unique and prestigious as the one at West lie teachers like Dan McGuire. They drive it, mold it, and most importantly affect bright minds in a positive way.

I leave you with only one more personal story. When my parents this past summer asked me where my younger brother should attend, the ELP program at West High School or Wasatch Junior High, I stated quite bluntly West. My brother much like me and other kids at West is smart and has a bright future. Nevertheless, much like how I used to be he doesn't understand how to apply his passions and interests. I know that by attending West he will inevitably go through Mr. McGuire; he may even hate him and physics, but I know that more importantly he will become a better student and person from it. Physics, robotics, mathematics aside, Mr. McGuire instilled an ever burning passion to find something I truly enjoyed in college and life. To this day I've yet to return to West High School to visit my teachers. However, after writing this letter I've come to realize Mr. McGuire's influence on my life. With that in mind, I truly hope that I can shake his hand this coming winter when I come home and finally visit my old school.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jerry Chen

Attached Message

From: andrew.moore227@gmail.com
Subject: Mr. McGuire Testimonial
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 00:02:16 -0600

To whom it may concern:

My name is Andrew Moore, and I just finished my junior year at West High in which Mr. McGuire's teaching guided myself and many of my classmates to the coveted score of a 5 on the AP Physics B test. I look forward to taking the IB HL Physics class and test next year under the guidance of Mr. McGuire.

During my time at West before I had Mr. McGuire's class, I heard two opinions about him. The first was that he is just plain crazy, and the second is that he is a genius. After being in his class and witnessing first-hand how his teaching not only teaches the material but also inspires each student to go home and study based on pure interest and fascination with the subject, I agree 100% with the second opinion I heard about him - Mr. McGuire is a teaching genius. On many occasions I sat in his class fascinated and then went home and applied the material outside of homework. For example, in one class we did an introduction to conservation of mechanical energy, so when I got home I designed (on paper) my own design of a simple roller coaster while calculating forces on the passengers at various points to keep it realistic. Teachers that can truly inspire their students to be genuinely fascinated by the material to the point they go home and work with it in their limited spare time outside of normal homework as Mr. McGuire inspired me to do don't come around very often. West High is very fortunate to have a teacher like Mr. McGuire.

I know I don't know everything there is to know regarding this transfer situation, but from this student's perspective, Mr. McGuire is an incredible teacher, and I would very much appreciate the opportunity to learn more about physics and how the world works from him this upcoming school year.

Thanks,

Andrew Moore
August 21, 2011
West High Class of 2012
andrew.moore227@gmail.com

From: mboschert1@comcast.net
Subject: Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 23:16:15 -0600

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mark Boschert, father of 3 IB students at WHS. My son Eric had Mr McGuire for Physics and went on to study engineering at USC where he credited his teacher with the ability to pass a very rigorous college physics class which would have been difficult without his previous experience with Mr McGuire. As a physician who had to study physics in high school and college as a requirement for admission to medical school, I must emphasize that good physics teachers are a rarity and that excellent, involved, motivated, and kind physics teachers are in danger of extinction, especially at the high school level. My youngest son, Connor, is looking forward to having Mr McGuire this year and signed up for physics as an elective to do so.

In addition to his considerable accomplishments as a teacher, Mr McGuire has also mentored the robotics program, sponsored the lacrosse club team, and has given freely of his precious personal time to make WHS a great school. All of my kids and their friends give only high marks to Mr McGuire as a teacher and mentor. I am unaware of any students with complaints about this teacher.

While I do not know the particulars regarding his dispute with the administration, I feel very strongly that the transfer of a well respected and beloved teacher crucial to the success of our IB program is short sighted. This action sends a signal to the WHS community (many of whom could have chosen private or other public schools but sought out WHS instead) that politics are more important than our children and their education. Surely Horizonte does not need an IB qualified college prep teacher as badly as WHS, given that most students there have very little interest in physics.

Lastly, I think it highly unlikely that any school would be able to find a teacher at this late date of any quality who could realistically fill Mr McGuire's shoes. I would implore the school board, WHS administration, and its principal to reconsider this precipitous action at the expense of our students. Losing this teacher will force students to take summer physics classes at the University of Utah or SLCC to accomplish the same level of teaching.

Sincerely,

Mark Boschert MD
Mountainwest Gastroenterology
Clinical Associate Professor University of Utah
Gastroenterology Division Chief

Transplant Hepatology
Intermountain Medical Center

Attached Message

From: tophatsam@hotmail.com

To: amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.uluvave@slcschools.org;
doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com;
heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org;
kristi.swett@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org

Subject: Concerning Mr. McGuire's Transfer

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:50:20 -0600

Dear SLC Board and others,

My name is Samantha Wilson, a senior at West this year on the IB track. Science and math have never been my strongest subjects, but I've taken an interest in engineering and video game development, so I've been trying harder to expand my knowledge. I didn't know what to expect when I was put into Mr. McGuire's Physics class, but I wanted to do well. It wasn't going to be that easy, though. Mr. McGuire was always pushing us to do better, even though a lot of us struggled with the concepts. (Physics is math, who knew?) Every time he taught us something, he always used an example or an experiment. Every time we went to class, we learned that physics is *real*. It's around us every second of every day. Out of all the sciences I've taken, physics continues to astound and intrigue me the most. I would never have learned that if not for an expert on the subject like Dan McGuire. He's been around the bend and back again, and knows his stuff better than anyone else.

Admittedly, I wasn't an A student when in his class. I found physics very challenging, and met with a tutor weekly. I don't blame Mr. McGuire for this, however. He was committed to us, and I really respect all that he did to involve us and help us understand how the formulas worked. It was more than plugging in numbers and coming up with the answer for him. It was understanding what went into the equations to make them work, and how fast they made socks slide on a wooden floor, or how long the air in the Chilean mine would last between all of the miners. I was looking forward to taking his IB Physics class, and proving I could handle it. I'd like to become even better at physics so when I enter college I'll have some solid foundation laid out.

Regards,
Samantha Wilson

Attached Message

From: dhogan@caltech.edu
To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org;
marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org; rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org;
ken.devries@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtouklis@utea.org;
whipsnet@googlegroups.com
Subject: In support of Mr. Daniel McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:07:10 -0600

Dear Superintendents and Administrators,

My name is Daniel Hogan and I graduated from West High School in 2009. I am now attending the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and majoring in Physics. I am writing in protest of Mr. Daniel McGuire's transfer from West High School.

I took AP/IB Physics from Mr. McGuire during my junior year, and it was easily the best class of my high school career. He pushed his students to devise creative solutions and assigned interesting and challenging laboratory work. His class provided excellent preparation for my physics courses in college, and guided me to pursue a degree in physics. AP/IB Physics was the first class where I was truly challenged, and taught me how much I could achieve if properly motivated.

Mr. McGuire's influence went far beyond the classroom; he mentored many science fair projects, including mine, and guided our rookie FIRST robotics team to second place at the Las Vegas regional competition. He was tireless in his support for these projects, often working with students for hours everyday, and they could not exist without his involvement. He is an excellent mentor, and is able to provide insight into student projects, and challenge his pupils to improve their work. His experience as an engineer gives him a unique perspective on the problems which inevitably arise on large projects, and his advice was critical to his students' success.

Teachers like Mr. McGuire are the reason that West High School is as well regarded as Salt Lake City's private schools. His influence and recommendations have led many students to some of the best colleges and universities in the country, including Yale, Stanford, Caltech, MIT, and Princeton. His transfer would result in a tremendous loss for the students at West High; I urge you to reconsider his transfer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hogan
dhogan@caltech.edu
California Institute of Technology
Physics Class of 2013

Attached Message

From: unruh@xmission.com
Subject: Keep Mr. McGuire at West!
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:06:00 -0600

To Whom it May Concern:

As parents of two students at West High, we cannot express enough support for Mr. McGuire and all he has done for the students in his classes and on his extra-curricular teams. He is one of the few teachers we have run across that is willing to both go the extra mile for the students and stand up for what he feels is equitable treatment all of his students.

We watched Dan with 7th and 8th grade students with last year's FLL robotics team bring order from a room of sheer chaos. He coaxed input from each student, made them each feel that their ideas were worthy, and helped them to develop a plan to move forward. This was done on a Saturday morning. He did not need to be there, but he willingly gave his time to this group. He also opened his classroom to them to use whenever they wanted to meet. The team was extremely distraught when he was reprimanded by the school district last year, and he felt it was best to pull back from his involvement with this team. The team ultimately earned an award at the state level for "Best Teamwork" – an award that rightfully should be shared with Mr. McGuire for giving the team such a strong start.

In previous years, Dan has been an integral part of the FRC Robotics League, a team which would not have existed if it weren't for him. He is also a big part of the formation of the US First robotics leagues in Utah, with over 150 teams expected in the two divisions in Utah this year. A single poignant statistic about how valuable the education from participation in these leagues is viewed – the majority of MIT's admitted participated in the league in high school.

Our oldest son has had the opportunity to take AP Physics from Dan. Dan is a teacher who expects a lot from the students, and does not accept excuses for late assignments or poor performance. He teaches the students about the real world while he is teaching them interesting and difficult material. His students do very well on their AP/IB tests, a testament to his skills and the value of the discipline with which he teaches and inspires.

We need more teachers with the passion Dan has for teaching.

Regards,

Jeff & Pauline Unruh

Attached Message

From:	montgomerykurt@comcast.net
To:	elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Subject:	Dan McGuire
Date:	Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:00:50 -0600

To Whom It May Concern;

My son, Stefan Montgomery, is a Senior in the IB Program at West High. He had privilege of having Mr. McGuire for Honors Physics last year; finding him to be an excellent, challenging and highly motivational teacher. Stefan received straight A's in his class and because of that experience, and with the encouragement of Mr. McGuire, he has signed up for IB Physics HL.

Stefan has been looking forward to taking the class and considers Mr. McGuire to be one of the best (as well as one of his favorite) teachers at West. It would be a shame for Stefan and the other students who have signed up for the course, with the expectation that it was going to be taught by Mr. McGuire, to be deprived of that highly enriching educational experience.

Where Stefan was once ambivalent about Physics, Mr. McGuire has awakened in him an understanding of and fascination with the subject, something he is now considering pursuing further in the future. Needless to say, Stefan is very upset by the news that Mr. McGuire is being involuntarily transferred from West, especially so close to the beginning of the school year.

Not only are we opposed to the effects of transfer, we also strongly object to the process by which the District has affected the transfer. We hereby request and urge the Board to do the right thing for the students at West and resend the transfer.

Sincerely,
Kurt A Montgomery



Attached Message

From: hannahlainem@gmail.com
Subject: Testimonial
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 21:38:12 -0600

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Hannah Moore, a 2010 West High graduate and current student at Scripps College in Claremont, California. I take great pride in my alma mater, and I am always proud to tell people about the West IB program's history as the oldest and strongest in the state as well as the outstanding instructors I have worked with during my time at the school.

The facets of McGuire's AP Physics course that I remember most are the sense of humor with which he approaches the material and his knack for breaking the spell of intimidation that complicated subjects sometimes impose. In my college physics course this past year, I found that specific demonstrations and explanations from Mr. McGuire's class came to my mind when I recognized subjects we'd covered, and I could actually recall individual explanations he'd given. I feel that I was better prepared for the more advanced topics than many of my classmates were and, when discussing complex homework problems in groups of peers, I realized that I had not only acquired a strong base of physics but also the confidence and ability to communicate it to others and apply it to an expanded array of applications.

My time spent with Mr. McGuire was more limited than I would have liked, as I only took one physics course during my time at West, but that was enough. I found him to be an experienced, engaging, interactive instructor, one that I will genuinely remember for years to come. I feel that the skills his course provided to me were crucial to my success this past year and will continue to be during my time at Scripps, and also that it would deprive future generations of West High students of an incredibly valuable course to remove him from the school.

Best wishes,

Hannah Moore

Scripps College 2014

Attached Message

From: oliver.taggart@gmail.com
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Concerning the transfer of Daniel McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 21:32:29 -0600

To whom it may concern,

My name is Oliver Taggart. I am a Senior at West High School in the IB program. I recently learned that Daniel McGuire might soon be transferred to Horizonte. I think I speak for many students, both past and present, when I say this would be a grave mistake.

I enrolled in the honors physics course last year and I can honestly say it was my favorite class. Certainly it was difficult at times, and more than once I dreaded going because it was so challenging. I think that the challenge is what made that class, and Mr. McGuire, so great. Mr. McGuire is not satisfied with simply giving his students the answers to questions when they haven't put any work in themselves. He taught me that if I'm not willing to work on a problem to try to find a solution, then I shouldn't expect other people to help me with that problem. I learned that I can't sit idly by and let all the work be done for me. Mr. McGuire pushed me out of my comfort zone. He not only taught me what to learn, but HOW to learn, something that very few teachers I've had have tried to teach me.

This year I am enrolled in higher level IB physics. Mr. McGuire is probably the only high school teacher in the state who could possibly teach this course with the level of success he has achieved. Without him as the teacher I fear the course would not be nearly as enlightening or fulfilling and that my IB test score would significantly suffer.

Frankly sending Mr. McGuire to Horizonte against his will would be one of the worst mistakes those involved could possibly make. He is one of the few teachers who is willing to raise his voice for what he thinks is right, which I understand can make him a pain to deal with for those in charge. He is one of the few teachers I know who actually cares about what goes on at the school, who actually cares about the lives and growth of his students. Perhaps other teachers care, but they certainly don't show it as Mr. McGuire does. Again I plead, do not make the mistake of transferring Mr. McGuire to a school where his skills would not be used to their full potential. Mr McGuire has made the physics program, as well as many extra-curricular groups the successes that they are. Please reconsider the transfer of Mr. McGuire and keep him where he is most needed and valued, at West High.

Thanks for your time,

Oliver Taggart

Attached Message

From: sghindy@gmail.com

Subject: Dan McGuire

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 19:49:28 -0600

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Samuel Hinderaker. I am a senior at West High School this year. I took a physics class from Mr. McGuire last year, and I took more from this class than any other class I've ever taken. Mr. McGuire taught me more useful information than I could have hoped to attain from only a year long class. He is a brilliant teacher and one of the most helpful people I've ever met. He was able to answer every question I had and help me to understand even the most confusing of topics.

Attached Message

From: alex.nichols1066@gmail.com
Subject: Dan McGuire Letter
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 19:38:57 -0600

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today because I hope to express herein my feelings about Dan McGuire, West High School teacher. During both my Junior and Senior years studying at West High School, I took physics classes from Dan; however, I feel that through my involvement with West High's robotics team during my Junior year, and my participation in the Lemelson-MIT funded "UXO Grazer" Project throughout my Senior, I was able to learn more about Dan than his average student. I learned that his dedication to student-driven projects manifests itself in both personal and academic growth for the students involved. I also found out that his particular teaching style, both in and out of the classroom, allows students to not only understand the task at hand, but to grow stronger as learners. Part of this process is firm guidance in the direction that Dan believes to be the right one. I have talked to those students who he has graduated (I may count myself among them, as I write this letter), and it seems that there is no doubt in the minds of the great majority that Dan was the most influential and dedicated teacher they studied under while at West High School. With these facts in mind, I would like to inform whoever may read this letter that I strongly believe West High to be the school where Dan should continue to teach, for the sake of his future students and for the good of the school.

Sincerely,

Alexander Nichols, West High School Class of 2011

Attached Message

From: unruh@xmission.com
Subject: Testimonial
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 19:02:09 -0600

To whom it may concern,

I am a senior at West High School. I have taken AP Physics at West, and I will be taking IB HL Physics this year, hopefully with Mr. Mcguire.

I had a very excellent and thorough experience in Dan's class. He is one of the few teachers that I have had who actually tried to cover everything in the textbook, and he did indeed do just that. He taught the class with an element of expertise that made his lectures interesting and effective. While it was a difficult class, it is one of the best academic experiences that I have had at West.

The outcome of my experience was that I got a 4 on the AP Physics exam. I was very happy with the result, and I am confident that Mr. Mcguire's teaching ability enabled me to get such a score.

Sincerely,

Davis Unruh

Attached Message

From: fdeiss@uchicago.edu

To: amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.ulave@slcschools.org;
doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com;
heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org;
kristi.swett@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org

Subject: Support for Daniel McGuire

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 18:30:58 -0600

To whom it may concern:

I firmly believe that transferring Daniel McGuire to Horizonte would be a mistake. My name is Felicity Deiss, and I was a student at West High for 6 years, first as a part of the ELP program and later as a part of the IB program. I had many teachers during my time at West and McGuire stands out among them as one of the most inspirational and competent. I took AP Physics B from McGuire my junior year, even when the school was unsure of the utility of the class in the curriculum, and found it to be one of the most engaging and useful classes I have taken to date. Without McGuire's initiative and enthusiasm for physics, I would not have had the opportunity to take this course, as it was taught as extra material in an Honors Physics course. Transferring McGuire to Horizonte, particularly given his planned teaching schedule there, would rob the Salt Lake City School District of McGuire's love and talent for physics. Furthermore, McGuire is one of few teachers genuinely interested enough in his subject and in his students to teach an AP, or an IB, class well and the West High Physics program and the AP/IB curriculum as a whole will suffer without him. It is thanks to McGuire that I have developed confidence in my problem solving abilities and a love for mathematics and physics, which I tend to pursue at the University of Chicago. It would be a great shame if McGuire were stuck teaching classes below his level of ability and out of his subject area against his will. Please allow him to stay at West and use his talents in a way that will most benefit the students of the Salt Lake area.

Thank you for your time,

Felicity Deiss

Attached Message

From: minginwu@hotmail.com
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.uluaave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Subject: Retain Mr. Daniel McGuire as AP/IB Physics Teacher at West High School
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 17:21:37 -0600

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing this message to ask you to keep Mr. Daniel McGuire as AP/IB Physics teacher at West High School. I am Mingin Wu, father of Tingshiuan Wu. He is entering 11th grade at West High next week.

Tingshiuan was going to take AP Physics at West High last year. However, due to scheduling conflict he took Honor Physics with Mr. McGuire last year. With encouragement and guidance from Mr. McGuire, Tingshiuan took the AP Physics Test in May 2011 and got a score of 5, the highest score achievable. He was very disappointed when he heard the news of Mr. McGuire being transferred to another school. With a Ph.D. in Chemistry and working in the field of applied science field, I had full appreciation of Mr. McGuire's teaching every time my son discussed with me on his progress in the Honor Physics class last year.

I did a little research and found out that Mr. McGuire's students scored an average score of 4 in AP Physics Test in May 2011 while the national average has been around 2 to 3 in the past few years. This is an outstanding achievement for Mr. McGuire. My son is looking forward to taking Mr. McGuire's IB Physics class at West High. As I understand, Mr. McGuire also has great desire in teaching IB Physics at West High. Please retain Mr. McGuire as AP/IB Physics teacher at West High.

V/R,

Mingin Wu



Attached Message

From: adamhmielke@gmail.com

To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org

Subject: Concerning the Transfer of Mr. McGuire

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 16:56:18 -0600

Mr. McGuire has been a key part of West High School for as long as I can remember. I have only heard the story of his transfer from his prospective, but his representation of what has happened seems fair. I believe this transfer, besides being unjust, is in blatant violation of your own rules. I urge you to consider the repercussions this transfer will have for future West High School students. The long term detriment done to West High School, and its students, will far outweigh whatever short term benefits you hope to reap.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Adam Mielke

Attached Message

From: hilary.coon@utah.edu
To: necotter@xmission.com; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org
Subject: FW: [whipsnet] Letters of Support for Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 16:55:01 -0600

This is just to forward the message below to the correct folks.

From: Hilary Coon
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2011 4:52 PM
To: 'necotter@xmission.com'
Subject: FW: [whipsnet] Letters of Support for Dan McGuire

To whom it may concern,

Our son who graduated last year with an IB diploma found Dan McGuire to be an outstanding physics teacher. Because of the physics classes he took, he received top AP and higher level IB grades. He became interested in robotics, and traveled to MIT with the team of student that Dan McGuire put together for that event. It is likely that our son will make college and career decisions partly based on his experiences with this teacher, and the realization of his own skills and potential in areas of science and engineering opened to him by experiences with this teacher.

It is clear that Dan McGuire does not always see eye to eye with administration, and has not been silent about discontent with recent decisions and actions of those around him. However, we would hope that the school could view student growth and student potential as the primary goal, and could put a high premium on excellence in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Hilary Coon



Attached Message

From: mehmet.bilginsoy@gmail.com
 To: amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.uluvave@slcschools.org;
 doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com;
 heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org;
 kristi.swett@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org;
 parley.jacobs@slcschools.org
 Subject: A Current West Student's Perspective on McGuire's Removal
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:24:02 -0600

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mehmet Bilginsoy, a rising senior at West High School. It recently came to my attention that Daniel McGuire is being involuntarily removed from West. I wanted to express my opinion because I believe this action will prove detrimental to West students, and consequentially West High School as a whole.

I enrolled in Mr. McGuire's Honors Physics class at the beginning of last year out of the belief that it would be a challenge. It indeed proved to be so as I found myself being immersed in science I would not have imagined myself ever knowing. During that period of the day, our class would listen to McGuire discuss a concept, then go into detail, relating it to something we were more familiar. He would intersperse jokes into his lectures which got laughs from the class but also kept people interested. On most days, our class had small quizzes to ensure our understanding of key concepts.

Where McGuire is successful as a teacher is not just because he teaches well; it is also because he teaches students how to think. I found the first quarter of Physics very difficult because I had not quite grasped how to approach a problem and try different methods of solving it. McGuire taught me how a Physics problem is like a puzzle and must be solved as one. The following quarters I found myself invigorated and much better off in the class.

My parents, professors at the University of Utah, often tell me "not to pick the class, but to pick the teacher." That is a strategy I am employing by taking IB Physics this year. It is unlikely that I will go into physics following high school but nevertheless, to be able to take Mr. McGuire's class is a privilege.

West High prides itself in high test scores and national recognition. If it is willing to give up stellar teachers who make that possible, it jeopardizes the very ideas it is founded upon. If West High wishes to maintain the true "Home of Scholars and Champions," those in charge must be willing to realize the consequences of this action.

I am willing to answer any other questions regarding Mr McGuire's teaching.

Mehmet Bilginsoy

Attached Message

From: sueh_lin_cheng@msn.com

To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org

Subject:

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:23:55 -0600

I am the parent of two IB students as well. My son has just added IB Physics higher level on his schedule during registration. He took physics last year as well, and he really likes Mr. Dan McGuire, as McGuire is a good teacher who inspires students to learn, and he teaches really well. My son was motivated to learn science as a result. It is unfair for everyone (especially students) to transfer a good teacher out because of his outspoken nature (which I view as a positive attribute in a higher learning environment) that happened to crush with administration. I urge West High to do whatever the school can to keep Mr. Dan McGuire and preserve West's reputation as a great school with qualified, good teachers.

Regards,
Sueh-Lin

Attached Message

From: boucherm@wustl.edu
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Daniel McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:23:37 -0600

To whom it may concern:

When I heard that Daniel McGuire was being involuntarily transferred to Horizonte, I didn't believe what I'd been told. Sure, Mr. McGuire can be belligerent at times. When he feels strongly about something, he lets people know. He's certainly let me know. I took honors physics with him my senior year of high school and I was almost consistently late. He let me off a few times, but by the end of the first quarter he was having me spend the first part of class standing at the front of the room, looking like an idiot, while he taught. Of course I was annoyed with him, but it made me arrive on time and kept me from missing anything important. McGuire knows how teenagers think. Mr. McGuire might be defiant to the administration at times, but when he does so it is only because he is looking out for the school.

McGuire is brilliant in the classroom. His lessons are well thought out, yet highly unique. He is always building things for new demonstrations and tailoring labs for the class he teaches. My year, he was teaching three physics sections, yet I couldn't copy a lab write-up from a member of another section because they wouldn't have done the same lab. McGuire's teaching style demonstrated that physics is universal, that science is about tinkering around in order to find answers and that you can approach any problem from a multitude of ways. McGuire's methods are not only refreshing, they get good results. In 2011, he had seven students get a 7 in IB HL physics and 50% of his AP physics students got a 5. Being a former IB student myself, I know that getting a seven takes pretty impressive knowledge of a subject. I don't think there are too many teachers with those kinds of results.

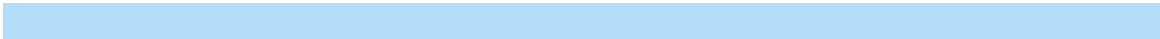
Of McGuire's achievements, though, I think the AP and IB scores are one of the least impressive. McGuire is always working on projects outside of the regular curriculum. I first met him because I was involved in an experimental math class called the Art of Problem Solving. He donated his room and his resources so that students could learn math that it would be hard to get anywhere else. Again, when I was taking physics with him my senior year he showed his commitment by teaching extra material for the AP test after class. I have him to thank for a 5 in AP physics. Now look at the things he has done with my peers. He has mentored science fair projects that have placed nationally. He has done competitions like the 2009 EcoChallenge. He has brought FIRST robotics and now UHSSC to West High. These programs have both developed and shown off the talents of West students and certainly earned them opportunities in college and beyond. McGuire could probably do an excellent job teaching at Horizonte, but his real value lies in the guidance he provides gifted students at West. We should make every effort to keep him.

McGuire matters more to West than a new bell schedule ever will. In the past I have been proud of what West High students have accomplished. Let's keep it that way.

Respectfully,

Michael Boucher

West High Class of 2010



Attached Message

From: tingshuan.wu@gmail.com
 Subject: Dan McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 14:47:08 -0600

◆ ◆ This is Tingshuan Wu, one of Daniel McGuire's Honors Physics students last year as a tenth grader in West High School, and this is a letter urging that Daniel McGuire stay at West High School for the years to come to teach the AP/IB Physics program at West High School. Dan McGuire ◆ is capable and ◆ knowledgeable ◆ teacher who teaches work ethic to the classroom, and actively encourages learning through a open learning experience with class discussions. His devotion to teaching is among the best of any of any of the teachers I have ever had; he does not just ◆ regurgitate ◆ information to us, he makes sure that there is understanding of physics topics. When I was unable to enter the Advanced Placement class last year due to a scheduling conflict, he encouraged me to prepare and take the exam, and properly gave instruction to not only me, but the entire class at a Advanced Placement level, and his instruction ◆ ultimately ◆ brought results- I, despite not being in the AP but his Honors class, ◆ received ◆ a 5, as well as around half of the other students under his instruction who took the exam, much higher than the national average of about 10%-20% (based on previous years). I, as well as many of his other students will agree that he is a very capable teacher with good results.

◆ ◆ The reassignment of Daniel McGuire will disable many students, including me, from entering the AP/IB Physics program in West High School, limiting our academic options. I was to take IB Physics Higher Level this coming year, and a misguided decision to transfer McGuire out will be ◆ disastrous ◆ to many that are planning to take the AP/IB Physics program, and will greatly have negative impact on the school's performance and the school's student body. West High School needs a devoted, competent, and ◆ knowledgeable ◆ teacher for our physics program, and I greatly encourage your meeting to come to the conclusion that Daniel McGuire shall stay in West High and continue doing his ◆ necessary ◆ service of physics education for the next generation.

◆ ◆ Thank you for your consideration.

--

--Tingshuan Wu

Attached Message

From: maksus01@hotmail.com
Subject: Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 14:32:02 -0600

I believe that Dan McGuire should not be transferred to Horizante at such a time for these reasons.

1) He has already prepared for this year and it will cause suffering to a lot of the AP/IB students who are already having to juggle tainted schedules because of the SL/HL situation. (My self included, where I'll need to take both AP Physics and IB Physics HL my Junior year, never having taken physics before).

2) He is not qualified for the teaching schedule he will need to teach at Horizante, such as Earth Systems, Geometry, Personal Finance. A Physics teacher shouldn't teach classes he his not suited for, and after observing his proposed schedule at Horizante, none of his classes will be Physics related.

Horizante doesn't deserve a teacher as qualified as McGuire. An AP/IB teacher who cares about his students and his school should not be transferred to a "Instruction and Training Center". His talent belongs in a school with high scholar aims where students strive to achieve.

- Maks

Attached Message

From: stephmetherall@gmail.com
Subject: Mr. McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 13:33:03 -0600

Ms. Tzourtzouklis-

I am just about to begin my senior year at West, and this whole Mr. McGuire thing is really getting to me. I have never taken a class with Mr. McGuire, but my brother (now a sophomore at the U) was his student and a member of the robotics team. I started at West as an ELPer, and in my sixth year it pains me to know that West is losing yet another amazing educator. I have many friends who were Mr. McGuire's students recently, and went to great lengths just to be able to take his class this year. For example, I have a friend who gave up journalism after 4 years as a staffer in order to take IB Physics.

West High used to be the best school in the state, but recently we've been losing teachers and prestige. In my opinion, West still has potential to be an awesome school; in this case, we might benefit more from Mr. McGuire than Horizonte will. I wouldn't go to any other school if you paid me. I considered transferring to Skyline last year, but decided to stay because of West's expansive course catalog. We are so lucky to have the physics program; some of the smartest students I know swear by Mr. McGuire's teaching. With a dwindling ELP program, West really needs some help from the district; losing Mr. McGuire and the physics program would be a step in the wrong direction.

Please consider Mr. McGuire's appeal as an appeal for more than just his personal goals: it is important to his students, and people like me who just want West to be the best again. My dad, James Metherall, was the president of the School Community Council; I don't think he supports the involuntary transfer. For one, it violates Mr. McGuire's contract, as he stated on a page describing the situation for his students: <http://www.xmission.com/~dmcguire/InvolTrans/index.htm>

I really do love my school, and have a lot of school pride. This may be a little personal, but I really don't want to lose that pride in my last year of high school. I don't think I'd be the only one, either. Not only are less ELPers coming to West each year, more students are leaving because West has lost its reputation. I am starting to get disappointed in the administration of the school; I think it's really important to consider the students in this transaction.

The School District and West don't cater to the parents, the teachers, the janitors, the administrators or anybody else. As a public education system, it should cater to its clients, the students. This transfer would be a devastating blow to the AP/IB students, and West will lose more and more accelerated students, until it is just a neighborhood school. With a failing AP/IB/ELP program, more students will leave. Teachers around the valley (such as a Judge teacher who I know personally) are drawn to West's diversity and intelligent personalities. By destroying the physics program, the AP/IB/ELP program will fail, reducing that diversity. Please don't transfer Mr. McGuire, as the entire West community needs him to stay where he is.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Metherall

Attached Message

From: acharlieznpride@gmail.com
Subject:
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 12:20:24 -0600

I had once thought Mr. Dan McGuire was a horrible teacher. I've heard from students from his previous class saying, "it was too hard", "his teaching style is hard to follow" and "he really hates his students". Following that, I was going to transfer out of his class. I decided not to follow those rumors and decide to stay in the class a bit to see how it would go.

Mr. McGuire was a teacher, a true teacher. The only set back of his teaching style was that he scared kids; that how Dan McGuire's character was. Although Dan's character is very charismatic and playful, the students would be intimidated by his behavior. McGuire would always answer a question, but he had expectations for all of us. He would be frustrated if we were to answer a question he had gone over barely, like all other teachers. Even in his intimidating actions, he would always think and/or talk about teaching.

I have learned in his class as if I was in college class and he was a professor. Most of his classes have a large work input. His teaching style of most people are tedious, only because he expects greatness from us.

Attached Message

From: random_jason@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimonial for Meeting
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 11:30:39 -0600

Hi Ms.Tzourtzouklis,

I heard that a meeting would be held for Daniel McGuire on Monday morning at 7. Here's a testimonial that I would like to put in for Mr. McGuire, and hopefully through it you can see the caliber of teaching he brings to West High School. Personally, I would consider it an irreplaceable loss if he was forced to forgo the incredible science and mathematics program he has designed and created at West High School.

Hi,

My name is Jason Chen and I'll be a rising junior in West High School's IB Program. Last school year, I was fortunate enough to be in Mr. McGuire's AP Physics B class. The fortunate aspect is that West High School only recently acquired an AP Physics B class; Mr. McGuire not only volunteered but persisted in persuading the administration to let him create such a class no more than a few years back. To me, that shows both great dedication and immense passion as an educator. I hope that dedication and passion will show in the following testimony:

"The greatest and deepest impression Mr. McGuire made on me was not a single event. It was a collection, an accumulation, of witnessing his eagerness to solve problems and develop new concepts WITH the students. To put it in a different perspective, the whiteboard at the front of the room was not his whiteboard. In fact, I probably used it to develop ideas on it more than he did. This giving and taking of knowledge occurring on that board through drawing and writing and erasing was what made him more than a good teacher, but a distinguished and great teacher. His teaching did not meticulously spoon-feed the students every formula and every number to be copied even more carefully into our lines of notepaper. Most of his teaching and our learning occurred when he was with a student at the board, not dictating, but guiding. His dedication is further shown when you see this learning continued beyond the minutes of class time. He was willing to expound on the previous day's concepts at any time, whether it be an hour before school or an hour after school.

An unparalleled teacher, Mr. McGuire."

Sincerely,

Jason Chen

Attached Message

From: lukas.r.gabert@gmail.com
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org
Subject: Letter of Support for Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 11:08:48 -0600

I am a senior at West High and I am taking higher level IB physics this year. I also took AP physics last year with Mr. McGuire.

In my class last year, Mr McGuire was able to boost my interest in physics so much that I am seriously considering majoring in physics in college. I was able to receive a 5 on the AP physics test without a study book because Mr. McGuire had covered the material so thoroughly, and taught it so well. He is also my adviser for my IB Extended Essay in physics, and I would easily choose him above others for that. I am very disappointed that Mr. McGuire may not teach physics at West, for I am looking forward to class with him because he is such an excellent teacher and makes it fun to learn. I was also planning on joining the UHSSC supercomputing team for West High with Mr. McGuire as the mentor.

The highlight of my senior year will be my physics class if Mr. McGuire teaches it.

Sincerely,
Lukas Gabert



Attached Message

From:	mark.minor@utah.edu
Cc:	necotter@xmission.com
Subject:	Dan McGuire Support Letter
Date:	Sat, 20 Aug 2011 07:51:13 -0600

Hi,

Per the request of Neil Cotter, I am sending the attached support letter. Please let me know if I can do anything else to help out or if you think anything needs to be modified. I can also send a copy to the district and principal if you want.

Best,

Mark

Mark A. Minor, PhD

Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Director, Robotic Systems Lab

University of Utah

50 S. Central Campus Dr., RM 2110

Salt Lake City, UT 84112



Mark A. Minor, Ph.D
 Associate Professor
 Department of Mechanical Engineering
 University of Utah
 Salt Lake City, UT 84112
minor@mech.utah.edu
 801-587-7771

August 20, 2011

Re: Letter of Support for Mr. Dan McGuire

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am pleased to write the following letter supporting Dan McGuire at West High. I have known Dan since March 2009 when I met him while scouting for a FIRST Robotics regional event in Salt Lake City. Dan was serving as a mentor to the West High Fault Line FIRST team at the time. I have since had good opportunity to interact with and witness Dan working with students and parents in the class room, at the University, and FIRST Regional Events. It is with great honor that I now write this letter indicating what an exemplary teacher and role model he has been, and emphasizing how important his continued leadership is for programs like FIRST and IB.

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is a Science, Technology Engineering, and Math (STEM) program aimed at helping young people appreciate the importance and benefit of careers in these areas, which is critical for the vitality of our American society. Dan's formation of the West High team is a true indicator of his ability to appreciate the bigger picture and motivate students and parents alike. Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Utah supported Dan during this early period as part of a NSF grant aimed at graduate education related to Bio-Inspired Robotics. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Dan until 2009 when began to appreciate how important it was for the citizens of Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana to have a more centrally located event in Salt Lake City. Previous events were in Phoenix, Seattle, Portland, or Las Vegas, which was a major dis-advantage to our community.

Thanks to Dan and the West High parents that he had already rallied, we were able to successfully develop a 2010 regional event in Salt Lake City. I was amazed by the drive and dedication that Dan, the parents, and West High students brought to the organizing committee as they helped develop new teams in our region and garner support for the event. Dan was an excellent representative of the teacher's perspective in this recruiting process, which is important since we are often all so busy that it is difficult to appreciate the importance of engaging students in hands on STEM activities. Dan and the West High students visited many schools and companies, and ultimately put major pieces in place in support of our community. We are all deeply indebted to their efforts.

In preparation for the 2010 FIRST Robotics Utah Regional event, Dan and the West High team hosted the kick-off event and provided the 16 Utah teams from high schools across the state with a tutorial on how to build a robot so they could be better prepared for the competition. This involved building a mobile platform, integrating motor controllers, network interfaces, data acquisition equipment, and a tele-operation interface, which is all based upon commercial grade industrial hardware. I was amazed at the level of leadership, commitment, and involvement that they provided and cannot say enough about how much help this was to the rookie teams. Dan's leadership and vision were certainly key to this process.

Department of Mechanical Engineering
 50 S Central Campus Dr, RM 2110
 Salt Lake City, UT 84112

During the 2009-10 season, I served as a mentor to the team and attended meetings at West High and the University with students and parents led by Dan. I was impressed by the atmosphere and pride that Dan distilled in the classroom. There was a certain ethereal air of intellectualism, industry, team spirit, and integrity that is hard to describe. Dan led the effort in a guided, but hands off, way that allowed things to be directed, yet such that everyone had ownership and were stakeholders in the endeavor. When the team moved its base to the physics department at the U, it gave them important space and first hand exposure to university life. I am sure that they all learned more about physics, engineering, and business than any students before them, and I am sure that Dan's example is what led many of them to pursue college educations at places like Stanford, MIT, Cal Tech, and even the University of Utah. In fact, Dan's red Stanford sweatshirt was his hallmark, although the red Hawaii shirts donned by the team were a good representation of the happy, well aligned, and united attitude of the team!

In the 2010-11 year, Dan initially played a similar strong role in helping to organize and recruit new FIRST teams in the state, spreading tremendous support especially through the granite school district, which is now one of the best represented in the state. Unfortunately, as I understand, he was very upset when he felt that the International Baccalaureate effort was being diluted, and so he chose to invest his efforts into strengthening that program at West. I was very sad to see him leave our team, but I have to say that I appreciate his dedication and drive to better this program. Dan's dedication is certainly daunting and I believe that he is critical to the Salt Lake IB program.

Many of the FIRST students at West participated in the IB program, and I have worked with many of them after joining the U. They have iterated to me how well the IB program prepared them for their Mechanical Engineering college education, and I have to say that I hope that Dan can stay at West and continue to support this program if he chooses. His dedication to academic rigor, experience with FIRST, and talent for inspiring young minds cannot be replaced.

If West and the IB program loses Dan, it will be a tremendous loss to not only West High, but to the entire mountain west community. He has had major impact in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, and I hope we can all appreciate how important his position at West High is to all of us so he can continue to lead critical programs like FIRST and IB.

It is thus with great pride and honor that I state my support of Dan McGuire. I know that his passion can be a whirlwind at times, but that is what makes him such a great teacher and inspiring visionary.

Sincerely yours,



Mark A. Minor, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Utah

Attached Message

From: ydong@caltech.edu

To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org; marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org; rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org; ken.devries@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; whipsnet@googlegroups.com

Subject: Concerning the transfer of Mr. Daniel McGuire

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 17:52:01 -0600

Dear Superintendents and Administrators,

My name is Cathy Dong and I am a 2008 West High School graduate who currently attend the California Institute of Technology as a senior in Biology and English. Just today I received news of Mr. Daniel McGuire's involuntary transfer to Horizonte and I must voice my concerns and pleas regarding this matter.

Mr. McGuire had been my AP/IB Physics and IB Higher Math teacher during my last two years at West. As you have already heard from the testimonies of other graduates, Mr. McGuire is an amazing teacher and mentor for all things science related. He not only taught us the basic knowledge we needed for a rigorous science career later in life, but also expanded our horizons in physics and math to look outside the box and come up with creative projects. Most importantly, Mr. McGuire encouraged all students to excel in higher level physics and math. As one of the few females students with interests in physics and math, Mr. McGuire was an invaluable resource. He readily encouraged female students with an interest in the sciences to go above and beyond what society expects of them. He helps those of us with a love for physics to fully utilize our creativity and ability to logic. In short, he is much needed and much appreciated as a teacher who can actually teach classes at the AP and IB level.


As a matter of fact, his experiences and abilities would be greatly wasted if he were to teach elementary math and science. While I am certain he would excel at teaching subjects such as algebra and geometry, teaching those subjects will not fully realize his strengths as a teacher and mentor. He belongs with students who desperately need his will and drive to run programs such as the FIRST robotics competition and other science clubs and activities. Without him, an astonishing number of science related activities would no doubt disappear. I ask you to consider how much the students at West will suffer because of this. For many of us at public institutions, these extra curricular activities sustain our minds as well as our will to succeed. Without them, we cannot look to the future and establish dreams of being scientists, doctors, and teachers. It takes someone like Mr. McGuire to introduce these unique opportunities to expose our hungry minds to a worthwhile scientific or engineering venture. Without his hard work, students like me wouldn't have the courage apply, let alone attending one of the best scientific institutions in the world such as Caltech. I ask you consider how many bright young minds would be left unexplored due to his absence from West.

Extra-curricular activities aside, Mr. McGuire is an irreplaceable loss for the AP/IB students. In the first place, not all teachers are capable and willing to teach subjects such as AP/IB physics and IB further math. Of the teachers who are qualified, it takes a certain number of years for them to find the right material, the right pace and truly understand the students who wish to excel in these subjects. Mr. McGuire has been teaching IB physics for **8 years**. Surely such valuable teaching experiences should not be wasted. Having taken AP/IB physics in my junior year at West, I recognize that there's a hoard of material to get through simply to prepare for the AP/IB exams. However, Mr. McGuire not only prepared us for the exams but also encouraged us to learn more than what was in the books and use our hands to fully enjoy physics. If he were to leave now, without any preparation, the students who were looking forward to taking AP/IB physics would greatly suffer. Among us college students, having a good AP/IB physics class is something truly useful and provides us with much pride. Few people can claim learning college level physics well in high school classes as previous West students have been able to claim. I urge you to reconsider your decision to transfer Mr. McGuire this year, and allow future students to proudly state that their public high school was able to provide a better science education than any well-funded private institution.

Thank you very much for your time,

--

Cathy Dong
California Institute of Technology
1200 E. California Blvd., Mail code: 375
Pasadena, CA 91126



Attached Message

From: evclark@stanford.edu
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Concerning the Transfer of Dan McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:01:17 -0600

Dear Members of the Salt Lake City School Board,

For your reference, here is a letter I have written to the District Superintendent and the West High Administration in protest of Dan McGuire's transfer from West High School. I am begging you to reconsider this transfer.

With warmest regards,

Evan Clark
 West High, Class of 2010
 801.580.6084
evclark@stanford.edu

Dear Superintendent Withers, West High Administration, and others whom it concerns,

As a 2010 graduate of West High school who now attends Stanford University and works for NASA, I must empathetically stand behind everything that Delian Asparouhov and Carson McNeil have said. Were it not for the efforts of Dan McGuire, few of our successes would be possible.

Dan McGuire is sharp around the edges. He is gruff, and can be hard to get along with. I have certainly had my fair share of tiffs with him. But I have also watched him take many lost and helpless 7th graders under his wing with more gentleness than a mother bird. He has raised students from confused misfits to confident and passionate citizens possessing a sense of purpose. For some, he has been the only reason to come to school each day. He has dedicated long after-hours and much personal money to student projects, pushing multiple projects to win 3rd or 4th prizes at the International Science Fair. He has started a robotics community in Utah that now provides hundreds of students hands-on experience with engineering, as well as invaluable inspiration every year. Dan McGuire is an excellent teacher.

These next words will come on strong. In advance, I apologize if they cut, but in such a case as this I believe it would be negligence to my moral code, and those of my peers, to not express them in full force. Sometimes it is necessary to jolt the system, to remind administrators that things look different on the ground.

As the overseers of our children's education, you have one of the greatest responsibilities that exists to our society. If you are not pouring every ounce of dedication and passion you possess into your duty, then you do not deserve to be in your job, and

you are actively doing a disservice to our children's future and our community as a whole. Dan McGuire is pouring every ounce of his dedication and passion into this cause, and that is why the current conflict exists. Because he *cares*. Ask yourself this: Why would a teacher put up such a fight? What does he serve to gain? If he were to recede like a sheep into the background, he would still be paid the same amount. He would certainly be perceived in a kinder light by those who hold power over him. He would be at no risk of losing his job or being transferred to another school. If he succeeds, he will not reap the benefits - his students will. In short, Dan McGuire has nothing to gain, but everything to lose. There is no reason for a teacher to put up a fight except if he believes in what he is fighting for.

As administrators who accepted the duty of our children's education, I would hope you have enough respect to make that education the best it can be. What you perceive is an uncooperative teacher. I am asking you to step back and see what many of your top students know - Dan McGuire is a teacher more dedicated to true education than anyone. So forget politics. You should not be working to sideline teachers like Dan - if you worked with them, you would find they are in fact your most valuable and loyal resources.

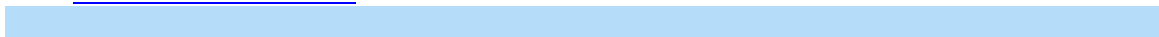
Please consider carefully what you are doing, and who you are doing it to. You are not punishing Dan McGuire, you are punishing the students of West High School, and instantiating an atmosphere of fear and silence among your faculty. This is in no way conducive to a friendly environment for improvement or creativity. You are making a mistake.

At the bare minimum, do not tout the accomplishments of your top students to the world. You have no right; we do not support you. These accomplishments are infinitely more constructed from the hard work and dedication of your teachers like Dan McGuire, than of anything you have done.

Your students have a voice; it is time that you listened to it. When was the last time an administrator has pulled a student aside, to honestly listen to feedback on how the school is running from someone whom it is meant to serve? In my six years at West, I never saw it. Here is your chance. Your students are speaking.

I am willing to publish this as an op-ed in the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News, and I believe my peers will do the same. Please do the right thing.

With best wishes,
Evan Clark
801.580.6084
evclark@stanford.edu



Attached Message

From: gleb.kuznetsov@gmail.com
 Subject: Fwd: Dan McGuire, an Inspirational Teacher and Mentor
 Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 00:57:47 -0600

Hi Elaine,

I sent the following message earlier, but it appears I had the incorrect email address for you. Please see below for more thoughts in support of Dan.

Thanks,
 Gleb

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gleb Kuznetsov <gleb.kuznetsov@gmail.com>
 Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2011 at 11:51 PM
 Subject: Dan McGuire, an Inspirational Teacher and Mentor
 To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org, parley.jacobs@slcschools.org,
marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org, rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org,
ken.devries@slcschools.org, elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org,
amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org, alama.uluaave@slcschools.org,
doug@mdxperts.com, rosemary.emery2@gmail.com,
laurel.young@slcschools.org, heatherbennett@xmission.com,
kristi.swett@slcschools.org

To the Members of the Board of Education,

I was a student of Dan's from 2004 to 2006. He was the single-most influential teacher I ever had in high school, and compared to some of the best professors I had at MIT in his ability to engage students and teach physics and mathematics. And most importantly he was a mentor for me, helping me strive toward my dreams. There are countless individuals whose lives he has affected. In my case, just a sample of his dedication to education:

- * Stayed after school several day days per week to teach accelerated tutorials AP Physics C material.
- * Enrolled and tutored students in the Utah State Math Contest American Mathematics Competition, Physics Olympiad Qualifying, among other academic competitions.
- * Mentored a team of 3 of us in an engineering project that yielded a provisional patent and a 3rd place accolade at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

And this list omits the work that he did since I graduated (FIRST robotics, MIT Lemelson competition, etc)

Since then, Dan has continued to be a close mentor, throughout college, and even now as I recently graduated and entered the real world as a software engineer at Google. His allure and success comes not only from deep expertise in the field, but from a nature to challenge accepted ways of teaching, all in the spirit of finding what

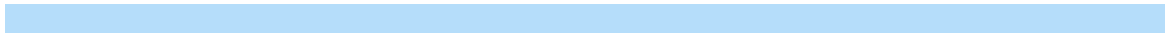
it takes to make students passionate about the subjects he teaches. He is unparalleled in his use of experimental apparatuses and technology in the classroom, leading his students to understand what the mathematical equations were really talking about. I know that I am not alone among his students and peers that attest to Dan's phenomenal talents as a teacher.

One of the traits that I most respect about Dan is his daring to speak out when he believes something isn't right. He is never short of stern words for students who don't do their homework, or those who he knows have more potential but are just being lazy (and trust me, Dan believes every one of his students always has more potential). And, as apparently brought to the attention of the board, is not afraid to express his opinion when he feels that logistical decisions are made on the organizational level that are detrimental to students' academic experience.

I hope that Dan's recent transfer to Horizonte is a result of miscommunication that can be mitigated to allow him to stay where he desires to stay and where he has already done so much, West High School. West is incredibly special, a school where the most talented students in Utah are attracted to the IB program and the reputation of teachers like Dan. I know that my time at West, and more importantly Dan McGuire's mentorship and inspiration, that set me on a boundless trajectory to learn about this world and work toward changing it for the better.

I would be more than happy to speak in person with anyone who may still have concerns.

Thank you for you time,
Gleb Kuznetsov
West High School Class of 2006
MIT B.S. 2010, M.Eng. 2011
gleb@mit.edu



Attached Message

From: tihomir@statmodel.com
 Subject: Fw: Fwd: An MIT student who graduated from West High School
 Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 10:54:45 -0600

From: [Tihomir Asparouhov](mailto:Tihomir.Asparouhov)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 10:08 AM
To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org ; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org ;
marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org ; rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org ;
ken.devries@slcschools.org ; patrick.garcia@slcschools.org
Cc: 'Delian Asparouhov' ; [Dan McGuire](mailto:Dan.McGuire)
Subject: Re: Fwd: An MIT student who graduated from West High School

Hello

I also would like to attest of the great quality of Dan as an educator. He is simply larger than life. I have known him for a very long time as a parent of a WHS student and I feel sorry that the educational system has not allowed you to get to know him. I am certain that in Utah there is no other teacher with with longer list of achievements. Shouldn't he be asked (if willing) to take more responsibilities in the education system so that more students can benefit from him? Shouldn't he be asked (if willing) to provide guidance to newer and less accomplished teachers? Shouldn't he be asked to share his magic and wisdom with the rest of the schools in the valley?

I wish you could take the time to get to know Dan and get to know how he inspires the students instead of waging a war on him and the community as a whole.

Tihomir Asparouhov
 PhD

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Delian Asparouhov** <delian@mit.edu>
 Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2011 at 5:08 PM
 Subject: An MIT student who graduated from West High School
 To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org
 Cc: parley.jacobs@slcschools.org, marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org,
rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org, ken.devries@slcschools.org

Hello Superintendent and others that might find my opinion worth a minute of their time,

I came into West High School in 2005 as a 7th grader as part of the ELP Program and was a flustered child without any direction and have now graduated a little over 3 months ago bound for MIT on Monday. The transition between these two personas began in 8th grade when a particular teacher volunteered his classroom to be used for a during-school experimental math class taught by guest-teachers.

I was fortunate enough to have this same teacher in my first-ever AP Class, AP Physics B. That same teacher then poured his heart and soul into a robotics team and transformed the Salt Lake Valley into a bundle of growth in the field of robotics. He continued this through my junior and then in my senior year managed to win a grant for \$10,000 dollars from MIT to pursue robotics. I could continue to list his contributions and achievements in STEM to the school district, but I would fear of running out of paper on the internet.

Now I hear that this teacher has been transferred to Horizonte. My best guess is that this has occurred because of his reaction to the new schedule, but at this point, superintendent and principal Jacobs, I recommend you cut your losses. Already the top 10% of West students and nearly all of the quality faculty at West feel alienated and cannot trust the school administration, let alone the district. I beg of you to rethink the decision of sending away such a popular and brilliant teacher because, if not, the headlines of next year will be how Horizonte students are now scoring as well or better on Physics tests than the brightest of the district's students.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

-Delian Asparouhov
delian@mit.edu



Attached Message

From: joanna.zheng@yale.edu
Subject: Letter of Support For Dan McGuire From Current Yale Student
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 23:10:13 -0600

To whom it may concern:

Although I have been graduated for a year, I still go back to West High to visit with my old teachers and those who have inspired me during high school to do my best and always aim high. Needless to say, Dan McGuire was one of those people and I truly feel that West is losing someone special in transferring him to Horizonte. My first introduction to him was through our AP Physics B class my sophomore year, and what really stuck with me was the care and dedication he exhibited to both his subject and his students. Although the class was originally only an Honors Physics class, Mr. McGuire offered to teach to the AP curriculum as well so that we could challenge ourselves even further. This was above and beyond what he was required to do as a teacher, as it only made his job harder and more stressful, but he did it because he believed we all had the potential to succeed on a more advanced level. Ultimately, the high number of passing grades and 5's proved him correct.

He consistently demonstrated that same passion with the Robotics Club while I was at West, a club that I feel confident in saying was integral to many people's college applications as well as their personal growth. Their success, both regionally and nationally, would not have been possible without his sponsorship. He paid for many of the expenses out of his own pocket, including much of the physical material the team needed to build successful robots. This is truly a teacher dedicated to his career.

As others have mentioned, I feel that West is only hurting itself by getting rid of such a talented faculty member. He deserves to be with the best and brightest students that have always (and will continue) to grace West's school halls. The number of students who have passed through his classes or worked with him and then continued to some of our nation's best colleges and university programs speaks for itself. As someone who has personally gained valuable insight and experience under his tutelage, I am begging you to reconsider his transfer.

Yours sincerely,
Joanna Zheng
Joanna Zheng
Yale University TC '14
joanna.zheng@yale.edu

From: Greg Clark [<mailto:Greg.Clark@utah.edu>]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2011 11:49 PM
To: 'tz@utea.org'; 'elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org'; 'amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org'; 'alama.uluaave@slcschools.org'; 'doug@mdxperts.com'; 'rosemary.emery2@gmail.com'; 'heatherbennett@xmission.com'; 'laurel.young@slcschools.org'; 'kristi.swett@slcschools.org'
Cc: 'whipsnet@googlegroups.com'
Subject: Letter of support for Dan McGuire

20 August 2011

Elaine Tzourtzouklis, UTEA, elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; tz@utea.org
Laurel Young, Salt Lake City Board of Education for Precinct 6,
laurel.young@slcschools.org
Additional Salt Lake City Board of Education members:
amanda.thorderson@slcschool.org; alama.uluaave@slcschools.org;
doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com;
heatherbennett@xmission.com; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
Cc: whipsnet@googlegroups.com

Dear Educators,

We are writing to communicate our strong support for Daniel McGuire, Physics teacher extraordinaire at West High School in Salt Lake City.

We write as parents of two of his former students at West; as fellow educators at the University of Utah, who have observed Mr. McGuire directly and heard the many positive comments regarding his influences from other educators throughout the Salt Lake Valley; and as concerned citizens of SLCBOE Precinct 6 with a deep regard for education and respect for excellent teachers. There is no question that Mr. McGuire is one of the best.

In the classroom, Mr. McGuire is an effective and dedicated teacher. He has strong rapport with his students, interacting with each of them as individuals. They gravitate to his classroom. This is not because he makes their studies easy, but because he makes

their studies worthwhile. We know first-hand that even non-science students seek him out.

Mr. McGuire's extra efforts are legendary, as is his ability to pull extra efforts from his students—or, more accurately and importantly, to get his students to pull those extra efforts from themselves.

Among other examples, Mr. McGuire brought the FIRST robotics league activities not only to West, but to the state. Mr. McGuire was directly responsible for spreading these learning experiences to high schools throughout the Salt Lake Valley and beyond, culminating in a multi-state regional competition held at the University of Utah. For those of you unfamiliar with this program (as we were, till recently), this is a highly intense, immersion experience in robotics in which students from throughout the world design, finance, build, and program surprisingly sophisticated robots to meet a yearly custom-crafted challenge. The excitement among Mr. McGuire's students was palpable: within the first day of the announced challenge, they were generating literally scores of e-mails discussing (respectfully, even!) how best to meet that challenge. And in the weeks that followed, students worked daily and nightly on their creation. It took a team of dozens of parents to help out, but Dan McGuire himself was nearly always there—advising, cajoling, but most importantly, teaching—with the rare wisdom of knowing that ultimately the robot was the students' own creation, so they had to succeed or fail on their own. And while he knew that some students needed some serious reality checks from time to time, he also knew how to be gentle and kind when the situation or student warranted that approach instead. Mr. McGuire's central role in promoting these activities was recognized by a well-deserved award from FIRST.

As another example, Mr. McGuire has served as mentor to students creating projects for the Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair (SLVSEF). His students often win the Valley-wide competition involving hundreds of high-school students, and are invited to the International version of the competition, where they again often do well, even against the best students from throughout the world. But more important than their performance in these events is their deep engagement beforehand: these are intense, open-ended, integrative learning experiences that represent education at its best. And because each project is unique to the student, Mr. McGuire's mentoring requires not only considerable time but also considerable and wide-ranging expertise.

Granted, we ourselves do not have first-hand, direct information regarding the full particulars of Mr. McGuire's present situation regarding his involuntary transfer.

However, we have read the relevant available documents. And this we do know: Mr. McGuire is a person of considerable integrity. You can believe with certainty that there is strong merit in what he says.

As W. B. Yeats famously wrote, "Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire." We still believe in that quaint and romantic notion, and further believe that teachers can transform lives. One reason that we believe so is teachers like Dan McGuire.

He deserves your full support as well as ours.

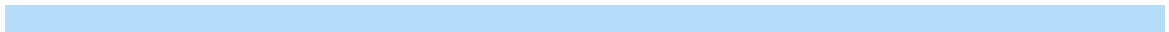
With best regards,

Gregory A. Clark, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, University of Utah

Susan C. Bock, Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Bioengineering and Pulmonary Medicine, University of Utah



Attached Message

From: carson.mcneil@gmail.com
Subject: Concering the transfer of Dan McGuire
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 00:27:51 -0600

Dear Superintendent and others whom it may concern,


I know you all have busy schedules, and I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and hope it will have a positive impact on the quality of education at West High. My name is Carson McNeil, and I graduated from West High School in 2009. I'm about to head off to my third year at Caltech, and it was recently brought to my attention that it is the current administration's intent to transfer Daniel McGuire, physics and chem teacher at West High, to Horizonte, despite his wishes to stay at West.

I have very fond memories of West. I remember it as a large public school that had a reputation for giving you a better education than all of the private schools in the valley. We won math contests, robotics competitions, science fairs, and from west, you could have a really good chance at doing well in a large number of fields, without having to pay private school tuition. The thing that made west a magnet school, and gave it this prestige and access to programs (without which, I don't doubt I wouldn't have gotten into Caltech), wasn't a large budget, or a strong administrative push, like you saw in AMES or Waterford. No, we excelled far beyond both of those schools due to dedicated teachers, who deeply cared about teaching, and wanted students to get excited about science and math, and take it outside of just the classroom.

When I attended West, I took AP and IB physics from Mr. McGuire, and had much interaction with him aside. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say he may be the most valuable asset that West, as the highest ranking school in the state, and a school which, every year, sent a large number of students to colleges in the top 10 has. It's not just that Daniel McGuire is an excellent physics teachers. West has a number of excellent teachers. It's that he gets you excited about learning, and excited about pursuing your interests. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have learned to solder and I wouldn't have learned to machine things. He took great amounts of his personal time to fuel innovation in his students. He coached a FIRST Robotics team, writing the grant for it himself. He has started projects such as BridgeTender, UXO-Grazer(another robotics project), and a competition, completely sponsored by him, for students to create solar energy harvesters. Upon coming to Caltech, I watched other students, some from high schools with much bigger names than west struggle, unprepared for things that I knew already due to Mr. McGuire's influence.

I know that, from the perspective of someone in the administration, he can be a difficult person. He has strong opinions about how things should be run. This is because he cares. He cares a good deal more than the vast majority of teachers at West, and although this sometimes leads to his own frustration, I am imploring you to believe me when I say that it is a boon to the educational quality of every program that he takes an involvement in. He wants to stay at West, because it is the school, with the student body and environment, where he can do the most good. Please let him do so, and allow West to continue to be the educational powerhouse it was when I attended.

Thank you for your time,
~Carson McNeil,
Caltech Junior in Computer Science, and Computation and Neural
Systems
carson.mcneil@caltech.edu



Attached Message

From: chenerick@gmail.com
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.uluaave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Daniel McGuire Transfer - Student Perspective
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 14:40:12 -0600

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Erick Chen, a 2011 West High graduate, and now a student of the Princeton Class of 2015. It has recently come to my attention that Daniel McGuire, one of my most influential teachers at West High School, faces an involuntary transfer to the Horizonte Center. Having personally experienced the quality of Mr. McGuire's teaching as well as the devotion he shows to his students, I would like to add my voice to the multitude of vocal opponents against his transfer.

Simply put, West High needs to retain teachers such as Mr. McGuire if it expects to remain the top performing academic school in the state. The sterling academic reputation West High currently enjoys is a direct result of powerhouse teachers such as Mr. McGuire. When I say powerhouse teachers, I refer to teachers that teach based on a meritocracy as opposed to the normally lax high school effort based system. Mr. McGuire is at the forefront of the powerhouse teachers at West High in encouraging his students to continually redefine their limits and accepting nothing less than his students' best work. College level physics in high school might not be pretty but based on test scores alone, there is no doubt that Mr. McGuire is both effective and successful in this regard. Furthermore, given the lack of college level physics courses in other high schools with burgeoning AP/IB programs, I further argue that Mr. McGuire occupies a niche within the Salt Lake School District as an irreplaceable and specialized higher level educator.

Furthermore, Mr. McGuire deserves teaching top students, as evidenced by his involvement with students' extracurricular activities in the STEM field. Having been under Mr. McGuire's tutelage in multiple projects such as the UXO Grazer and Regenerative Braking Intel ISEF, I maintain that Mr. McGuire was the necessary cornerstone that made these projects successful. Through his candid relationship with students, Mr. McGuire values the self-motivated learning process his students are developing. His teaching methods are tailored to the high achieving students in his class and the techniques used are reminiscent of those of a college professor with a graduate student or a working business relation.

More so than any other teacher, Mr. McGuire has prepared me for the real world, for which I am indescribably grateful. My experience is echoed by hundreds of students who have been fortunate enough to sit in Mr. McGuire's classroom over the past years. I sincerely urge the District to reconsider its decision.

--

Thanks!
Erick Chen

Attached Message

From: ttaillac@rams.colostate.edu
To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
alama.uluaave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org;
mckell.withers@slcschools.org; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org
Subject: Transfer of Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 16:24:20 -0600

To whom it may concern,

As a graduate of West High and physics student of Dan McGuire last year, I was shocked to learn about his involuntary transfer as it went viral among current and previous West High students on Facebook.

Now unlike a lot of the students writing in support, I will admit to being quite terrible at physics. I didn't take the AP exam or participate in robotics or go on to study engineering at some prestigious university. I took AP physics as a senior because I had done very well in BC calculus the previous year and assumed physics would be cake. It wasn't. As a senior I naturally wanted to slack off in all my classes but Dan McGuire wouldn't have that. He demanded attention and participation in class. He could tell when the class wasn't grasping a topic and find ingenious ways of explaining them with real life models that made these abstract topics much more accessible. His lectures were always engaging even with the horrendous subject they covered because Dan McGuire was so energetic when he taught.

My biochemistry major will require a year of physics and while I'm dreading the day this comes I feel I have a good foundation of physics thanks to Dan McGuire. He is an incredibly talented teacher whose enthusiasm and passion about his subject are rare to come by. I hope future West High students will have the opportunity to learn from him as I have. Thanks you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope the transfer is reconsidered.

Sincerely,
Tori Taillac
2011 West High graduate

Attached Message

From: bensarahfun@hotmail.com

To: mckell.withers@slcschools.org; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org; marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org; rick.jaramillo@slcschools.org; ken.devries@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org; alama.uluvave@slcschools.org

Subject: In support of keeping Mr. McGuire at West High

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 19:02:36 -0600

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing as concerned parents regarding the involuntary transfer of Mr. Dan McGuire from West High School to the Horizonte School. Our daughter and son, Ben and Sarah Silcox, were looking forward to taking physics from Mr. McGuire this year. Sarah just graduated from the ELP program and Ben is in his last year of the IB program. They are distraught to hear that he is being transferred.

We first meet Mr. McGuire about five years ago when one of us volunteered to teach a math enrichment course to 7th and 8th graders in West's ELP program. The class was held in Mr. McGuire's class room. From talking to him before class it was clear that he had a passion for teaching. Our son took physics from him in the 8th grade. He found Dan to be a demanding and gifted instructor who strove to make sure every student understood the material.

Mr. McGuire has had a huge impact on our son through his mentorship of the Red Rocks Robotics Team. Ben has learned how to work on a team and is now talking about pursuing a degree in engineering. Without Mr. McGuire's devotion to the robotics, Ben and his classmates would have been missed this life-changing opportunity.

We believe that West High and our two children will be best served by encouraging Mr. McGuire to remain at West. We urge you to welcome him

back and to provide a supportive atmosphere that will allow him to continue fostering learning and professionalism at West.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey and Diane Silcox

Attached Message

From: kris_anna_kubica@juno.com
Cc: mckell.withers@slcschools.org; parley.jacobs@slcschools.org
Subject: Letter of support for Dan McGuire
Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 21:21:13 -0600

Dear Superintendent, SLCS Board Members, Principal Jacobs:

I am a mother of a West High junior. My son commutes 35 miles to West each day to be among the brightest and best students and teachers the state has to offer. He loves many things about the school but he especially loves the great teachers.

The IB program at West High is full of very bright, high achieving students. It is not an easy task to be a teacher to such a group. It takes an extraordinary person to keep them engaged, entertained, and challenged. It takes Mr. McGuire!

As a freshman, my son took Honors Physics with Don McGuire . He LOVED this class. LOVED interacting with Mr.McGuire, LOVED his teaching style, LOVED his deep involvement in the teaching process. My son was engaged, enthusiastic, and looking forward to this class with a smile on his face. Since West was not offering AP Physics B that year, Mr. McGuire formed a group of students interested in taking the test and met with them after school to offer additional help and preparation for the test. My son got a "5".

This year my son is looking forward to his IB Physics class and we are learning in horror that it might not be taught by Mr. McGuire! I am extremely concerned about this. Here I have a child who is thinking about majoring in physics at a very competitive college but his best science teacher is being taken away from the school. The reason we decided to allow our son to commute to West was the strong math and science program the school offered. Now I am looking at what is happening and my heart sinks.

It is not easy to replace a teacher with such a resume as Mr. McGuire. The number of his students who get the highest marks on AP and IB tests speaks for itself. If West starts transferring its best faculty members, some of the top students in the state will not have West on their radars for high school. I understand that we as a society must think about teaching all our members, however; it is our high achieving, engaged and driven students that will be leaders of the future and we must ensure that we have the very brightest mentors to guide them through. Mr. McGuire is such a mentor.

I truly hope that it is a big misunderstanding and come Wednesday, Mr. McGuire will welcome students into his classroom at West. My son is looking forward to a year of Robotics under the guidance of Mr. McGuire as well!

Sincerely,
Anna Kubica
South Ogden, UT

Attached Message

From: Elizabeth.McKnight@imail.org
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.ulave@slcschools.or; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Cc: Kenneth.Boucher@hci.utah.edu; 08robbou@gmail.com;
 idonthaveusername@hotmail.com; daniel.mcguire@slcschools.org
 Subject: Letter of Support for Dan McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 20:54:23 -0600

To whom it may concern:

We are writing this letter in support of Dan McGuire and his contribution to academics and the culture of learning at West High School. Two members of our family have profited in measureable ways from Mr. McGuire's influence already, and we would very much like to have a third member of our family benefit from his excellent mentorship and academic example. Robert and Michael Boucher graduated from West High School in 2008 and 2010, respectively, after very positive experiences in their physics classes. Since our youngest, Joseph Boucher, is only now entering 8th grade, the prospect of a West High School without Mr. McGuire on the faculty is saddening to us for personal reasons as well as for a public interest in the well-being of our community on the west side of Salt Lake City.

Mr. McGuire has been an excellent teacher and both of our older students have excelled on AP Physics or IB Physics Standard level exams as a result of his direct mentorship. Robert obtained a 7 on the standard level IB Physics SL exam. Michael obtained a 5 on the AP Physics exam. As an example of Mr. McGuire's teaching style and its effectiveness, our students remember that his physics labs departed from the usual "cook book" formula for labs and instead required students to think creatively and problem-solve to discover the physic concept at the heart of the lesson. Students were set the task of deriving the ideal gas constant R, for instance, and had to come up with a procedure to measure it themselves. Mr. McGuire guided the process but never dictated the steps and students thereby had the opportunity to develop scientific investigative skills, a relatively rare experience in high schools in the United States.

Leading educators lament the deterioration of American students' ability to problem solve. Mr. McGuire, however, afforded our second son Michael a unique experience to practice creative problem-solving in mathematics. Contrary to the typical classroom experience, Mr. McGuire fostered a course syllabus based on guest lectures by a parent

team with mathematical expertise both academic and applied. The text for the class was *The Art of Problem-Solving* by Richard Rusczyk, a very challenging course book unequaled elsewhere in high school mathematics curricula. Students in the class were almost uniformly motivated to excel in the remainder of their coursework at West High, stimulated by this unique setting for learning. Mr. McGuire unselfishly dedicated his classroom and his free periods so that the class would have a home and official sponsorship.

Perhaps one of the more remarkable things that we've observed about Dan McGuire has been his channeling of perhaps natural frustrations with the status quo in high school education into new and innovative learning opportunities for students at West High. An example of how Dan McGuire transformed his passion to the good of students was his dedication to Robotics starting in the 2008-2009 school year and his extra curricular coursework in AP Physics when AP Physics C could not be offered as part of the standard physics curriculum. His example of turning barriers into new opportunities has inspired our family members to find similar productive outlets in the face of challenges. His value as a role model during a critical juncture in the lives of high school students should not be overlooked when evaluating his many contributions to the West High School environment.

We appreciate the difficulty of making good decisions about staffing within the complex environment of the Salt Lake City School District. However, we hope that you will read this letter with consideration and lend your support to the retention of Dan McGuire and above that to the recognition of his unique value as a teacher at West High School.

Sincerely –

Elizabeth C. McKnight

Kenneth M. Boucher

Robert E. Boucher



Attached Message

From: rong.mao@aruplab.com
Subject: Mr. Daniel McGuire's involuntarily transfer
Date: Fri, 19 Aug 2011 16:51:21 -0600

Dear Ms. Tzourtzouklis and the Salt Lake School Board:

I am writing to express my concerns about Mr. McGuire's involuntarily transfer from West High Scholl to other school. My kid is a 11th grader at West High School and going to take AP and IB/high level Physics. We heard many great comments about Mr. McGuire and he is the best physics teacher in West High and has been teaching AP and IB physics for many years. Many students take AP and IB physics because of him. We are excited and looking forward to having new school year next week. Suddenly, we heard he is no long teaching at West High. This situation needs to be better handled because this is going to have a significant impact in students academics and education. NOT in the couple days before school starts.

I don't want comments on what happened last year in West High School, but have a concern about West superintendent. The parents and teachers concerns with many issues last years have been ignored and decided by one or two persons. Whoever stood out and having different opinions have been punished.

Anyway, I am here to let you know my concerns about Mr. McGuire's transfer. I think he should stay at least for the coming school year while continue exploring the possibility to transfer to other school.

Sincerely

rong

Rong Mao, MD, FACMG

Medical Director

Molecular Genetics and Genomics

ARUP Laboratories

Assistant Professor of Pathology

University of Utah School of Medicine

Attached Message

From: yannick.montgomery@gmail.com
 Cc: amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org; alama.ulave@slcschools.org;
 doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com;
 heatherbennett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org;
 kristi.swett@slcschools.org
 Subject: Dan McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:43:14 -0600

To whom it may concern,

My name is Yannick Montgomery a 2009 West High graduate now entering my third year in Tufts University's Mechanical Engineering program. I took Mr.McGuire honor's physics class in my junior year and his IB Physics class senior year and am proud to say that I received a 7 on the IB Higher Level physics test (I did not take the AP test out of financial considerations).

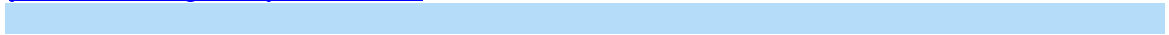
Tonight I just learned, as my brother did who was planning on taking his class, of Dan's involuntary transfer to Horizonte. I never had a personal relationship with Mr.McGuire, in fact I would guess that he didn't like me, but I feel confident in saying that he is one of the best, if not the best, teacher I have ever had. It is a rare thing to find a teacher so enthusiastic and passionate about a subject, and even rarer to find one so committed to teaching it. In my experience there are two types of kids in high school, those who try and those who don't. Mr.McGuire has the unfortunate experience of teaching one of the least popular high school classes: physics, the most math intensive subject of the sciences. As a result he dealt primarily with students who didn't care to learn what he tried to teach them because of their hatred for and inexperience with math and its application to something new. I remember this being a great source of frustration for Dan. In many of my classes he had to spend significant time reteaching material that students should have already known and also spent a great deal of time trying to get us to apply ourselves in our homework. I am ashamed to say that I took advantage of this, as someone talented in physics and bored with the slowed pace of the class, I worked very little (if you can't tell I was one of those who didn't try). It saddens me that he would put in so much effort with us to get us involved and motivated and get so little from us in return. It is even worse that the school's administration doesn't have his back when he works so tirelessly for the students.

When student's did show interest Dan was incredibly enthusiastic for all the shit he had to deal with, excuse my language but I feel it appropriate. For the student's who genuinely wanted to learn but struggled because of their poor math skills (the result of much worse teachers at West) he would stay after class or school to help them with their homework and answer their questions. For the more talented physics students who were bored with the dampened curriculum of the class but still showed great interest, Dan worked with them on personal projects and started clubs, much of the time outside of paid school hours. Once again I am disappointed in myself for not taking advantage of Mr.McGuire's passion for teaching. However, despite my lack of effort in his classes Mr.McGuire recognized that I had talent in physics and constantly pushed me to work harder, often

times making me go to the board to work on a problem or demonstrate a concept to the class and a few times after class bluntly telling me that I was lazy and wasting my potential. I did not take advantage of all of Dan's hard work, but his pushing me did get me to work hard enough to enable me to get my 7 on the IB test.

I don't want to argue that Dan belongs at West, he would do a fantastic job at Horizonte, but I do believe that he should be respected as an educator. He should be listened to and his opinions should be taken seriously, because when he has stuck with teaching for so long in such a hostile environment it can only mean that he cares deeply about teaching his subject. Dan leaving would be a loss for West, but treating teachers as educated and dedicated as him so poorly will really hurt West by deterring other teachers like him. I feel he has a good reason for wanting to stay and that his talents would be wasted at Horizonte with the schedule he is set to teach. If you are going to force him to transfer, don't insult him by making him teach classes he has either no experience in or are too basic for his skill set. Don't make him go from being an AP/IB physics teacher to teaching math classes he is overqualified for while leaving West without an experienced AP/IB physics teacher. It doesn't make sense and would be a waste of one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Yannick Montgomery
yannick.montgomery@tufts.edu



Attached Message

From: Anita.Orendt@utah.edu

To: parley.jacobs@slcschools.org; elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thordenson@slcschools.org; alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com; rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennenett@xmission.com; laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org

Cc: mcguire@xmission.com

Subject: RE: Involuntary transfer of Mr. Dan McGuire from West High

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 22:55:02 -0600

Salt Lake City School Board and others,

I would like to join the many who have been sending letters of support to keep Mr. Dan McGuire at West High School. I am yet another parent of a student upon whom Mr McGuire has had a great impact. When my son was ready to start high school, we made the decision to come to West High School from outside the Salt Lake School District because of the reputation of the IB program and the many good things I had heard about both the program and the teachers from other parents of IB students - and we were not disappointed. My son Daniel Hogan graduated from West High in 2009 and is getting ready to start his junior year at Caltech. While there were several people at West that had an impact on my son's success, I strongly believe that Mr. McGuire was instrumental in my son deciding to apply to, getting accepted at, and being a successful physics major at Caltech.

I cannot comment directly on the in-class experience, other than saying that I know my son enjoyed Mr. McGuire's AP/IB Physics class and that he was well prepared for both the AP and IB exams, but this is information that can be obtained by looking at the overall success of Mr McGuire's students. I have, however, witnessed first hand the commitment Mr. McGuire makes to his students outside of the classroom. He goes to great lengths to convince his students to become involved in the intangible extras that make a tremendous difference in their high school experience - and often these extras are what motivate very able high school students that may otherwise struggle to find direction.

The first time I saw this commitment was during my son's junior year when Mr. McGuire first encouraged Daniel to start work on a science project and then followed this by acting as his mentor. In his college admission essay, Daniel wrote about the experience of working on this project.

The second time was with the FIRST Robotics team during Daniel's senior year. I spent many hours with this team and saw how Mr. McGuire interacted with and challenged the team members. He convinced a group of at least 15 students, along with quite a few parents, to commit countless hours both after school and on the weekends for six weeks and thanks to his efforts this first year Robotics team was a great success, placing second at the Las Vegas Regional Event. After this initial year, when there were only two Utah teams that entered this international competition, Mr. McGuire was very involved in getting many other high schools in the area involved, forming a Utah FIRST Robotics Organization, and having a regional event held at the University of Utah.

My last example of Mr. McGuire's commitment to the education of his students is related to his efforts to start yet another extra program this upcoming school year. During the last several weeks Mr. McGuire has been meeting with staff members of the Center for High Performance (CHPC, which is where I work) at the University of Utah devising a plan for an ambitious state wide program to start a Utah High School SuperComputing Competition, which will culminate in

choosing a team to move forward to the Student Cluster Competition held in conjunction with the SuperComputing (SC) Conference. I know my colleagues at the CHPC are looking forward to the role they will play in generating interest and excitement about high performance computing among area high school students and I have no doubt, based on the robotics experience, that Mr. McGuire will be successful in doing the same with a group of West High students.

I hope that you will take into account the numerous letters of support you are receiving and reconsider your decision to transfer Mr. McGuire from West High School against his wishes. In my opinion, doing so will be a great loss to the students of West High School.

Sincerely,


Anita Orendt

Anita M. Orendt, Ph. D.

Staff Scientist, Center for High Performance Computing

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry

University of Utah



Attached Message

From: taylorlayton2013@u.northwestern.edu
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org; amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org;
 alama.ulave@slcschools.org; doug@mdxperts.com;
 rosemary.emery2@gmail.com; heatherbennett@xmission.com;
 laurel.young@slcschools.org; kristi.swett@slcschools.org;
 dmcguire@xmission.com
 Subject: Mr. McGuire's Transfer: a Different Take
 Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2011 00:24:30 -0600

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to add to the discussion surrounding Dan McGuire's transfer from West to Horizonte. There has already been many points made and I don't know what I can add. Although I took physics in high school and still hold Mr. McGuire and his classes in high esteem, I chose to study philosophy and critical theory at Northwestern. I didn't participate in any of McGuire's extracurriculars, my time was occupied with debate. As such, I am not as qualified as my peers to tell stories of Dan's enormous impact in STEM.

This is not the place for success stories. The administration is right that Mr. McGuire could make a significant impact for the students of Horizonte, possibly one larger than he has at West. No matter what decision is made, Mr. McGuire's success will not stop, nor will West's. While reading other students' letters I reflected that many of them likely didn't need McGuire's impact in order to excel; they were perfectly capable themselves. Many, and possibly more, at Horizonte need his influence. The loss to West is unfortunate, but not at all the issue at hand. Mr. McGuire has already admitted he wants to be transferred, whether it was this year or next. However, one thing should be emphasized. Dan McGuire will not have an opportunity to impact classes he is not prepared for, or excited to teach (to think that Mr. McGuire can a fulfilling impact on "personal finance" is offensive). He will also not make such an impact if he is dissatisfied or fed up with bureaucracy, a dilemma that may have plagued some of his time at West. In this decision, we shouldn't be concerned with the loss of one teacher at West. Mr. McGuire has already admitted that he wants a transfer next year; his loss is inevitable.

Far more important than Mr. McGuire's impact on either West or Horizonte is the manner in which this transfer has occurred. According to the letter of the law, it is at best moderately acceptable, and most likely in violation of relatively clear statutes regarding meetings and forewarning surrounding involuntary transfers. It is clear that the specifics of this transfer are against Mr. McGuire's wishes. This will not only severely diminish the impact he can have at Horizonte, but will send a bad signal to teachers taking his positions, as well as other openings at West, a quickly growing school. With two teachers transferred in two years, West risks gaining a reputation for a controlled, stifled environment where the administration (or School District officials working on *their*


behalf) always treads on the toes of its teachers. If McGuire's grit and determination in the classroom is any indication, he will not bite his tongue and save West's face if the transfer continues as planned. If the amount of outrage and support already offered represents anything, it's that this will not end quietly.

Finally, and an argument that even the most narrow-minded administrators and officials are sympathetic to, is that West will not have the time to find the necessary staff and resources to fill Mr. McGuire's roll. In the transfer of an unwilling teacher, both schools will always lose. With a teacher with as much importance and potential as Mr. McGuire, this is simply unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Taylor Layton

West High Class of 2009



Attached Message

From: necotter@xmission.com
 To: elaine.tzourtzouklis@utea.org
 Cc: dmcguire@xmission.com
 Subject: Fwd: My Letter in Support of Dan McGuire
 Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2011 15:06:25 -0600

From Neil Cotter, West High parent and supporter of Dan McGuire.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kasimir Gabert <kasimir@uhssc.org>
Date: August 21, 2011 9:47:32 AM MDT
To: necotter@xmission.com
Subject: My Letter in Support of Dan McGuire

Hello Neil Cotter,

I posted my letter of support for Dan McGuire as a teacher on the Google Group "West Parents for McGuire." Please feel free to use it in any way which might be useful (I've attached a copy below.) I hope that you are successful: Mr. McGuire was a great IB physics teacher and due to him, his classes, and his teaching I learned an incredible amount of physics. His students getting such high scores on the AP and IB tests truly does reflect his teaching abilities.

Thank you very much,
 Kasimir Gabert

Dear Salt Lake School District Board Members and others to whom this may concern,

I am a recent graduate of West High School (class of 2008). I am currently an undergraduate studying mathematics and computer science at New Mexico Tech, due to graduate in December, and a year-round student intern at Sandia National Labs.

Earlier this summer I was helping brainstorm ideas with my younger brother, who is currently attending West High, for his International Baccalaureate (IB) extended essay and science fair project. As we were considering several different ideas, it occurred to me that my brother could easily use some of the supercomputing resources I have access to. I kept thinking about how much of an opportunity this would be for him, and then I realized that supercomputing is certainly something that more students at West could have access to. It seems that there are an abundance of university supercomputers which are slightly underutilized. After considering this idea further, I decided to email the *only* teacher at West High that I would trust with such a project: Daniel McGuire.

The response was more than anything I could have imagined. He saw very quickly the potential that this idea had for the students. He came up with an innovative way to spread this project out to many schools across Utah with minimal cost. The idea has spiraled out from there. Dan McGuire created the Utah High School Supercomputing Competition (UHSSC), which is becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The University of Utah's Center for High Performance Computing has donated an entire cluster, numerous ideas, and plenty of time to this organization. Dan secured a venue for the competition to take place at and was able to get the organizers of Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair (SLVSEF) on board---they will be presenting the UHSSC awards alongside the SLVSEF awards.

Why am I telling you all of this?

It has recently come to my attention that several members of the administration, including Patrick Garcia, are working hard to involuntarily transfer Dan McGuire away from West High to Horizonte. I am sure that you will be hearing, or have already heard, from many other alumni and current students about how incredible of a teacher Dan McGuire is; all of this is true. While I'm sure you've heard many reasons why the involuntary transfer would be incredibly devastating to the student body, I can offer another. He is a high school teacher who will see an opportunity that would allow students to excel academically while broadening their knowledge, and will pursue such a venture with passion and dedication. The students participating in the IB program at West benefit enormously from Dan McGuire, as it is only by combining such dedicated teachers with such motivated students that education can achieve its full potential. Motivated students at West will soon have the ability to become some of the few high school students in the world with intimate knowledge of supercomputers.

Taking Dan McGuire away from West will take this opportunity away from those students. It is not that another teacher couldn't put their name on the registration form to be the students' "advisor" for the UHSSC; it is that no other teacher at West could push the students to succeed in science-related fields and activities the way he does.

This involuntary transfer does not have the student's interests in mind. Please consider the numerous repercussions of such a drastic action, especially so close to the beginning of the school year. Please do not let the students at West become casualties in this battle.

Thank you,
Kasimir Gabert

From: **Ben Silcox** <silcox.benjamin@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 21, 2011 at 7:51 PM
Subject: The involuntary transfer of Daniel McGuire
To: tz@utea.org, mckell.withers@slcschools.org
Cc: parley.jacobs@slcschools.org, marymargaret.williams@slcschools.org,
rick.jaramilo@slcschools.org, ken.devries@slcschools.org,
amanda.thorderson@slcschools.org, alama.uluaave@slcschools.org,
doug@mdxperts.com, rosemary.emery2@gmail.com, laurel.young@slcschools.org,
heatherbennett@xmission.com, kristi.swett@slcschools.org

To the School Board and others involved with the issue,

I am, along with the many others that are voicing their concern for Mr. McGuire, a student at West High School. I first came to West in 2006 as part of the ELP program and was immediately immersed in the knowledge and caring Mr. McGuire after taking a supplementary math class which Mr. McGuire allowed to be taught in his classroom. From that point on, I have grown to cherish the knowledge and experience that Mr. McGuire brings to everything he does; from the coordination of the Utah State Math Competition in my seventh grade year to the effort he has put into the robotics program at West, which I am a proud product of.

I was at first shocked at the decision to transfer Mr. McGuire to Horizonte so close to the beginning of the school year, a decision which would put my IB Diploma and that of many others' at jeopardy. I strongly disagree with this decision which will not only bring about a strongly felt absence at West High School but also across the community which McGuire has mentored, taught and been a role model for.

Sincerely,

Ben Silcox

Disclaimer: I harbor no animosity toward any group. However, I cannot remain reticent while this event unfolds.

August 19,2011

To whom it may concern:

Yesterday, Mr. Daniel McGuire informed the West community of his putative transfer. I want to share my thoughts, while this issue remains relevant and eminent on our minds.

Last night, I received the dreaded call: McGuire was soon bound for Horizonte. My heart immediately dropped in disbelief, commensurate to waking up from a long nightmare. As a student, I have heard many opinions of McGuire, mostly as a bipolar lunatic. As I spent time with him in robotics and sat as a student in his class, I soon learned this reputation was unfounded. Rather, he was the teacher who forced students out of their comfort zone and to the next level. To me and select others, he is a revered model, a luminous beacon of inspiration, and a lightning rod of intelligence. I know of ELPers, I know of freshmen, I know of sophomores, who came to West with the identical goal in mind: the chance to study under McGuire. Without his presence, the lights of room *T-207* will remain eternally dark.

I am sure McGuire's transfer involved much deliberation. To be duly impartial, I cannot judge the circumstances of his departure without first hearing Dr. Patrick Garcia's perspective. However, I do believe it is fair to say his transfer was due to conspicuous tensions at West. Otherwise, no school official would relieve him and his proven teaching record. In 2011, half of his students received a five on the AP Physics test, in contrast to the national average of 14.8%! All higher-level IE! Physics students scored the maximum mark of seven, compared to the 9% of international students who achieved the coveted seven! This unparalleled teaching record could only be expected of McGuire.

His transfer is inequitable to West students. His unexpected departure leaves a dark vacuum in the IE program. With mere days before school's resumption, a dark cloud of uncertainty has been cast. Students do not know the new teacher or the future direction of physics at West. At the least, his prospective departure has caused disruptions; I even spent

International Baccalaureate

last night debating whether to change to IE Biology.

Few can claim the leadership and achievements conterminous of McGuire's. These skills will undoubtedly benefit students at Horizonte, but I conceive West students are a more efficient implementation of his diverse skills. In my observations, other district schools lack the determination and motivation of the typical West IE student. His presumed role at Horizonte is much easier to fill than the shadow left by McGuire's tenure. Few would have the ambition to win a MIT grant for robotics. Few would dare start a First Robotics Competition team. Even fewer would expend their own time to support students in extracurricular endeavors.

The ultimate purpose of school is to educate the students. The abrupt removal of McGuire from his post certainly does not accomplish this goal. If McGuire's remotion was in part due to his outspokenness, it should be known he shares the equivalent goal as the administration and district officials: to improve educational quality at West. McGuire just walks a divergent path that treks to the same destination.

I know of tensions between McGuire and the administration. I understand the headaches he may have caused, but the district should work in the interests of the students and permit McGuire to teach at West. He is an asset West will miss, not just the class of 2012, but for generations.

If West is truly the "home of scholar and champions," McGuire is its architect.

I call on the school board to repeal his transfer, not just for current students, but for the future of the school.

With all due respects,

With contributions by:

Andy Law

Mehmet Bilginsoy

Appendix 3

3. "We Want McGuire Back!" petition signatures

Approximately 250 students, parents and teachers signed the "We Want McGuire Back!" petition at the West Back-to-School event, Friday afternoon 8/26/2011.

Students

sheet 1

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in								
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th			
Bevera Nickerson	<i>Bevera Nickerson</i>	lycothrae@hotmail.com								X	
Stephanie Mao	<i>Stephanie Mao</i>	girlsmngressent@gmail.com								X	
Alyssa Wan	<i>Alyssa Wan</i>	axmurai@gmail.com									X
Kristina Bohman	<i>Kristina Bohman</i>	kristina.bohman@gmail.com									X
Clark Schaffler	<i>Clark Schaffler</i>	cschaffler9@usn									X
Yitian Zhang	<i>Yitian Zhang</i>	YitianZhang2009@hotmail.com						X			
Kasper Kubica	<i>Kasper Kubica</i>	kasperkubica@gmail.com							X		
ERIC COLEY	<i>Eric Coley</i>	ericcoley115@gmail.com							X		X
MEHMET BILGINSOY	<i>Mehmet Bilginsoy</i>	mohmed.bilginsoy@gmail.com									X
Clement Lee	<i>Clement Lee</i>	blasterfle@gmail.com									X
Daniel Liu	<i>Daniel Liu</i>	drktspinner@gmail.com							X		
Jane Keller	<i>Jane Keller</i>	janesosankeller@gmail.com									X
Joseph Hayes	<i>Joseph Hayes</i>	bt_rific3@yahoo.com								X	
Josanna Galvan	<i>Josanna Galvan</i>	keendojng@yahoo.com								X	
Jordan Ikeda	<i>Jordan Ikeda</i>	Thord-Kaze-Kage@hotmail.com								X	
Anushka Dasgupta	<i>Anushka Dasgupta</i>	robinhubsbell@yahoo.com									
Marcellina Kubica	<i>Marcellina Kubica</i>	MKEYNIDA@yahoo.com									
Barbara Woodruff	<i>Barbara Woodruff</i>	beyondtotalawesomeeress@gmail.com									X
Carlos Sanchez	<i>Carlos Sanchez</i>	carlos - Same Le Co Pot Pot Pot									X
Gerson Chen	<i>Gerson Chen</i>	random_jason@hotmail.com									
Jenny Chen	<i>Jenny Chen</i>	KennyJiem@gmail.com									
Amanda Jiang	<i>Amanda Jiang</i>	amanda.jiang102@gmail.com									X
Ian McLane	<i>Ian McLane</i>	McLanes.ian@gmail.com									X
Russell Brockington	<i>Russell Brockington</i>	Russell Brockington									X
Nathaniel Sullivan	<i>Nathaniel Sullivan</i>	nathanielj.sullivan@gmail.com									X
John Paul Chunga	<i>John Paul Chunga</i>	J.P.chunga.93@gmail.com									X
Eric Robish	<i>Eric Robish</i>	MR.ERIC.ROBINSON@gmail.com									X
Shannon Rose	<i>Shannon Rose</i>	Sirose@comcast.net									X

Students

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in						
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	
Cecilia Flores	<i>Cecilia Flores</i>								X
Gabriela Gasca	<i>Gabriela Gasca</i>								X
Matafonua Tonga	<i>Matafonua Tonga</i>							X	
Minnie Horvath	<i>Minnie Horvath</i>	minniehick@hotmail.com							X
Preston Anderson	<i>Preston Anderson</i>						X		
Sam Tafu	<i>Sam Tafu</i>						X		
Georgio Gajek	<i>Georgio Gajek</i>						X		
Roberto (Mark)	<i>Roberto (Mark)</i>						X		
Diego Lopez	<i>Diego Lopez</i>						X		
Max Latu	<i>Max Latu</i>						X		
Cecilia Amaghi	<i>Cecilia Amaghi</i>						X		
Alex Allioia	<i>Alex Allioia</i>						X		
THOMAS HANSEN	<i>THOMAS HANSEN</i>						X		
SPENCER HAITAU	<i>SPENCER HAITAU</i>						X		
SHANICE COZANO	<i>SHANICE COZANO</i>						X		
LIVIA MARTINEZ	<i>Livia Martinez</i>						X		
Mariah Arellano	<i>Mariah Arellano</i>						X		
Mariah Maestas	<i>Mariah Maestas</i>						X		
MARISSA VELASQUEZ	<i>MARISSA VELASQUEZ</i>						X		
Victor Chavanna	<i>Victor Chavanna</i>						X		
Madalynn Brewer	<i>Madalynn Brewer</i>						X		
Carina Bulwell	<i>Carina Bulwell</i>						X		
Mercedes Valenzuela	<i>Mercedes Valenzuela</i>						X		
AKESA FERROLO	<i>Akesa Ferrolo</i>						X		
JAZZEN TUKUMOEATU	<i>Jazzen Tukumoeatu</i>						X		
HERNINIA PUEVA	<i>Herninia Pueva</i>						X		
RYANA SLOVI	<i>Ryana Slovi</i>						X		

Students

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in						
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	
Christine Luker	Christine Luker	lookurgirl@gmail.com							
Chloe Kranendonk	Chloe Kranendonk	chloekranendonk@live.com						11th	
Zach Davidson	Zach Davidson	Zach Davidson				✓			
Ronnie Alias	Ronnie Alias	Joranger97@yahoo				✓			
Nathan Velasquez	Nathan Velasquez						✓		
Kari Young	Kari Young	Cyclone_Suz42019@yahoo.com					✓		
Morgan Nelson	Morgan Nelson	AvalonStorm.Nelson@gmail.com				✓			
Jaron Cloward	Jaron Cloward	Jaron Cloward							✓
Ethan Hilton	Ethan Hilton					✓			
Lennon Coley	Lennon Coley	lennoncoley@live.com							✓
Jasmine Walton	Jasmine Walton	Jasminewalton101@gmail.com							✓
Samantha Unruh	Samantha Unruh	Sammiswootheart@hotmail.com							✓
Katie Ota	Katie Ota								
Mercedes Vainio	Mercedes Vainio					✓			
Dino Kljajic	Dino Kljajic								
Ishimwe Ruwama	Ishimwe Ruwama						✓		
Dustin Stinezell	Dustin Stinezell								
Hashmat Shahnabi	Hashmat Shahnabi	Hshahnabi@yahoo.com					✓		
Srebko Celic	Srebko Celic	klwi-2174@pencil.com					✓		
Danielle Ardite	Danielle Ardite	lildanib@yaho.com							✓
Lucero Sanchez	Lucero Sanchez								✓
Kichie Volians	Kichie Volians	Richard.Dalans3@yahoo				✓			
ANTHONY JACKSON	ANTHONY JACKSON						✓		
michele Delong	michele Delong						✓		
Jesse Li	Jesse Li	Jesse.Li.33@yahoo.com							✓
Eric Hon	Eric Hon	ericstephenhenderson.com							✓
Shirley Hon	Shirley Hon								✓
Austin Flaurand	Austin Flaurand	Aus-Flourand@comcast.net				✓			

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Students

Sheet 6

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in						
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	
Emmaline Deiss	<i>Emmaline Deiss</i>	edeiss@gmail.com							X
Johanna de Gennaro	<i>Johanna de Gennaro</i>	girlscoutjo@aol.com							X
Shamrae Anderson	<i>Shamrae Anderson</i>	shamrae110@yahoo.com							X
Xavier Anderson	<i>Xavier Anderson</i>	xmp52a13@yahoo.com					X		
Vinnie Crandall	<i>Vinnie Crandall</i>						X		
Tsering Khejongsu ng	<i>Tsering Khejongsu ng</i>	kvampagal-200@yahoo.com			X				
Christopher Chen	<i>Chris Chen</i>	Christopherchen5@hotmail.com							
Rachel Talbot	<i>Rachel Talbot</i>				X				
Melovin	<i>Melovin</i>				X				
Richard Dick	<i>Richard Dick</i>				X				
Poertyy Bay	<i>Poertyy Bay</i>				X				
Ryha Madlana	<i>Ryha Madlana</i>				X				
Tevan Harding	<i>Tevan Harding</i>							X	
Mackenzie McDaniel	<i>Mackenzie McDaniel</i>								
Sake McDaniel	<i>Sake McDaniel</i>								X
Emma Fitts	<i>Emma Fitts</i>	lil_eitts@hotmail.com				X			
Mariana Sni	<i>Mariana Sni</i>	marie33@hotmail.com				X			
Sasha Nvatos	<i>Sasha Nvatos</i>	minimissb02@aol.com				X			
MAISSA ANON	<i>MAISSA ANON</i>							X	
Alma Amezalga	<i>Alma Amezalga</i>								X
Jocelyn Vidal	<i>Jocelyn Vidal</i>							X	
Yeni Romero	<i>Yeni Romero</i>							X	
Macki Gomez	<i>Macki Gomez</i>	gomez_macki@yahoo.com							X
SAMIKKA WISE	<i>SAMIKKA WISE</i>						X		
Emma Chavez	<i>Emma Chavez</i>						X		
Lisa Hernandez	<i>Lisa Hernandez</i>	lchertn.Hernandez86@yahoo.com					X		
Jazmyln Prado	<i>Jazmyln Prado</i>								X
Diana Martin	<i>Diana Martin</i>								X

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Students

Sheet 1

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in					
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Maura Sanagustini	Maura Sanagustini						✓	✓
Karla Medina	Karla Medina						✓	
Gregory Stephenson	Gregory Stephenson						✓	
Adoula Biar	Adoula Biar						✓	
Kaydee Harding	Kaydee Harding						✓	
Julia Medler	Julia Medler						✓	
ANNA ANTUNEZ	ANNA ANTUNEZ							✓
SASHA KIHIM	SASHA KIHIM						✓	
Shae Rose	Shae Rose						✓	
Charlotte Fife - Jepperson	Charlotte Fife - Jepperson	fifejepp@gmail.com					✓	✓
Sunny Dilwar	Sunny Dilwar						✓	
Ricardo Contreras	Ricardo Contreras						✓	
Jenny Davis	Jenny Davis						✓	
ANGELA HAINSWORTH	ANGELA HAINSWORTH						✓	
CARLOS TORRES	CARLOS TORRES						✓	
Hue Tran	Hue Tran						✓	
Jaclyn Tani	Jaclyn Tani						✓	
Cait Innoff	Cait Innoff						✓	
Elin Villareal	Elin Villareal						✓	
Salina Forobic	Salina Forobic						✓	
BROCK HUSSELL	BROCK HUSSELL						✓	
Mariam Khan	Mariam Khan						✓	
Edmundo	Edmundo						✓	
JULIAN MITKUS	JULIAN MITKUS						✓	
ZAC SMOYER	ZAC SMOYER						✓	
BEN LYNN	BEN LYNN						✓	
Ugolina A Lopez	Ugolina A Lopez						✓	
28 Cecilia Ayala	Cecilia Ayala						✓	

Σ: 178 students

Parents

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

	Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in					
				7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
	Yupeng Louie		Yupeng12@aruplab.com		X				
	Rong Mao		rong.mao@aruplab.com					X	
	Venkay Chinnathambi		Vino.giap@yaho.com	X					
	Michelle Yio		michelle.yio@icta.hk						X
	Glenda Cotter		glenda.cotter@utah.edu						X
	JUNEAE KIM		Juneae@ctsa-us.com						
	GREGORY CLARK		GREGO.A.CLARK.09@gmail.com						
	ZHENG ZHANG		RAMONZZF@YAHOO.COM						
	Tong Zhang		Tzhang-hulu@yahoo.com				X		
10	HOLLY BRAINGER		holly.grainger@gmail.com					X	
	ANNA KUBICA		Kris-anna-kubica@junco.com			X		X	
	Angie McDougall		XDODOLIC@MSN.COM				X		
	Trang Le		atrtle@yahoo.com					X	
	Diane Silva		we.share@hotmail.com			X			X
	Liyun Chen		liyundchen@gmail.com			X		X	
	Jane Yu		Pure1466@gmail.com						
	Connor Besant		mrmonkey09@hotmail.com				X		
	CHRISTOPHER LAKE		CLAKE@LAKELAND.ORG					X	
	LIHAN BILGINSOY		bilginsoy@netscopx.net						X
20	KOHINOOR DASGUPTA		sunflowerharvest@gmail.com			X			
	Dewey Hansen		mydesnah@comcast.net			X			
	Günşeli BERİK		berik.says@gmail.com						X
	Twila Hansen		mydesnah@comcast.net			X			
	Margaret Moore		MROCHEM00RE@COMCAST.NET						X
	Carolyn Lyman		Carolyn534@msn.com				X		
	Neil Cotter		neil@xmission.com			X			
27	Neil Cotter		necotter@xmission.com						X

Parents

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in					
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Guy Nickerson	<i>Guy Nickerson</i>	mcniks@msn.com					✓	
Ling Zhao	<i>Ling Zhao</i>	lingzhao2002@yahoo.com	✓					
ROBERTA WELLS Liz McClane	<i>Roberta Wells</i>	lplanner@gmcs snac.com					✓	
JACQUELINE OSNEROW Elizabeth Ballantyne	<i>Jacqueline Osnerow</i>	elizabethcoxballantyne@gmail.com						✓
RICHARD ELLIOTT	<i>Rick Elliott</i>	rickorge@gmail.com				X		
Kim Fowkes	<i>Kim Fowkes</i>	kim.fowkes			X			
Cati Snarr	<i>Cati Snarr</i>	csnarr@bw.org					X	
Wendy Chen	<i>Wendy Chen</i>	chen_wdy@hotmail.com	✓					
Mary Potter (potts)	<i>Mary Potter</i>	mpott4@hotmail.com			X			
Chris Davison	<i>Chris Davison</i>				X			
Wayne Jensen	<i>Wayne Jensen</i>	waynjensen@yahoo.com			X			✓
Ellie Sargent	<i>Ellie Sargent</i>	ehsargent@yahoo.com	✓				✓	
Liz Ashworth	<i>Liz Ashworth</i>	l-ashworth@a.com	X		X			
Anima Varma	<i>Anima Varma</i>	animavarma@hotmail.com		✓				X
Naina Varma	<i>Naina Varma</i>	nkvarma69@hotmail.com						X
Lucinda Wald	<i>Lucinda Wald</i>	lwaldcinder@juno.com					✓	
Peter A. BERGMAN	<i>Peter A. Bergman</i>	h2bergan@net.scpe.net				✓		
Hong Tao	<i>Hong Tao</i>							
Hebin Gu	<i>Hebin Gu</i>							
Hong-Lei Tao	<i>Hong-Lei Tao</i>							
Dean Li	<i>Dean Li</i>	dean@u2u2-u2u2.com	✓					
Maria Garcia	<i>Maria Garcia</i>	mgarcia3@gmail.com	✓					
JT Chen	<i>JT Chen</i>	jtchen@hotmail.com	✓					
BILL JEAN	<i>Bill Jean</i>	billjiang2000@hotmail.com	✓					

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2.05

Teachers

Please Sign The World's Shortest Petition: "WE WANT MCGUIRE BACK!"

Printed Name	Signature	Email	West students now enrolled in						
			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	
Jenny Nicholas		jenny.nicholas@skschools.org							
ETRI KIN		etri.kin@skschools.org		X	X	X	X	X	X
Melissa Anderson		melissa.anderson@skschools.org			X	X	X	X	X
Mariellen Johnson		mari.johnson@skschools.org			X	X	X	X	X
Brenda Rhodes		brenda.rhodes@skschools.org			X	X	X	X	X
George Haines		george.haines@skschools.org			X	X	X	X	X
Brittany Steiner		brittany.steiner@skschools.org	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maren Hansen		maren.hansen@skschools.org			X	X			
Fran Craigie		fran.craigie@skschools.org		X	X	X	X	X	X
Norma Boyce		norma.boyce@skschools.org		X	X	X	X	X	X
Tom Szala		tom.szala@skschools.org		X	X	X	X	X	X
Bryce VonDyke		bryce.vondyke@skschools.org			X	X	X	X	X
HILARY THEBLIFF		hilary.thebliff@skschools.org							
Mindy Thompson		mindy.thompson@skschools.org			X	X	X		
James Tobler		james.tobler@skschools.org							

10/29/09