

Governing Board

November 5th, 2019

Liberty Tree Academy

Falcon, Colorado

Dear Board Members,

I write to offer a few thoughts and observations of Mrs. Wilson as she has on various occasions filled the top leadership role at Liberty Tree Academy over this past year. At the end of the last school year, Mrs. Wilson stepped into the leadership vacuum created by the departure of the previous principal prior to the end of the school year. For weeks, Mrs. Wilson simultaneously fulfilled the duties of Principal, Assistant Principal, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, duties normally carried out by three people. At the time, I was the Director of the Barney Charter School Initiative, and I heard reports from my staff of her highly effective conduct under difficult circumstances. When I saw her during training at Hillsdale in June, Mrs. Wilson was cheerful and composed, and continued to carry on her duties in an impressive manner. I judged that LTA was fortunate to have someone so capable to stand in the gap and maintain continuity of operations, particularly during the end of the school year when many things must be accomplished.

During my visit to your campus at the open house in September, I observed Mrs. Wilson again keeping all things in order while your new principal was ill and unable to attend the event. She was composed and, while quite busy with the many concurrent activities of the day, helped the guests with all their needs while directing the staff. I was struck by her equanimity.

Now, she has risen to the occasion again during the most recent leadership absence in these recent weeks. She is undoubtedly gaining much experience in administrative matters with the authorizer and the state that serves the school well. In addition to taking care of various administrative tasks, this recent service of hers also attests to another vital leadership quality: confidence from others. Mrs. Wilson seems to be the cultural glue that is holding your school together, and I think LTA is quite fortunate to have someone so able who can carry the mission when life "happens."

I'm certain that the board has made these same observations, but I offer my comments because I have seen a number of schools experience such needs when there comes a disruption in the leadership of a school. All schools somehow survive times as those, but it is not common that there is someone who so naturally rises to serve and protect the school's mission and people as has Mrs. Wilson. You have a capable and humble leader among you, and I write to you as my offering of recognition for her goodness.

With kind regards,

Phillip W. Kilgore