



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Human Resources
1250 West Broadway Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411
Phone: 612.668.0473
Fax: 612.668.5294

Maggie Sullivan
Senior Human Resources Officer

September 20, 2021

Dear Dr. Kinkel,

First, let me say on behalf of MPS how much we appreciate the time and effort you have already put into this request to bring a one-year extension request for Brett Stringer's provisional administrative license before the BOSA Licensing Committee. We recognize that this issue represents a significant error on our end and have already begun to fix our monitoring systems and practices so that an issue of this type and this gravity will not happen again.

We make no excuses for the fact that Mr. Stringer's provisional license has lapsed. However, we think it is important to recognize and reiterate that the last 18 months have been exceptionally challenging for educators and school leaders. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented complexity to the role of a school leader, a position which is uniquely demanding and complicated in the best of times. Furthermore, the murder of George Floyd, which took place near South High School, created significant additional trauma impacting South High School's students, families, and communities. It is hard to imagine a more difficult two years in which to be a school leader.

With respect to the specific concerns raised by members of the South High Community to the Licensing Committee, we also want to emphasize that we take this situation incredibly seriously and have been doing everything we can to ensure that Mr. Stringer is on track to complete his required coursework. He is enrolled at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and began taking courses as soon as we became aware of this licensure issue.

Furthermore, we moved immediately to fill the South High principal responsibilities with our Associate Superintendent for High Schools, Dr. Shawn Harris-Berry. We regret the oversight of not updating the South High website quickly enough to reflect this change (although that has also now also been remedied). We have been very clear and direct with Mr. Stringer that he is not acting principal, and that he is not permitted to participate in making any decisions or staff oversight that would require an administrative license. Starting today, Assistant Principal Stephen Simondet has been made interim principal of South High.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request to extend Mr. Stringer's provisional license by one year while he finishes his courses. We believe strongly in his ability to lead South High School if and when his license extension is granted, and also in the critical importance of continuity during these difficult times for South High's students, families, and broader community. You have our strongest commitment to ensuring that this type of issue will not happen again.

Thank you again – please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful for you or the Committee as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maggie Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Maggie Sullivan