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## City of Providence, Rhode Island

April 2, 2012

Honorable Keith Oliveira  
President, Providence School Board  
797 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Oliveira:

In choosing among the finalists for the position of Superintendent of Providence Public Schools, the Providence School Board is performing one of its most important tasks. I write to offer my strongest recommendation for one of the candidates, Acting Superintendent Susan Lusi.

I had the privilege of working with Dr. Lusi ten years ago when I was a member of the Providence School Board and she was Chief of Staff to then-Superintendent Diana Lam. Dr. Luis's knowledge of education policy was outstanding, and was enhanced by her experience at the Rhode Island Department of Education. She worked well with the School Board, fostering a relationship of mutual respect and candor. As Chief of Staff, she served Superintendent Lam well in facilitating communications and preserving or repairing relationships in a difficult environment of a bold reform agenda that was at times derailed by communications issues that arose between various stakeholders and then-Superintendent Lam.

Since her return to Providence last summer, Dr. Lusi has picked up where she left off, promoting a clear vision of reform while adapting to the dramatic transitions that were occurring within the School Department and the School Board from the minute she took office. Through all of this tumult, Dr. Lusi has gained the confidence of most if not all of the major stakeholders in our public school system, no easy feat. Because of her progress along the "learning curve" when she was in Providence a decade ago, combined with the strong relationships she has fostered in the past eight months, Dr. Lusi in my opinion offers the best opportunity for building on the positive features currently in our public schools. What is more, she has demonstrated a ferocious work ethic and devotion to our children since last summer, even as she has worked amid great uncertainty as to her own future employment.

While I have not had the opportunity to learn about the other finalists for this position, it is hard for me to imagine another candidate who could bring as much to the table for Providence today as does Dr. Lusi. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,