

WHITCOMB JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL
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To the Review Committee:

I have worked closely with Laurie Smith for the time she has been employed by the Bethel-Whitcomb Schools. Laurie came to our school as a community health educator. She filled our elementary health teacher position with a provisional license.

Laurie has worked tirelessly to attain the required courses and practicum hours to be considered for a State of Vermont educator endorsement in Health Education. Laurie has taken several courses over the past two years. She has completed the required course work with excellent grades.

Laurie has worked with former VT Agency of Education health education professional Donna McAllister as one of her mentors. This school year Laurie will be mentored by Melissa Purdy our secondary health teacher. Laurie has been employed since August of 2016 as Bethel's part-time health educator, teaching weekly classes for preschool through 6th grade for more than 40 weeks.

I have informally observed Laurie teaching our Health curriculum to Bethel students on several occasions. Laurie is what we look for in an educator. She knows her content, knows the students and knows how to make the curriculum come alive. She has natural skills and talent as an educator. Through coursework and experience she has developed a deep knowledge of what defines a strong and robust health education for school children. Laurie's enthusiasm for health education is clear in her detailed planning and presentation of the material.

Laurie takes the responsibility of teaching our health curriculum very seriously and makes sure that each student understands the content. Laurie's classroom activities are meaningful, relevant, engaging and sometimes just plain fun. She always offers several ways for students to demonstrate their understanding and skill acquisition.

Laurie has a considerable amount of practical teaching experience from her years as a community health educator. She knows that creating a safe and respectful learning environment is essential to students fully accessing their learning. Laurie holds students accountable in a respectful, positive and consistent manner. Her classroom is always a place where students are engaged, working diligently and smiling.

Laurie has shown she is a full member of our learning community by joining and actively participating in school, supervisory union and state initiatives. Laurie is co-advisor to a Vermont Kids Against Tobacco (VKAT) group of 5/6th graders. The group will be involved on the state level with The Vermont Agency of Education. Laurie has also been an integral member of our supervisory union health team. The team

has been coordinating our health curriculum to assure that all students have access to the same comprehensive health education. This past summer Laurie and our other health teacher, Melissa Purdy created a comprehensive PreK-12 health curriculum for our school. Laurie and Melissa aligned the curriculum with the National Health Education Standards, Vermont Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements and our supervisory union's strategic plan.

I am confident that Laurie Smith is prepared and highly capable of becoming a fully endorsed Vermont PK-6 Health educator. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Owen Bradley