

PUTNAM COUNTY CUSD #535
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
PUTNAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER
May 7, 2014
7:00 PM

“WHERE ALL STUDENTS WILL LEARN AND SUCCEED AND ALL MEANS **ALL**”

DISTRICT GOALS:

Demonstrate increased academic achievement for all students.

Improve communications among all stakeholders in the Putnam County School District and communities.

Maintain strong fiscal responsibility in the Putnam County School District.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT. 2
- V. ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Superintendent Contract (Action)
 - B. Accept Resignation (Action)
 - C. Hire Second Grade and Kindergarten Teachers (Action)
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

PUTNAM COUNTY CUSD #535
BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2014
7:00 P.M.

- I. Superintendent Contract
- II. Resignation – Angie Serafini – Title Parapro
- III. Hire – Angie Serafini – Kindergarten Teacher
Amy Kreiser – Second Grade Teacher

May 5th, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to inform you that I will be resigning from my current position as a paraprofessional for the Title I program at Putnam County Primary at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. I have been offered the Kindergarten teaching position for the 2014-2015 school year and have most willingly accepted it. Due to this transition, I will no longer be able to carry out my current position as a paraprofessional. I am very excited to continue on as an employee of this district and would like to thank you for the opportunities you have given me. I have learned a great deal this last year and am very grateful for the support and guidance that was given to me along the way. The skills I have obtained as a paraprofessional have helped build a foundation for my future as a teacher.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angie Serafini". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Angie Serafini, Title I Paraprofessional

Amy Kreiser
2213 Marquette Road Apt. C-3
Peru, IL 61354
309-319-4440
amykreiser@gmail.com

April 22, 2014

Ronda Cross, Principal
Putnam County Primary School
400 E. Silverspoon
Granville, IL 61326

Dear Ronda Cross,

Please accept this letter of application for the Kindergarten and Second Grade openings at Putnam County Primary School. I am excited by the potential of utilizing my creative talents, positive influence, and energetic personality as an educator in the Putnam County School District.

Throughout the last two years, I have had the opportunity to become increasingly move involved in the Putnam County Community. I have really enjoyed becoming a part of the Putnam County School District through coaching varsity and junior high volleyball. I firmly believe in the values the school district and community instill in their children. The supportive, spirited atmosphere is contagious and I would like to be able to join the district as an educator as well. I am eager to have the opportunity to interact with more students in the district and establish an academic foundation with them that instills and enhances the love of learning.

While teaching at Mendota and Lostant, I have had the opportunity to utilize many different types of instruction. The students in my classroom have truly benefited from the multiple styles of teaching -- including co-teaching -- and learning. I have attended many professional development workshops to learn about and implement the most effective co-teaching models such as station teaching, parallel teaching, alternative teaching, and team teaching. Working with my colleagues and team to develop effective lessons and establish a curriculum aligned to the Common Core standards that fits the needs of learners has been a very challenging but rewarding experience. I thoroughly enjoy collaborating with my grade level colleagues to develop standards based assessments as well as share new and innovative ideas.

Collaboration between teachers and students is a huge key to success in education. Working in pairs or small groups helps students to clarify, define, and expand their thinking. My teaching experiences have allowed me to work with students from a variety of backgrounds and recognize that each student brings different knowledge and previous experiences to the classroom. In light of those experiences, it is my belief that encouraging cooperative learning in the classroom helps students to become more aware and educated about different cultures, traditions, and beliefs. In my classroom, I give students an opportunity to build their pervasive skills and interpersonal relationships through whole class sharing time, pair sharing, and small group work. Cooperative learning encourages students to engage in critical thinking activities and real world situations, which will ultimately help them to become college and career ready.

I strongly believe in the importance of differentiated instruction and its ability to provide students with the opportunity to extend their learning. This is exemplified by creating lessons that give students the opportunity to choose between multiple activities that appeal to different intelligences while meeting the Common Core Standards. In addition, I believe in the importance of flexibility and willingness as an educator to adapt lesson plans based on the needs of the students and their understanding of the concept or skill, which can quickly be indentified through ongoing formative assessment.

I would really appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the elementary openings in your school. I can be reached at 309-319-4440 at your convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to discussing your district's goals and learning about how I can help you meet them as a Putnam County teacher.

Sincerely,



Amy Kreiser

Amy L. Kreiser

(309) 319 4440 • amykreiser@gmail.com
2213 Marquette Road Apt. C-3
Peru, IL 61354

OBJECTIVE

Obtaining a career as a classroom specialist in Putnam County Primary School in which I can use my creative talents, positive influence, and effective teaching strategies to ensure that each child will experience achievement and the love of learning.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Elementary Education

Augustana College-Rock Island, IL
Graduation Date: May 2010
GPA 3.76/4.0

Certification Areas:

Elementary
Middle School-Language Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mendota Elementary School—Northbrook 5th Grade Teacher

2013-Present

Mendota, IL

- Co-taught all core subject areas to meet the learning needs of all students' individualized education plans
- Implemented guided math and guided reading centers aligned with the Common Core Standards
- Collaborated with the fifth grade team to develop standards based assessments aligned to the Common Core
- Differentiated curriculum to accommodate a range of student abilities, intelligences and interests
- Revised curriculum maps and reorganized them according to the Common Core Standards
- Maintained on-going communication with parents through conferences, phone calls, and written correspondence

Lostant Grade School (Fourth) Grade Teacher

2011-2013

Lostant, IL

- Aligned daily lesson plans with Common Core Reading and Math Standards
- Developed and implemented Tier II and Tier III RtI Reading, Math, and Behavior Plans
- Focused on creating a hands-on student-centered learning environment.
- Integrated technology into the daily learning experience through the use of a SMART Board, Ipads, i-clickers, laptops, and interactive websites
- Created lesson plans that give the students choice in their avenue of learning
- Developed cross-curricular units that stimulated student interest through making connections between famous literature and everyday life

Lostant Grade School Junior High Language Arts Teacher: 6th-8th grade

2010-2011

Lostant, IL

- Implemented a layered curriculum to meet multiple intelligences and enrich learning for all students
- Enhanced student academic and social growth by using various teaching strategies including whole group, individual, small group, and teacher modeling to provide a solid academic foundation for lifelong learning
- Facilitated a writer's workshop using daily mini-lessons to teach the 6+1 writing traits and grammar
- Conducted daily Tier II RtI interventions for elementary students

School Student Teaching: Monroe Elementary 2nd Grade

2009- 2010

Davenport, IA

- Differentiated instruction in all core subject areas in order to challenge all levels of learners
- Integrated movement and cooperative learning in lesson plans to keep students actively engaged
- Assessed students' reading rate, fluency, and sight word recognition
- Volunteered prior to student teaching during which independent instruction was conducted

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Putnam County Varsity Volleyball Coach 2012-Present

- Designed practice plans and lineups to increase individual skill level and teamwork in competitive play
- Evaluated athlete's performance and offered constructive advice
- Collaborated with other coaches to develop successful instructional techniques for the Putnam County Volleyball Program
- Delegated responsibilities and roles for an assistant coach during practices and at tournaments

Putnam County Junior High 7th Grade Volleyball Coach 2013-2014

- Developed practice plans that taught athletes the fundamental skills of the game and prepared them to continue playing the sport at higher levels
- Instilled the value of teamwork, responsibility, sportsmanship, and respect in athletics and all areas of life

Illinois Valley Volley Power (IVVP) U16 & U13 Coach 2010-Present

Oglesby, IL

- Created competitive line-ups and rotations that utilized athletes' talents to ensure success in tournament play
- Developed practice plans to improve individual and team skills for athletes and enhance competitive play
- Collaborated with other coaches during tryouts to assess individual skills and organize competitive teams

Lostant Grade School Head Volleyball and Basketball Coach 5th-8th Grade 2011-2012

- Implemented current volleyball/basketball philosophy and strategy to prepare athletes to play at higher levels
- Organized donations and fundraising to purchase new equipment

Additional Coaching/Sponsoring

Lostant Grade School Assistant Track Coach	2011-2013
Lostant Grade School Student Council Sponsor	2010-2013
Lostant Grade School Newspaper Co-coordinator	2011-2013
Fieldcrest Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	2010-2011
Lostant Grade School Scholastic Bowl Coach	2011
QC Knights Volleyball Club U15 Coach	2006-2010

HONORS

LaSalle County Excellence in Education Award	2012
Augustana College Dean's List	2006-2010
Augustana College Presidential Scholar	2006-2010
Academic All-American	2010

REFERENCES

Amy Olson Teacher Lostant Grade School 315 W. 3 rd Street Lostant, IL 61334 815-481-4255	Sandra Malahy Superintendent Lostant Grade School 315 W. 3 rd Street Lostant, IL 61334 309-846-3540	Steve Endress Superintendent Woodland CUSD 5800 E 3000 N. Road Streator, IL 61364 815-672-5974	Michelle Hoge First Grade Teacher R.R.1 Tonica, IL 61760 815-382-4623
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Education Department

January 5, 2010

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Amy Kreiser. Amy is currently completing her student teaching assignment in Jolene Whitmore's second grade classroom at Monroe Elementary School in Davenport, Iowa. Monroe Elementary is a school that is rich in diversity – it is characterized by a student population that is more economically disadvantaged than many of our “placement” schools. At the same time, however, it is a school where common purposes are valued and a sense of ‘belonging’ is fostered. Amy is certainly in the midst of an exceptionally formative experience.

Ms. Kreiser exhibits excellence in planning. She is consistently able to create learning experiences that are meaningful, innovative, inter-disciplinary and effective. I always appreciate the fact that Amy's foremost concern is with her students. She is genuinely in touch with their interests, needs, and ability levels. Her lessons clearly focus on developing and deepening the understanding of important ideas. She is also able to establish and maintain a trusting and significant relationship with students and staff. Amy is in the process of discovering that there is a purpose for teaching that is greater than course content. She “is enthusiastic, yet deliberate in creating instructional opportunities that instill a commitment to learn. Individual differences are welcomed and respected - and she is most capable of differentiating instruction to promote learning.

It is rare that I encounter a ‘long-term’ strategic thinker in student teaching. Amy is exceptionally intelligent and highly organized. She is able to blend the demands of Iowa's rigorous state learning standards with her own vision of ‘effective teaching practices.’ She uses a variety of positive management techniques, instructional accommodations and assessment ‘blueprints’ to meet student needs. Her lessons are inspired, engaging and relevant. At the same time, her lessons nurture students' natural curiosity... *(Please ask to see her Work Sample if you need evidence of exemplary practice).*

In addition to these impressive indicators of professional quality, Amy is a delight to supervise! Her personality is warm, poised, and energetic. She is eager to incorporate constructive feedback, is conscientious in meeting procedural obligations, and is reflective in assessing her own knowledge, experiences, and skills. Indeed, you would be most fortunate to have Ms. Kreiser as a colleague. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Deborah Bracke, PhD

Assistant Professor, Augustana College

Office (309) 794-8107

Cell: (309) 737-9333



From the Office of Steve Endress, Superintendent
Wanda Micklos, Administrative Assistant

May 31, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Amy Kreiser. Ms. Kreiser is currently employed by the district as a Junior High Language Arts teacher. Next year, she will be the school's 4th grade teacher. Additionally, she is our scholastic bowl coach and student council sponsor. Amy exhibits all of the qualities of being an effective teacher. She ranks among the best of individuals who are new to the teaching profession.

In speaking of her character, Ms. Kreiser continually exhibits high levels of responsibility, integrity, and commitment. She demonstrates this through her professional demeanor in and out of the classroom. She always exhibits a genuine care for the students and treats them with dignity in every way. As a young teacher, she has exceeded my expectations.

I have been quite impressed with Ms. Kreiser's ability to engage students through a broad and interesting array of classroom activities. Her energy is contagious, and her deft handling of all tasks assigned to her makes my job so much easier.

As a colleague, she has worked very well with other staff members and is always willing to do what is asked. Other staff members have commented to me of their appreciation for Ms. Kreiser and the support she offers to the staff.

It would be with great disappointment to lose such a valuable employee as Ms. Kreiser, but we are sure that our loss would be to the gain of the receiving district.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

Steve Endress, Superintendent



Monthly Board Meeting/Board of Directors

Amy Kreiser

Send to: [redacted]

Wed, Apr 30, 2014 at 10:12 AM

To: crossr@pcschools535.org

Ronda,

I hesitated to contact you about Amy, but I feel like I should now that I know she has an interview on Friday. I've known Amy since she was in 1st grade. I was her teacher and her basketball coach for 4 years. We hired her right out of Augustana to teach here ~~right here~~ cannot begin to tell you what an exceptional young lady she is. She is an amazing role model for kids. When you interview her Friday, you will see an energy level and enthusiasm that doesn't even seem real. It is. She has a work ethic unlike anyone I've seen. She does what is right. She embraces change...she jumped into Common Core when it started and led ~~our~~ School through the transition from the Illinois State Standards.

Amy does coach volleyball and is passionate about it. Don't think for a minute that she just teaches so she can coach. She is a teacher first. She puts in hours and hours of time away from school to prepare. She is as passionate about teaching and kids as anyone I've seen.

I don't give out praise like this to too many teachers, but I will tell you that she is top notch. I selfishly want her to get a job at PC so ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~she~~ ^{she} might have the privilege of spending a year in her classroom. She's that good.

If you want to talk about her, give me a call. 815-481-4255. I don't have one negative thing to say about this amazing young lady. I'm sure you have many great candidates to choose from!

Thanks for your time. Have a good day.

Career Objective

Attaining the position of an Elementary Education Teacher is my life's aspiration. I hope to pair the skills attained throughout my extended education and those of my everyday life to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher.

Education

A.A., Psychology 2009
Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL

Social Work/ Psychology
Illinois State University, Normal, IL

B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies 2013
Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT

Employment Experience

Putnam County Schools District # 535, Granville, IL 2012 – Present

Substitute Teacher

I have worked as a substitute teacher at Putnam County Primary School since finishing my Interdisciplinary Studies degree at Western Governors University in the spring of 2012.

- During my time as a substitute teacher I have worked in numerous classroom settings; one in particular being a Title I classroom. The opportunity has provided me with an in-depth perspective of reading intervention systems and their implementation within various grade levels.
- Various tasks regarding this position included but are not limited to: collaboration with colleagues and administration, the preparation and implementation of a new research-based approach, collected research and observation, and detailed assessments of students' deficits.
- This position has helped me develop a foundation of reading strategies and interventions. It has given me a clear understanding of the process of intervention within a primary school setting.

Putnam County Schools District # 535, Granville, IL 2011 - Present

Paraprofessional

I have worked as a paraprofessional and paraprofessional substitute at Putnam County Primary School since the 2011-2012 school year.

- During my time as a paraprofessional and substitute, I have become more familiar with the various tasks which encompass the education field. The opportunity to work in different grades has allowed for me to become more familiar with the school's curriculum and how it applies across several grade levels.
- This position has helped me develop good communicative skills, as well as, the ability to adapt to the daily challenges that arise in a primary school setting.
- The most important aspect learned while working in this position is a greater understanding and appreciation of both faculty and staff and how each plays a vital role in providing a quality education to our students.
- During this experience I was fortunate to work for an extended period of time in two kindergarten classrooms. One of the classrooms being a Special Education oriented classroom. This gave me greater comprehension of the needs each child demands. Understanding unique personalities is pertinent to developing a suitable method to creating retention.

Student Teacher

In the timeframe of 12 weeks, I completed my student teaching in a first grade classroom setting to achieve my Bachelor's Degree from Western Governors University.

- I was able to obtain a hands-on experience of the administration of a classroom on a day-to-day basis. I was able to work closely with my host teacher and Clinical Supervisor in developing and executing numerous lesson plans. Working with the students also helped me to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face. Throughout this experience I was able to apply my baccalaureate education using various teaching methods and strategies.
- A key skill that I enjoyed applying to my classroom was my understanding of how to utilize technology to help promote active learning. I feel that my understanding of various technology components has helped me develop more fun and engaging lessons for the students.
- A positive practical skill taken from this position was becoming familiar with the Common Core State Standards. I was given the opportunity to participate in curriculum mapping by participating in staff meetings where the Common Core Standards were discussed.

Fish N Fun, McNabb, IL

2006 – 2008

Lifeguard

As a summer lifeguard I was responsible for the lives of others. It was my duty to ensure the safety of those swimming, especially adolescents.

- During scheduled shifts I was in charge of maintaining the pool. This applied during openings in the mornings, and closings in the evenings. While at work, I was responsible for ensuring break periods as well as enforcing the rules of the pool.
- This position sparked confidence in my ability, while being able to accept the importance of caring for others.
- My experience as a lifeguard helped develop skills such as, awareness of others, responsibility, and attention to detail.

Coalminer's Cafe, Mark, IL

2003 - Present

Head Waitress

Working as a waitress at Coalminer's Café I am able to hone my time management, attention to detail, and customer service skills.

- This job, which I have held since 2003, expresses my loyalty. At this place of employment, I am entrusted with the duty of training our newest staff on correct procedures, and methods to employ in order to be a success at his/her job.
- Through relationship building I have helped develop a base of repeat reliable business for my supervisor. My approachable personality has allowed for me to build positive rapport with the public, which in turn generates repeat customers.

Skills

- **Communicative:** affable, approachable, sociable
- **Motivated:** self-driven, hard-working, goal-oriented
- **Versatile:** adaptable, creative, understanding
- **Professional:** respectful, rule abiding, mature
- **Productive/Interactive:** technological, efficient, proactive
- **Organized:** structured, prepared, reliable

Honors

- **Deans List**, Illinois Valley Community College, 2009
- **Kappa Delta Pi**, Honors Society Program, Western Governors University, 2012

Certifications

- **Elementary Education**, K-9, Illinois State Board of Education. 43 - Marshall/Putnam/Woodford ROE, 2013 - 2016. Self-Contained General Education, Kindergarten - Grade 9
- **Paraprofessional License**, Illinois State Board of Education. 43 - Marshall/Putnam/Woodford ROE, 2010
- **CPI Certified**, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention-LEASE Office, 2013 - 2014

Community Involvement

- **Relay for Life, Bureau County**, team member, community fundraiser – 2013
- **March for Life, Washington, D.C.**, active participant, political movement – 2013