

March 24, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the Hanover Education Foundation (HEF) as a nominee for the Marc Weiss Hanover Workforce Award in the small organization category. While the HEF is staffed by only two individuals, these staff members, alongside an engaged Board of Directors, has championed a consistent commitment to providing professional growth opportunities for Hanover County Public Schools leaders, teachers, and staff, thereby supporting the school division's commitment to ensuring a positive organizational culture for its employees.

As evidence of its three-pronged mission, "to develop and sustain community and business partnerships, to serve as effective stewards of resources, and to create quality educational opportunities that promote high performance in all students in Hanover County Schools", the HEF is singularly focused on raising funds to benefit the teachers and students in all of the county's schools, awarding nearly \$120,000 in scholarships to high school students across the county and awarding \$27,000 in instructional grants to teachers and leaders in partnership with Altria in the past year. This level of support is indicative of the HEF's support of the school division in previous years as well.

The HEF's willingness to support the school division's initiatives, and its teachers and staff, has been a part of its focus since it was established in 1998. Most recently, the HEF Board of Directors has decided to support the school division's Classrooms of the Future initiative, which will allow teachers the opportunity to design their own classrooms spaces with interactive furniture and technology. Through fundraising and technical support, the HEF will have a direct impact on the school division's workforce and thereby on the students who benefit from their influence.

The Hanover Education Foundation is a workforce champion supporting, advancing, and advocating for the employees of Hanover County Public Schools. It is the type of organization the Marc Weiss Workforce Award was designed to recognize. I encourage you to consider it a strong candidate for this award.

Sincerely,

Jamelle S. Wilson

Jamelle S. Wilson, Former Superintendent

Hanover County Public Schools

2011-2015