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**schools  
for  
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### **Letter of Recommendation**

#### **Eric Johnston**

I am pleased to submit this recommendation in support of Eric Johnston's application to be part of an international 'teaching couple'. I have known Eric since about 2003 when he was a parent volunteer at the Lesley Ellis School. This progressive, developmental school leans heavily on the work of its parent body, and Eric was both enthusiastic and helpful in his role in support of the school's emerging technology efforts. He served on the school's Parent-Teacher Organization as its Vice Chair and then Chair. His 'can do' spirit was infectious and he rallied the parent community in support of a number of important initiatives. At some point, he shifted roles and became a volunteer technology consultant for the school, helping them develop its first technology plan. Eric was creative in his approach, made presentations to the governing body, proposed technology solutions for the school and created ways to enhance the electronic connections between Lesley Ellis School and its parent organization, Schools for Children (SFC).

His involvement with Lesley Ellis and SFC expanded when he accepted a role as the school's first (part time) Director of Educational Technology. He offered a number of professional development workshops and coordinated special projects with students, assisted with the integration of technology into the classrooms, and provided instruction and support to students regarding multimedia production and video editing. He also was hired to provide a variety of consulting services to SFC until 2007 when his family relocated to Seattle, after which he continued to provide occasional consulting and support services to SFC until 2013 when the content management and HR tracking system his firm developed for SFC was retired.

In my opinion, Eric would best fit a role in which he was asked to teach technology, computing or social studies. This latter skill area would be supported by the preparation he did when seeking certification as a Massachusetts Social Studies Teacher (high school level). My sense is that he completed all necessary coursework and has parlayed that professional foundation into subsequent instructional and volunteer roles. These would have been most in play in his school involvements in the Seattle area after his family left Lesley Ellis. I know he has enjoyed his opportunity to instruct young people in environmental, science and technology clubs over the past several years. His adjunct skills would support providing professional development to faculty, technical support to a school's technology personnel and/or expertise in the area of distance learning. He has an incredibly diverse set of skills and a gracious and attentive personality. Eric is thorough in his preparation and meets deadlines mutually established. He is a man of strong character and clearly wishes to be immersed in providing creative and engaging curricula for young people. I recommend him without reservation and feel that he and his wife would make an excellent contribution as a 'teaching couple'.

Sincerely,

Theodore H. Wilson, III, Ph.D.

President, Schools for Children, Inc.

Executive Director, National Institute for Student Centered Education