

Greetings,

My name is Christine Anderson and I am a teacher at Harambee Elementary School. I was hired in 1997, the second year Tri-District school was in operation. The purpose for this letter is to request continued evaluation of the services provided by the EMID collaboration, including our magnet schools, and development of a plan to strengthen our important integration work together.

The teachers at Harambee are highly committed to our students. We are aware that we are part of a collaborative and there are ways we have been involved with teachers in member districts. Here are a few examples of what teachers are doing beyond our own classrooms. We are:

Applying research based teaching strategies learned and taught when attending SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Operating Protocol; a model for instruction of English Language Learners in the mainstream classroom) courses with teachers from member districts.

Growing in Culturally Competent Teaching by attending SEED courses provided at Harambee/Tri-District and other locations for all member district staff.

Presenting at Hamline Technology Integration Institute; an event free to teachers from all member districts.

Hosting and guiding student-teachers from University of Minnesota, Augsburg College, Concordia University, etc.

Hosting and guiding countless pre-student teachers from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

Hosting and guiding high school students involved a program encouraging students of color to explore education as a career.

Opening classrooms to teachers from member and other districts for visits and discussions about practices and philosophy.

Working with the Multicultural Resource center to supplement curriculum with multiple perspectives. The MRC is a resource available to all member districts, started and housed in the Tri-District, now Harambee, building at the beginning of the collaboration.

There is a need to continue collaboration around educational equity in the state of Minnesota and the metro area. The EMID staff has been providing member districts opportunities to think about and put into motion culturally competent teaching and best practices in instruction. The EMID collaborative magnet schools are addressing the achievement and well-being of our diverse student population. For these important reasons I request continued evaluation of the services shared by the EMID collaboration, including the magnet schools, and development of a plan to strengthen our important work in educational equity together.

I'm a firm believer in the mission statement that was in place before I arrived, we exist to "create a community of learners whose achievement and well being are enhanced by diversity which is valued and celebrated".

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Anderson

2nd grade teacher

Harambee Elementary