

AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOLS
170 CHESTNUT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002
413/362-1810
413/549-6108 (FAX)

Office of the Superintendent

August 1, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

As you contemplate upcoming presentations to faculty members, administrators, parents, and community members, I encourage you to consider Fred Firestone as your presenter.

I have known Mr. Firestone for many years. Every conversation with him is motivating and thought provoking. Among his talents is his capacity to engage people in dialogue and his strong mission for all to make a difference. This is a rare and powerful combination when working with educators and community members. After doing his homework about an organization, he is able to tailor his message for the group to learn and grow. His enthusiasm for his work is infectious. Whether dealing with a most challenging topic or engaging participants to motivate their collective efforts, Mr. Firestone causes all to walk away with new perspective.

I recall a session Mr. Firestone presented to a middle school faculty where I was the principal. After a dynamic probing of our program, Mr. Firestone proceeded with an analysis of perception versus reality. As he proceeded, there were many "ah ha" moments which subsequently moved from dialogue to action steps. His ability to take a complex situation and apply an air of simplicity to the resolution was something to see. His approach kept everyone focused and provided a reference point for many discussions weeks after his presentation.

I normally do not write letters like this but it is with confidence that I encourage you to consider working with Fred Firestone. As educators, we are immersed in learning tools of systems thinking, elements of learning organizations, and content focused initiatives. Periodically I find it valuable to step back and examine where we are through a different lens, a lens focused to elicit common sense dialogue and problem solving. Mr. Firestone provides such a lens in a motivating, refreshing manner.

Sincerely,

Jere Hochman
Superintendent