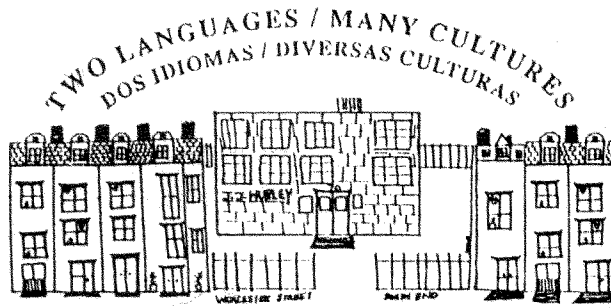


BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOSEPH J. HURLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ESCUELA ELEMENTAL JOSEPH J. HURLEY



A GOOD PLACE TO GROW
UN BUEN LUGAR DONDE CRECER

NORA E. POU
Principal

May 20, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Jeffrey Steele. Mr. Steele joined the Hurley School this school year as the choral director of the Urban Voices Program. In the brief time he has been with us, Mr. Steele has demonstrated an ability to set high expectations for behavior, participation and performance for all of our students regardless of challenges. He has connected with students by way of validating students' culture through the repertoire of songs he chose to teach the students. Mr. Steele successfully recognizes and nurtures the innate artistic talents of students and works collaboratively with teachers to ensure students increased motivation and ownership in the program. He is to be commended for his flexibility in coping with multiple disruptions to his work and for his creativity in managing his time to provide additional individualized or small group support for students who seem to benefit from this kind of attention. He is definitely committed to bring about the best on students, helping them feel connected, capable and contributing members of the choral project. Students are engaged, happy, productive and very proud of themselves under his care. I see this as one of Mr. Steele's most significant contributions. On June 2nd and 3rd students will be performing for different audiences. The Hurley School Community looks forward to these concluding events and to enjoy the product of his and students' labor as we did during the Holidays, Latin American and African American Celebrations during the winter months.

Finally, Mr. Steele maintains open, honest and clear communication with all concerned individuals in the school. His weekly reports provide updates on his work with kids and observations about what works and does not work in the context of his role in the school. These reports have been extremely helpful in keeping a pulse on how the program is progressing and to promptly problem solve around areas of difficulty.

I urge you to give Mr. Steele's job application serious consideration. He will be a real asset in your school community thanks to his talents, work habits, and positive personal traits that makes him a wonderful role model for kids and adults. Please call me if you need additional information in support of Mr. Steele's candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora E. Pou', written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

Nora E. Pou