

Jan. 27, 2023

Sen. Steve Cwodzinski
Chair, Senate Education Policy Committee
Senate Office Building
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

VIA EMAIL

Chair Cwodzinski,

I am writing on behalf of Education Minnesota, the largest labor union of educators in Minnesota, to express our support for the confirmation of Willie Jett as the next commissioner of education for the state of Minnesota.

Although I do not know Mr. Jett well personally, he made a strong, positive impression on the educators in St. Cloud Public Schools while he was the superintendent there from June 2013 through June 2022.

Last week, I spoke with several educators who worked for him in St. Cloud. They were universally supportive of his nomination for education commissioner. They praised his work ethic, receptiveness to educator voices, commitment to racial and gender equity in public education and his willingness to share the spotlight with other educators in the district.

Further, I believe Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan arranged for a thorough and fair search for their next education commissioner. The recommendation of a former teacher and current parent of a public school student means a lot and deserves respect.

If the Minnesota Senate confirms the nomination, Education Minnesota looks forward to working with Mr. Jett to ensure new education funding appropriated by the Legislature and Gov. Walz this year is spent in ways to significantly improve the learning and working conditions of students and educators. Our union also believes Mr. Jett's years of work in public schools in Osseo, Hopkins, St. Paul and St. Cloud will inform his decisions as a regulator and overseer of public schools in ways that will benefit our students, educators and communities.

Education Minnesota supports the confirmation of Mr. Jett by the Senate Education Policy Committee and the state Senate as a whole.

Together,



President Denise Specht
Education Minnesota

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
651-227-9541 800-652-9073 Fax 651-292-4802
www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

Denise Specht
President

Monica Byron
Vice President

Rodney Rowe
Secretary-Treasurer

Carrie Lucking
Executive Director



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

CC:

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Kari Dziedzic
Sen. Erin Maye Quade, vice chair, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Julia Coleman, ranking minority leader, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Jim Abeler, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Liz Boldon, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Zach Duckworth, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Grant Hauschild, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Mary Kunesh, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Alice Mann, Senate Education Policy Committee
Sen. Nathan Wesenberg, Senate Education Policy Committee

