I would like to nominate Cammy Leners, CFO of the Winterset Community School district, for the 2014 Deloitte CFO of the Year award. When I became a school board member in 2009 Cammy was relatively new to her position in our district. However, her knowledge and patience while teaching school finance to this new school board member was phenomenal. As you know, school finance is a very complicated thing. I have no financial background other than managing my own family budget, so the information Cammy was able to provide to me was priceless. At each board meeting Cammy would explain, in layman’s terms, how our district was doing financially and what steps she was recommending in order to make our district more sound. When I was elected to the board our district was in dire straits. Our board had to make some very tough, very unpopular decisions in order to raise our district out of the mess it was in. Cammy’s hard work, research and ability to communicate with everyone are unparalleled. She attended countless public forums, explaining school finance to the community so they would understand why the board was making those hard decisions. She has this very natural ability to calmly explain monetary issues factually, without allowing her personal bias to show.

Over the past 4 years Cammy has continued to lead our district into financial solvency. Our superintendent and board president rely on her to give us accurate information and opinions based on that information. Without Cammy’s straightforward reporting of the district’s finances, the board would not be able to make important decisions that affect our students. With Cammy’s input and reporting of the finances, our district is now back in the black and we are well on our way to sound financial health. Without Cammy’s accurate and truthful reporting our district would not be in the position we are today. It’s easy to gloss over the problems in a district, but Cammy does not do that. Her love for this district shows in how she cares for its finances.

Please consider Cammy Leners for the 2014 Deloitte CFO of the Year award. She deserves this recognition for all the hard work and dedication she has given our school district.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Brookhart

Winterset Community Schools Board of Directors