

December 29, 2016

Business Record
Attn: Jason Swanson
100 4th St
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear CFO of the Year Selection Committee:

As background, I served for ten and half years as the Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services for the West Des Moines Community School District. In addition, I have held other chief financial officer positions with Lewis Central Community Schools, Hawkeye Community College and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB). It has been my pleasure to get to know Paul and become familiar with his professional work as he served districts in Bettendorf, Iowa City and West Des Moines.

Paul is a CPA and thus, takes his professional oath very seriously. His professional ethics and conduct are above reproach. His colleagues in the school business profession view him with high regard for his professional ethics.

Paul consulted with me while I was with the IASB regarding his concern that the law did not extend the same ability on bond funding for Physical Plant and Equipment (PPEL) loans as it did for general obligation bonds. As a follow-up, Paul took the initiative to review this concern with district legislators. Sen. Schneider worked with Paul to get legislation passed and signed that extended the ability of a district to exceed the voter-approved PPEL tax rate when the taxable valuation dropped to not provide enough tax levy to cover the principal and interest payments. Kudos to both Paul and Sen. Schneider.

He has also initiated a number of projects that have saved the school district thousands of dollars at a time that state funding for public schools is at the lowest in forty years. He has negotiated a number of district contracts to receive more favorable benefits for the district at lower cost. This last year, in particular, he negotiated an even higher interest for district funds from West Bank than the previous favorable rate. He has worked on cooperative projects with the city of West Des Moines to earn extra dollars for the district.

Paul has worked with Superintendent Remy to implement a budget allocation model, TREGOE, to help prioritize reductions in a collaborative and thoughtful way so that the district could maximize programming for students, but still achieve a healthy financial position for the district.

Paul Bobek is truly worthy of this recognition. I hope you don't miss this opportunity to have a first-class selection as the CFO of the Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Howsare".

Galen Howsare