



WILLIAM V. HUSFELT, III

SUPERINTENDENT

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www.bay.k12.fl.us

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend **7-Dippity, Inc.** to work with your school district. I've had the privilege of working with the 7-Dippity team for the past three and half school years throughout my role as the Director of the Student Services Department for Bay District Schools. Working with this team has been paramount for our district as we navigated our way through a series of challenges.

After category 5 Hurricane Michael devastated our community, Bay District Schools was fortunately connected to 7-Dippity. Our district leadership worked hand in hand with **Mr. Scott Sevin** and **Ms. Elizabeth Granzow**. They jumped right in with our recovery efforts and helped us every step of the way. Scott and Elizabeth connected us to a wide range of resources including other professionals and organizations that could support our district. With their networking, the district was able to provide support groups to staff, mindfulness training for educators to implement with their students, and roundtables with other survivors across the nation. One of the most beneficial steps in our journey was having a psychosocial needs assessment completed for our school district. Through 7-Dippity, we had assistance from the University of Miami to help us conduct the research and analyze our results. The assessment not only drove decisions about resources and supports, but also helped us as we sought out and applied for any and every grant opportunity possible. Scott and Elizabeth kept us determined and moving forward in the complex world of grants. After many discouraging months, we eventually received funding from St. Joe, Project SERV, RESTART, SEDNET, SAMHSA, and Project AWARE. With funding available came the next herculean task - planning and implementing a system of mental health and wellness for students and staff.

While working with Scott and Elizabeth, Bay District Schools received solid guidance with building a district-wide, systemic mental health program. With their help we were able to recruit, hire and staff our schools with a variety of mental health professionals. They helped us obtain a more effective and cost efficient Employee Assistance Program for our personnel. Scott and Elizabeth's assistance went well beyond Hurricane recovery. They supported us as we experienced an increase in our ESOL population and have played an integral role with beginning a Community Partnership School program with one of our elementary schools. Most importantly, we were grateful for their partnership as we faced the global pandemic. As our students, staff, and community experienced back to back years of trauma, our work with 7-Dippity has helped us to prepare for whatever challenges come next.

One of the most significant projects that has come to fruition via our work with 7-Dippity has been our Trauma Sensitive Classrooms Initiative. Scott and

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Elizabeth connected us to Yale University in an effort to bring research-based and practical strategies to our educators as they respond to the trauma based behavioral challenges exhibited by our students. The project has been a huge benefit to some of our Title I schools and we look forward to continued positive results.

This letter offers my support of 7-Dippity, Inc. This organization has exceeded our expectations by going above and beyond the normal “scope of work”. BDS will be forever grateful for their dedication to our district. Mr. Scott Sevin and Ms. Elizabeth Granzow will be an asset to your school district and are outstanding professionals as they work with school leaders, staff, students and community partners. I am confident that they will make a positive impact in any role as they serve your school(s).

If I can provide any additional information about Bay District Schools’ experience with 7-Dippity Inc., please feel free to contact me at: **(850) 767-4117** or mulkukm@bay.k12.fl.us

Sincerely,

Kara Mulkusky
Director of Student Services
Bay District Schools