

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Mr. Nick Higson

DATE: 10 March 2008

RE: Mr. Elgin Cook

Mr. Elgin Cook came to our school district at start of the 2001-2002 school year. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him for the past 5 years. He has personally moved our district forward in the areas of technology, distance education, and data organization and storage.

Elgin has faced many challenges in his years at SISD. One of these challenges had been to find a way in which to deliver quality instruction from a highly qualified educator to multiple rural school sites. He accomplished this by establishing video teleconferencing (VTC) equipment in our district. Mr. Cook then led a team of educators in developing a VTC protocol among staff and students that could not only be used for regular education, but also for special education. Today, our VTC equipment is used nearly every hour of everyday to deliver quality instruction to students that otherwise would not have had the opportunity to interact with a highly qualified educator.

Elgin created an efficient database that has allowed the teaching staff and administration to keep up-to-date records of attendance, report cards, grades, transcripts, incoming and outgoing transfers, and various state reports. The SISD database is now second to none!

Elgin was instrumental in bringing the Apple 1 to 1 Computer Laptop program to our district. This has allowed every 5<sup>th</sup> grader and above to be assigned a laptop for their personal use, in school and at home. The program has been a smashing success largely due to Mr. Cook's dedication of his time to troubleshoot problems, load software, and instruct students and staff so that they can more efficiently use their laptops.

In my professional opinion, Elgin has been an instrumental leader in our school district. He has set a high standard in technology education. He is a hard working team player with the highest of integrity.

Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Mr. Nick Higson  
Principal/Teacher  
Southeast Island School District  
(907) 329-2244  
[nhigson@sisd.org](mailto:nhigson@sisd.org)