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Honorable Michael J. Baumgartner
Ogemaw County Circuit Court
806 W. Houghton Avenue
West Branch, Michigan 48661

May 10, 2013

Your Honor,

I am writing this letter concerning Neal Erickson. I have known Neal for 17 years through being a colleague and part of the 7th and 8th grade team at Rose City Schools. During all of that time, I have never seen Neal act inappropriately with any student during school or with after school activities.

Neal has done so much for the students at Rose City School, above and beyond his duties as a science and computer teacher. He took over band for a few years, was in charge of the 8th grade video, concessions at the games here at school. During all of these times, I have never observed anything inappropriate from him.

Neal made a mistake. He allowed a mutual friendship to develop into much more. He realized his mistake and ended it years before someone anonymously sent something to the authorities which began this legal process. The sender of that e-mail must not have felt Neal was a threat to any other students as he/she must have sat on this information for years before releasing it.

Please take into consideration, his pleading guilty so as not to put this student through any more than what has already occurred. Please also consider that this was a one-time relationship with only one student and ended long before being found out. Both parties have gone on with their lives. Not being able to teach is a punishment in and of itself to Neal. He was a great teacher. I do believe he deserves punishment, but not to the full extent of the law.

Please take into consideration the above mentioned information and when you are determining his sentence.

Sincerely,

Sally Campbell

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