June, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP), I am writing this letter of support for Intermediate District 287, who in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools is seeking a school climate grant to support its regional school leadership training initiative, "A Better Way".

This proposal supports a cohort leadership training series for teams of leaders for five years as a part of efforts to increase graduation rates by reforming the use of exclusionary - school suspension - practices, embedding social and emotional learning and restorative practices, and developing positive school cultures (school-wide PBIS) that ends racial disparities in discipline practices. An additional goal is to reduce school arrests of non-white students and students in special education programs through the implementation of a nationally recognized youth diversion model.

The grant proposal is aligned with the education race equity work that MMEP advances through research, trainings and advising school districts. This involves promoting changes in adult behavior that will positively impact our youth of color. Our organization would be pleased to be involved in the project and would help provide leadership, guidance, and consulting expertise via the initiative’s advisory committee. We would also serve as a resource to recommend regional equity experts and culturally specific consultation for school leaders.

MMEP wholeheartedly supports this project and recognizes the great need for extensive school leadership training in our region. Consider this letter as a Memo of Agreement between MMEP and District 287.

Sincerely,

Carlos Mariani
Executive Director

Cc: Keith Lester, MMEP Board Chair