Letter of Interest, Monroe County Public Schools:

I believe the major educational accomplishments I can bring to the superintendence of the Monroe County Public Schools can best be described as relentless efforts to build relationships, while also incorporating multilayered problem-solving skills to all stakeholders. I believe that my experience and vision as a teacher, coach, school principal, district administrator, and superintendent will guide and enhance teaching and learning in the high performing Monroe County Public Schools. Patience and perseverance are the keys, and these character traits have been valuable components during my tenures as both principal and superintendent of four distinctive but contrasting school districts. As you seek to hire the best candidate, please know that I would be honored to serve as superintendent in a district that exhibits pride in the community, embraces a sense of belonging, and readily encourages goals that create a fluid pipeline of student talent fully prepared to give back to the community in which they were so ably educated. I would pursue four specific areas of focus that I firmly believe are paramount to creating successful opportunities for each student to learn and grow inside and outside of the classroom.

Four specific areas that I would focus upon are: literacy and high expectations for all learners, high expectations in mathematics for all learners, early warning systems, and acceleration opportunities. All students possess an innate talent that can be used for advancing their continual growth to become highly educated and responsible citizens. My daily mission has been, and will always be, to personally visit schools frequently and purposefully. This accessibility and support reaffirm to each school-based employee that there is a genuine investment connecting the school, the board, the district, and the community. Teamwork is an equitable commitment no matter the title or responsibility, and I promise to provide the passion necessary for all students and educators to experience the most optimal opportunities available to succeed today, tomorrow, and in the foreseeable future.

Within the area of literacy and mathematics high expectations for all learners while serving as the Superintendent of Flagler Schools, Florida, Franklin West Supervisory Union, Vermont and the Bangor School Department; tutoring activities increased exponentially from Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. One expanded opportunity for special education students and English language learners as a targeted area of focus is to intensify and maximize supports for students with reading difficulties, specific learning disabilities, and dyslexia.

A third area of focus would be to both identify and address early warning systems to allow all students the opportunity to receive an enriched and quality education. Providing mentoring for students in need of a significant adult is a prioritized goal of mine; a goal that formerly resulted in a comprehensive mentoring program with 1,000 students who received guidance and direction from school district employees, local business representatives, clergy, and volunteers with the African American Mentoring Program in Flagler Schools, Florida. Another vision of mine is to pair students with experienced adults for career coaching to support the Classroom to Careers program. During the 2019-2020 school year over 200 socio-economically disadvantaged high school students received free Wi-Fi hotspots to participate in online learning programs. In the 2020-2021 school year over 50 families in the Franklin West Supervisory Union, Vermont, had been offered hotspots to assist families to connect for remote learning opportunities within the hybrid model. During my tenure with the Bangor School Department several strategies that proved to be effective during the pandemic became a common occurrence post pandemic including outdoor learning spaces and improved communication with families.

In terms of relationships and perseverance, one passion that is dear to my heart is to improve graduation rates while providing a sense of belonging for all students for the first step toward reaching higher education, military aspirations, or short and long term career dreams; dreams I want them to realize. During my first tenure as superintendent, the graduation rate for Flagler Schools has increased from 81% to 92%. This includes an increase for African American students (69% to 93%), as well as students with disabilities (56% to 81%). While

serving the Bangor School Department, the graduation rate increased from 83% to 92% in three years. I am most proud of our students, families, faculty, and staff. It is one thing as a leader to propose solutions and inspire them through work ethic, but then to see the positive energy and sustained efforts of those laying the groundwork for our students to succeed in multiple ways is what truly makes the work of an invested educator worth the result. These are unprecedented numbers both locally and statewide. The students feel and witness both the tangible and intangible support, and they then pay it forward with their younger siblings, and community.

The fourth and final area I would like to emphasize and focus upon is acceleration opportunities for all students. As the former Superintendent of Flagler Schools, I am extremely proud of the graduation rate increasing by eleven percent, however I am equally pleased to report that the acceleration rate increased by twelve percent at the same exact time indicating that our students participated in more challenging Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses of study. During the 2019-2020 school year over 400 students participated in dual enrollment courses which is an all-time high for the district. This precluded garnering articulation agreements with four universities. From the Class of 2020, 37 graduating students also received an Associate of Arts degree, 11 earned Emergency Medical Technician certificates, secondary students earned 147 industry certifications, and finally, 375 elementary students earned digital tool certifications. Through selflessness and timeless efforts, goals and expectations have not just been met, but exceeded at every turn. It is not just about setting the bar; it is the pursuance of raising it that fuels my passion to have every teacher afforded the resources to educate our children. Ultimately, it is of paramount importance that our students be given the best people and climate in which to thrive.

Please be assured that with unwavering commitment and unyielding dedication that I will continue to foster relationships and work tirelessly to lead the Monroe County Public Schools to continued high performance. I would be grateful, and just as eager, if given the opportunity to play an integral role in having your school district continue to evolve and move forward in an impactful way for both your teachers and your students. No one will outwork me. I will improve upon targeted weaknesses, and I will build upon the strengths of all concerned. We, together, will write a narrative founded on best educational practices, and our educators and students will illustrate the pages with their realized dreams and many successes.

Enthusiastically Yours,

1) Jogen

James Tager

James R. Tager

(386) 689-6479

jrtager1@gmail.com



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A positive relationship builder and career educator with vision, passion, and experience at consensus-forming, strategic planning, along with the ability to recruit and mentor talented faculty and staff members.

Recognized for a dedication toward academic achievement in all facets of the profession and a commitment to a guiding principle that all students will learn.

Focused on increasing individual school and district performance through collaboration with teachers and staff with a concentration on creating a sense of belonging for all students; expanding co and extra-curricular participation opportunities, increasing graduation rate, acceleration and developing mentoring programs.

Determined to provide data driven strategies to increase the graduation rate for all subgroups of students.

Believes that all students possess an innate talent or gift that can be used to accelerate their positive growth to become highly educated responsible citizens.

Steadfastly committed to being highly visible at schools and in the community while fostering meaningful relationships with students, parents, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders.

EDUCATION

M.A., Administration and Supervision, 1986 B.A., Elementary Education and Special Education, 1982 Nova Southeastern University, FL Flagler College, FL

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2024 - 2025	Author
2021 - 2024	Superintendent of Schools Bangor School Department, Maine
2020 - 2021	Superintendent of Schools Franklin West Supervisory Union, Vermont
2017 - 2020	Superintendent of Schools Flagler Schools, Florida
2015 - 2017	Volusia County Schools Atlantic High School, Port Orange, FL Principal
2014-2015	Volusia County Schools Deputy Superintendent, DeLand, FL

James R. Tager

(386) 689-6479	jrtager1@gmail.com	y @jrtager
2013 - 2014	Volusia County Schools Director, K-12 Curriculum, DeLand, FL	
2010 - 2013	Volusia County Schools New Smyrna Beach High School, New Smyrna Beach, FL Principal	
2005 - 2010	Volusia County Schools New Smyrna Beach Middle School, New Smyrna Beach, FL Principal	
2004 - 2005	Volusia County Schools Deltona High School, Deltona, Florida Principal Intern	
1982 - 2004	Volusia County Schools Hillcrest School, Daytona Beach, Florida New Smyrna Beach High School, New Smyrna Beach, Florid Spruce Creek High School, Port Orange, Florida Read-Pattillo Elementary, New Smyrna Beach, Florida Teacher	da

HONORS

- 2020 Flagler Schools, A Rated District, Florida Department of Education
- 2019 Flagler Schools, A Rated District, Florida Department of Education
- 2019 Distinguished District Award, International Society for Technology in Education
- 2012 Educator of the Year, East Central Florida Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa
- 2011 Secondary Visual Arts Principal of the Year
- 2010 Administrator of the Year, Volusia Media Specialist Association
- 2009 Administrator of the Year, Volusia Band and Choral Association
- 2003 Administrator of the Year, Volusia/Flagler Counseling Association
- 2000 City of New Smyrna Beach Volunteer Family of the Year
- 1999 Outstanding Teacher of the Quarter
- 1996 Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce Crystal Apple Award
- 1994 Outstanding Teacher of the Quarter
- 1990 Five Star Conference Coach of the Year
- 1988 Delta Phi Kappa Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- 1987 International Special Olympic Gold Medal Team Coach



P. O. Box 755 1769 E. Moody Blvd. Bldg. 2 Bunnell, FL 32110 Phone (386) 437-7526 Fax: 586-2641

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Janet McDonald Chairman District 2

Colleen Conklin Vice Chairman District 3

Andy Dance Board Member District 1

Trevor Tucker Board Member District 4

Dr. Maria P. Barbosa Board Member District 5

Shelcey Garcia Student School Board Member Flagler Palm Coast H.S.

Hunter Perez Student School Board Member Matanzas H.S.

Michelle Cooligan Teacher of the Year Buddy Taylor Middle School

> Lynn Mellow Employee of the Year Plant Services

> > James Tager Superintendent

January 2020

Dear Superintendent Selection Team,

I was recently asked how Flagler Schools became an A-rated district last year under the Florida School Accountability System after lingering on a B-rated plateau for seven years. There is no doubt in my mind that this improvement can be tied to James Tager's leadership as Superintendent of Flagler Schools.

When Mr. Tager took over the helm of Flagler Schools, he saw that the district had the potential to be an A-rated district. What we did not have was focus and accountability, and those two areas are what he immediately addressed. He laid out his expectation that the entire district would focus on four areas: literacy and high expectations, early warning systems, the graduation rate, and acceleration opportunities for all students. This has not been a hollow, on-paper-only talking point for him. Every district administrator has been expected to be part of the drive toward addressing these four areas. Mr. Tager voices this expectation at every group gathering, at every individual meeting, at every community event. In his straightforward, calm manner, he made his point. The result of his leadership has been that the district has improved in all four areas, leading to our A-rating.

To hold principals accountable for focusing on these areas, he and members of the Teaching and Learning Department hold quarterly data chats with them. The principals come prepared to explain how they are guiding and monitoring their school's progress in the four focus areas. This expectation has resulted in the principals becoming true instructional leaders.

You might think that this scrutiny and the pressure of accountability would make administrators happy to see Mr. Tager leave Flagler Schools. That is not the case at all. From district level staff, to school administrators, to teachers, to support staff, to the community, everyone is sad that he is leaving. He brought us all together so that we are a school system.

Mr. Tager will bring the same focus and determination to the next school district he leads. His humble demeanor might make people think that he will be a passive leader. They would be completely wrong. I assure you that he will challenge your district to be the best that they can be and he will show you the way to get there.

Sincerely,

Diane Dyer Flagler Schools Executive Director, Teaching and Learning

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

March 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Jim Tager for the position of superintendent of Monroe County Public Schools. Jim is a dedicated and passionate educator who I had the privilege of working with closely during my three years as Chair of the Bangor School Committee. As Superintendent of Bangor Schools, Jim led with a deep commitment to students, teachers, and the broader community, always striving to create an environment where every student felt seen, supported, and valued.

What stands out most about Jim is his ability to build genuine relationships. He didn't just lead from behind a desk—he was present in schools, talking with students, listening to teachers, and engaging with families. He understood that strong schools are built on trust, collaboration, and a shared vision, and he worked tirelessly to foster that in our district. Whether it was advocating for new student programs, ensuring teachers had the resources they needed, or finding ways to strengthen our graduation rates, Jim approached every challenge with a belief that all students have the potential to thrive.

His leadership was particularly evident in the way he approached student achievement. He never saw education as just about test scores—he cared about the whole student experience. From expanding extracurricular opportunities to increasing mentorship programs, he looked for ways to engage students beyond the classroom, recognizing that learning happens in many forms. His ability to bring people together and create a sense of belonging in our schools made a lasting impact on our community.

Jim is more than an experienced educator—he is a leader who inspires others to do their best work because they know he genuinely cares. Any district or organization would be lucky to have him at the helm. I highly recommend him without hesitation.

If you would like to discuss Jim's contributions and leadership further, please feel free to reach out to me at <u>melkelani4@gmail.com</u> or 207-478-7333. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marwa Hassanien

Former Chair and current member, Bangor School Committee

September 5, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to serve as a professional reference for James Tager, the current Superintendent of Flagler County Schools in Florida. I was assigned by the Florida Association of District Superintendents (FADSS) to mentor his first year as a Superintendent, where I got an up-close and personal look at his abilities, attitude, commitment, collaborative spirit and most importantly his heart for the students, families and communities he serves.

One of Mr. Tager's first Superintendent actions was to review the district's Strategic Plan and their results with the School Board. Together they put strategies in place to address what they felt were the two priorities: increasing the graduation rate and increasing student achievement as evidenced by the District earning an A Grade from the Florida Department of Education. He involved the School Board and all employees as they focused on high expectations, staff development, support, monitoring and accountability that resulted in the highest Graduation Rate ever recorded in the district (88%). Significant increases for their African-American and Students with Disabilities subgroups as well as increases throughout other subgroups gave reason to celebrate. In 2019, Flagler County Schools returned to an "A" state grade.

Maybe it is leadership, commitment, experience or a host of other descriptors but the ability to work within the current structure while envisioning a more productive future is paramount. Mr. Tager has demonstrated his willingness to honor the past, to respect the present, but to always look to the horizon to see what could be. With the School Board and other leaders, Mr. Tager is a visionary leader who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and work alongside others to create what is necessary for an exemplary educational experience for all students. For example, dispite funding challenges, new Flagship career programs in Teaching, Law and Justice, Medical Fields and Information Technology were created. Such collaborative can-do attitude demonstrates what can happen even though barriers are in place.

Another significant commitment occurred after the Parkland tragedy and a new priority, school safety emerged. This critical imperative took precedence so Mr. Tager assembled an effective leadership team and united school principals to rethink how they could best protect their students and personnel. Schools plans were developed and shared. With limited funding and resources already allocated for the year, Mr. Tager collaborated with the Sheriff to fund a School Resource Officer in every school. He supported and encouraged high school students to develop a successful Safety Plan that received statewide recognition and he worked closely with several governmental leaders that opened the door for future collaborations.

In fact, just a few days ago during Hurricane Dorian preparation, I turned on my TV to see Mr. Tager addressing the community. He was most humble and welcoming as he invited anyone from their communities to stay in their shelters (schools) where school personnel and others could serve them. Florida schools are regularly used as shelters, but the notion of "opportunity to serve" was a new expression for these hectic, horrific situations. These descriptors paint a picture of the kind of leader Mr. Tager is.

As I have grown to know and respect Mr. Tager over the years, I have realized that this tall, dignified looking man is definitely a humble, compassionate and collaborative leader. He loves visiting schools and interacting with students. He enjoys sitting with employee organizations to learn about their successes and interests. His "we" spirit and focus on his customers: students and their families, employees and the larger communities that he serves, results in a visable, highly interactive, results-driven leader.

How he finds time to further his own education amazes me. He recently successfully completed the year-long Florida Special Superintendent Training Program and the Chief Executive Leadership Development Program both coordinated through the FADSS organization. These rigorous and extensive programs require presentations, portfolio and other documentation over time, and testing.

As a Florida Superintendent for 16 years, in two districts, I understand first hand the demands, expectations and the commitment necessary for success. As a current consultant for the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and the FADSS organization, I regularly engage with Superintendents. It is necessary that I stay abreast of Florida district academic, financial, demographic and other pertinent information/results. With this knowledge and the close interaction with Mr. Tager, I highly recommend him for a Superintendent position. Feel free to contact me if I can provide additional input.

Sincerely Dr. Bill Vogel <u>b2vogel@gmail.com</u> (321) 299-2452 (voice or text)

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Printed: 03/10/2017

FLAGLER COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT

Name : James Robert Tager Address : PO Box 291491 Port Orange, FL 32129 Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Major: Elementary Education Exceptional Student Edu

Minor:

Birth Date : 08/15/1959

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MAT-102 Math for Libera	I Arts II	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		1081 1082 - 1	Fall Semester							
		Term To	tals :	18.00	18.00	18.00	66.00 3.6	6666	1201-1202 : 1	an semester							
		Career To	tals :	33.00	46.00	30.00	99.00 3.3	8000									
									EDU-321	General Methods of Instruction	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
									EDU-406	Curriculum	LT	в	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
									EEL-362	Elementary Methods of Mathemati	ics LT	в	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
									EEL-364	Elementary Methods in the Science	es LT	С	3.00	3.00	3.00	6.00	
												2.4			1000	10.22	

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 prohibits the release of this document without the student's written consent.

Transcript is not official unless it bears the embossed seal of the college and the signature of the Registrar.

Printed: 03/10/2017

FLAGLER COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT

Name : James Robert Tager Address : PO Box 291491 Port Orange, FL 32129
 Degree:
 Bachelor of Arts

 Major:
 Elementary Education Exceptional Student Edu

Minor:

Birth Date : 08/15/1959

Crse Num	Title	CR Type	e Gra Rp	ot Att	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GP/
1 <mark>981-1</mark> 982 :	Fall Semester							
	V Introductory Sociology	LT	А	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
SPM-335	Facility/Event Management	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
		Term To	tals :	18.00	18.00	18.00	60.00	3.3333
		Career To	tals :	93.00	106.00	90.00	301.00	3.3444
004 4000	a						-	-
981-1982 :	Spring Semester					20	-	Y
EDU-481	Education Internship	PF	Р	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	
		Term To	tals :	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000.0
		Career To	tals: 1	108.00	121.00	90.00	301.00	3.3444
Degree Info								
(1) Bache	elor of Arts' Date Conferred	: 05/01/1982						
	E	End Of Transc	ript					

ACCREDITATION

Flagler College was founded in 1968 and is a fouryear, private college located in St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest city in the United States. It is a non-sectarian, coeducational institution offering courses of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Science degrees. Flagler College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Flagler College.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Flagler College appears in small print across the entire face of an official transcript and bears the raised seal of the college and the signature of the Registrar.

TRANSCRIPTS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Flagler College does not issue copies of transcripts (high school or university) or other documents received from other institutions.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

To qualify for the President's List, a student must complete a minimum of 12 hours of graded course work with a 4.0 grade point average and with no grade less than a C for the semester.

DEAN'S LIST

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours of graded course work with a 3.4 grade point average and with no grade less than a C for the semester.

FLAGLER COLLEGE

MAIN CAMPUSTOffice of the Registrar7474 King Street5St. Augustine, FL 32084(904) 819-6204

TALLAHASSEE LOCATION Records Office 444 Appleyard, Drive Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 201-8070

registrar@flagler.edu www.flagler.edu

CALENDAR

The Flagler College calendar includes fall and spring semesters and summer terms.

COURSE LOAD

The quantity unit of credit at Flager College is the semester hours (SH).

REPEATED COURSES

Both grades remain on the record but only the most recent grade is used in computation. The forgiven course is marked with an asterisk (*) and the most recent course is marked repeated (R).

WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES

Courses that are classified as writing intensive are indicated with "WI" following the course number.

CREDITS TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER COLLEGES

Transfer credit is granted for comparable courses in which a grade of C or higher was earned. Transfer credits are not computed in a student's GPA.

REMEDIAL COURSES

Flagler College offers remedial course work in English, Mathematics, and Reading. Credit earned does not count toward the 120 SH required for graduation.

AUTHENTICITY CONFIRMATION

FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE COLLERE - FLAUER FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE -FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE -FLAUER COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE COLLERE - FLAUER COLLERE

When photocopied in rolor or on the darker settings of black and white copiers, the word COPY will appear several times in larger letters. A black and white transcript is not an original Alteration of the transcript may be a criminal offense. Further authentification may be obtained by calling (904) 819-8204.

Beginning with Fall Semester 2011-2012 Flagler College implemented the +/- grading system for all students.

Begin	ning with Fall Semester 2011-2012	
Grade	Grade Meaning	Quality Points
A	Superior	4
A-		3.7
\mathbf{B} +		3.3
B	Good	3
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Satisfactory	2
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	Passing	1
F	Failing	0
AI	AICE Program	0
AP	Advanced Placement	0
AU	Audit	0
CL	CLEP	0
1	Incomplete	0
IB	International Baccalaureate	0
MC	Military Credit	0
NG	No Grade	0
OC	Other Credit	0
P	Passing (Pass/Fail Option)	0
SA	Study Abroad/Away	0
TR	Transfer Credit	0
W	Withdrew	0
WF	Withdrew Failing	0
WIP	Work in Progress	0 -

Prior to	Fall Semester 2011-2012	
Grade	Grade Meaning	Quality Points
A	Highest	4
B	Above Average	3
C	Average	2
D	Below Average	1
F	Failing	0
AI	AICE Program	0
AP	Advanced Placement	0
AU	Audit	0
CL	CLEP	0
1	Incomplete	0
1B	International Baccaulaureate	0
MC	Military Credit	0
NG	No Grade	0
OC	Other Credit	0
Р	Passing (Pass/Fail Option)	0
SA	Study Abroad/Away	0
TR	Transfer Credit	0
W	Withdrew	0
WF	Withdrew Failing	0
WP	Withdrew Passing	0
WIP	Work in Progress	0

GRADUATION HONORS

Summa Cum Laude	3.9 - 4.00
Magna Cum Laude	3.7 - 3.89
Cum Laude	3.5 - 3.69

Rev. May 2015

State of Florida Department of Education

EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

This Certifies That JAMES R TAGER

Has satisfactorily completed all requirements of Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules for the coverages or endorsements listed below:

PROFESSIONAL PROFESSIONAL PROFESSIONAL MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ELEMENTARY EDUCATION GRADES K-12 ALL LEVELS GRADES 1-6

07/01/2012 - 06/30/2027 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2027 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2027

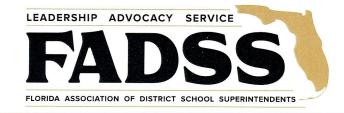
Department of Education Number 516014

Paul O. Burns Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality 1816669



Richard Corcoran Commissioner of Education

Issued: August 06, 2021



November 25, 2019

Jim Tager, Superintendent Flagler County School District 1769 East Moody Boulevard, Building #2 Bunnell, Florida 32110

Dear Superintendent Tager:

This is to officially acknowledge your successful completion of the following Superintendent examination as part of your initial certification in the Special Qualification Certification Program earned under State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.551.

You passed the following examinations.

- Florida School Law
- Florida School Finance
- Core Concepts of Leadership
- Collective Bargaining and Employee Relations

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

diam Morell

Diann Morell Director of Training and Development