

September 20, 2021

Dear Minnesota Board of School Administrators,

My name is Brett Stringer and I write this letter with tremendous humility. I am currently the very proud principal of South High School in Minneapolis and have served in this role for the past two years. Prior to moving to Minnesota, I was a middle and high school principal for eight years in Colorado and received both my Masters in Administrative Leadership and Policy Studies and Principal's License through the University of Colorado.

When we moved to Minnesota in the fall of 2019, I was granted a two-year provisional K-12 Administrative License, with the understanding that I would complete the necessary coursework to obtain a continuing license within the allotted time frame. I failed to do that, and I am humbly asking for your forgiveness. I write this letter to ask for leniency and an extension of my provisional license while I complete a state approved program.

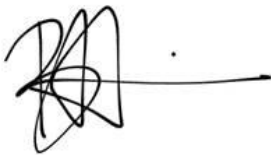
The past two years have come with unprecedented challenges. In the spring of my first year as principal at South High School, the COVID-19 pandemic led MPS to close its physical doors and shift our schools online for an entire year. In the midst of this new destabilizing landscape, George Floyd was murdered less than two miles from our school. This was another extremely traumatizing event for our community. It was our neighborhood that burned during the ensuing civil unrest, further compounding our collective trauma. Our entire community (students, families, staff) were all directly impacted by the events of the summer of 2020. I have spent the last two years trying to hold together our community and lead through unprecedented times at the epicenter of a global movement and pandemic.

I have the utmost respect for the standards and expectations that the state of Minnesota has for its educational leaders, and my failure to complete the necessary coursework is my failure alone. I ask for your mercy and a continuation of my provisional license so I can meet the requirements for licensure in this state.

I have a plan in place to earn my Minnesota approved license. I'm currently taking classes in the Educational Specialist and K-12 Administrative License program at Minnesota State University-Mankato. I am working with Dr. Jinger Gustafson, Administrative Licensure Program Coordinator, to outline a plan of study that incorporates the work I did for my work as a principal in Colorado.

I take my role as a school and community leader very seriously and deeply regret the message I have sent by not doing what was expected of me. Today, I ask you for grace and offer you my sincerest apology. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brett Stringer', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Brett Stringer  
Minneapolis South High School