



Lindenhurst Union Free School District

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Vincent A. Caravana
Superintendent of Schools

November 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

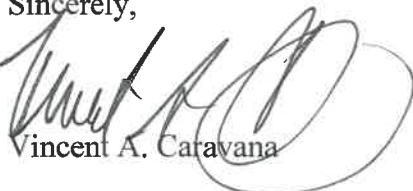
I am writing in support of Mr. Michael Hingson, who recently spent several days working in various capacities at the Lindenhurst UFSD. Mr. Hingson provided a keynote address to our faculty and staff on Superintendent's Conference Day on November 5, 2024, followed by small-group lessons with students at our middle school on November 6-8, 2024.

As a keynote speaker, Mr. Hingson was engaging and appealing; his message of resilience and tenacity struck a chord with our staff, who were rapt for the duration of his hour-and-a-half long address. He walked us through the many obstacles he faced growing up blind, including his own self-advocacy for guide dogs with regard to public school transportation. Naturally, the high point of his speech was the harrowing and detailed account of his escape from the World Trade Center on 9/11. Most resonating, however, was the positive spin of hope and survival.

Sharing his stories with our 7th and 8th-grade students in their social studies classes, Mr. Hingson not only focused on his 9/11 survival story but also provided our students with a unique perspective on living with blindness. He shared aspects of his daily life and the challenges and adaptations he has made throughout that life. He also talked about his current dog, Alamo, and how his service animals have played such pivotal roles in his successes. Our students were incredibly receptive, asking thoughtful questions about the event itself as well as Mr. Hingson's life and experiences. The lessons were both informative and engaging.

The communication process leading up to and including the days of Mr. Hingson's visits was timely and efficient, as was the flexibility Mr. Hingson provided regarding our needs beyond the keynote. I enthusiastically recommend Mr. Hingson's remarkable story for whatever needs you may have!

Sincerely,



Vincent A. Caravana