

Shaker Heights Schools / Director of Technology and Media Online Application

Rizzo, John - AppNo: 12894

Date Submitted: 4/26/2014

Personal Data

Name:	Rizzo <small>(Last)</small>	MR John <small>(First)</small>	J <small>(Middle Initial)</small>
	<small>Other name(s) under which transcripts, certificates, and former applications may be listed:</small>		
Other:	<small>(Last)</small>	<small>(First)</small>	<small>(Middle Initial)</small>
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		

Postal Address

Permanent Address	Work Address
Number & Street: [REDACTED]	Number & Street: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]	City: [REDACTED]
State: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]
Zip Code: [REDACTED]	Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Fax Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: [REDACTED]
Cell Number: [REDACTED]	

Where would you prefer to be contacted: Home

Current Personal Data

Current Employer:	Mayfield City Schools
Current Position:	Information and Communication Technology Coordinator
Years in Position:	6
Enrollment:	
Number of Staff:	
Annual Budget:	
Current Gross Income:	85,000
Type of District/Organization:	K - 12
Most Recent Degree From:	Kent State University
Degree Earned:	Master of Education - Instructional Technology

Administrative Experience

Employer and Position Title	Location: City, State	Dates: From - To	Primary Supervisor/Board Pres.
Mayfield City Schools Information and Communication Technology Coordinator	Mayfield Heights, OH	07/2008 04/2014	Assistant Superintendent

Significant accomplishments in this position:

- Promote the use of Content Management Systems and other relevant technology among teachers to enhance delivery of instruction
- Co-chair Library Media K-12 Articulation Team; participated in the redesign of district-wide libraries; consulted on re-visioning of Library Media Services mission and purpose
- Plan and implement professional development using a variety of formats including content management systems, screencasts, podcasts, workshops, and one-to-one coaching
- Coordinate a team of four technology integration specialists on district-wide one-to-one initiative to train teachers and students in the authentic integration of technology into teaching and learning
- Design and deliver training on district operating systems for both teachers and building staff

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Experience Continued

Co-chaired the development and implementation of a district-wide technology institute; utilized the expertise of Mayfield teachers and staff to provide an array of learning options for participants

Initiated and currently chair an assistive technology team for the procurement and implementation of technology to enhance learning for special needs students

Worked closely with curriculum director on the development of a kindergarten through third grade computer skills curriculum aligned to subject-area standards intended to prepare students for daily use of technology and future online assessments

Conduct pilot programs to determine the viability of emerging technology in the school environment; iPods, iPads, e-readers, laptops, multimedia devices

Perform ad hoc SQL queries of district staff and student data in order to support administrative decisions regarding instruction and staffing

Program automated scripts and queries in order to allow for the passing of data between the district's student information system and third party applications

Work directly with district staff to define changes to Crystal Report files; modify reports to accommodate new district grading practices

Manage team of three computer technicians on the administration and maintenance of a district-wide grade book application

Collaborated with the curriculum director to redesign the function of the grade book program; aligned the program with standards-based grading principles

Participated in the renovation of district-wide technology facilities as part of a major permanent improvement initiative

Secured a permanent improvement grant for the renovation of a district computer lab; coordinated internal staff, contractors, and vendors on the design and implementation of the project

Reason For Leaving:

Last Annual Salary: Last Annual Gross: 85,000 Enrollment: 3899 District Type: K - 12

Professional Experience

Employer and Position Title	Location: City, State	Dates: From - To	Primary Supervisor/Board Pres.
Mayfield City Schools Computer Technician	Mayfield Heights, OH	07/03 07/08	Frank Cikach (retired)

Significant Accomplishments at this position:

Managed the design and systems analysis required to develop a district-wide intranet and various internal, web-based systems used by Mayfield staff

Maintained, upgraded, installed, and repaired computer workstations, servers, and printers as part of a five member computer technician team

Supervised the district web site; developed system for maintaining and updating relevant content

Co-taught high school Web Communications course; developed protocols for content and process to enable student participation in maintaining district web site

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Prof Experience Continued

Employer and Position Title	Location: City, State	Dates: From - To	Primary Supervisor/Board Pres.
Maximus Justice Solutions - Senior Application Developer	North Canton, OH	09/99 07/03	Mr. Zoilo Pedrozo [REDACTED]
<p>Significant Accomplishments at this position:</p> <p>Worked directly with project managers to create specification documents that outlined detailed system requirements and specific screen functionality</p> <p>Designed and programmed user application interface using the Uniface development environment</p> <p>Programmed complex Transact SQL stored procedures autonomously; responsible for maintenance, testing, and performance tuning</p> <p>Prepared documentation that was used in demonstrating the application to the client</p> <p>Reason For Leaving: Move to K-12 Education</p> <p>Last Annual Salary: 50,000 Last Annual Gross: 50,000</p>			

Education

High School Attended: Nordonia High School, Macedonia, OH

Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools Attended:

Name and location	Major	Degree	Date Conferred
Kent State University, Kent, OH	Computer Information Systems	BBA	08/1999
Kent State University, Kent, OH	Instructional Technology	M.Ed.	08/2011

List honors, awards or distinctions:
 Undergraduate Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA)
 Graduate/Masters (4.0 GPA)

Please list your professional memberships - please indicate leadership roles you may have had with any of them.

Please list your community and civic memberships and participation.

Active participant in events supporting the following organizations:
 United Cerebral Palsy of Cleveland
 Cleveland Site Center

Please list any publications you may have, including your doctoral and/or master's dissertations, if appropriate.

Book Review, Total Engagement: using Games and virtual worlds to change the way people work and businesses compete. International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations, 3(2), 78-84, April-June 2011

Please list major presentations made to national, state or regional audiences.

Please list significant workshops or conferences which you would like to highlight.

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Certifications

Do you hold the appropriate certificate for this position?	No
* Are you eligible to be certified for this position?	Yes
* Have you applied for the appropriate certificate?	No
* List the date you applied for certification:	
* Have you received any response to your application?	No
* If required, have you passed the tests mandated by the State for certification?	No

Open Ended Questions

For Shaker Heights Schools / Director of Technology and Media:

1. Please share why you are interested in this position and your unique qualifications for it.

After reviewing the Director of Technology and Media Services description, it became clear that this position has a breadth of responsibilities. It not only encompasses functions related to computer and information technology such as technology infrastructure, data management, and the integration of instructional technology but this position also requires the incumbent to direct the district library media services functions as well.

This represents an exciting opportunity to lead two functional areas, technology and media services, which have become interdependent in the 21st century K-12 school environment. I feel strongly that my professional and educational experiences have prepared me for this role. My technology background is strong and I possess a breadth of experiences that allow me to lead the district technology initiatives. Experience in technology functions such as end-user support, application development and support, and data management have provided me with a wide variety of experiences and knowledge.

Further, I have professional experience and a masters degree in instructional technology. This combination allows me to bridge the gap between technology and the classroom and help lead a district to achieve a return on its technology investment in the form of student achievement and more efficient and effective operations.

Finally, my current role allows me to work closely with library media staff. From this, I have gained an understanding of how library media services operate on a day-to-day functional level and how the services of a school library have evolved. No longer do libraries rely solely on printed books but, more often, the library has become a source of digital resources in the form of online databases and a collaborative space within a school for students to perform research and find answers to thought-provoking questions.

I thrive on diversity in both work environment and responsibilities. The Director of Technology and Media Services position interests me because I feel it would provide this type of diversity and that I am uniquely qualified to fulfill this responsibility.

For Shaker Heights Schools / Director of Technology and Media:

2. Please list the five accomplishments in your professional career of which you take the greatest satisfaction and why you do so.

Among my professional accomplishments, the five from which I take the greatest satisfaction are the creation of an assistive technology committee, development of kindergarten through grade two technology curriculum, management of a district-wide grade book application, completion of a masters degree program, and fostering of strong working relationships with colleagues.

As a member of the district technology team who reviews and evaluates technology requests made by teachers and staff, I noticed a trend developing around denied requests. The trend highlighted the fact that many of these requests were submitted by special education teachers for students with special needs. Often these teachers requested items such as iPads, specialized software, touch screen monitors, or hardware mounts. Because these items were atypical and did not fit the guidelines for permitted technology per the mainstream, general technology plan, they were often not approved. The issue, in my opinion, was not in the best interest of the students and needed to be confronted. As a result, I developed an assistive technology committee whose primary focus was receiving technology requests specifically for students with special needs. This committee provided a separate funding stream and an opportunity for students and teachers whose technology needs did not fit the norm to be served equitably and gain access to learning in a way best suited to their needs. I feel great satisfaction when I observe these devices, that previously would have been denied, being used in the classroom.

Question Continued

and how students are able to communicate and learn in new ways.

A second area of need identified during my current position was addressing the basic computer skills necessary for student success in today's educational environment. The demand for today's students to not only be able to use technology but also apply it is greater than ever before. With the advent of Common Core curriculum and online testing, students must be able to not only click, drag and drop, and use the keyboard but they must also develop into astute researchers who can use technology to find information that supports their responses to higher thought-provoking questions. At Mayfield I worked closely with the curriculum director and directed a team of integration specialists in the development of a K-2 basic computer skills program. This program is helping students develop foundational technology skills early on in their academic career and move more quickly to deeper, more meaningful applications of technology. It is very satisfying to see second graders using Microsoft Excel and to hear teacher feedback describing how impressed they are with how much their students can do autonomously when using technology in the classroom.

I also feel a sense of satisfaction in my management of a district-wide grade book application. In terms of end user count, the grade book is relied upon by the largest number of users than any other software package used by the district. Teachers, parents and students, K-12, use the program to record and monitor academic progress. Although complicated and frustrating at times, managing this application brings me satisfaction when I know it is functioning properly and is providing data to the District. Furthermore, managing this program provides me with an opportunity to manage direct reports and coordinate and plan grade book related projects. Recently my team migrated this application to a new version which required a new server, a new database installation and a new approach to the setup of grading scales and standards within the program. This was a several month project that took much in the way of organization, preparation and delegation. It has been very satisfying working through this project and seeing the new application successfully up and running.

Another source of personal pride and satisfaction is my completion of the Master of Education in Instructional Technology program at Kent State University. This accomplishment represents a purely self-motivated endeavor that was not spurred by the hope of eventual financial gain but simply by my desire to learn. When I moved into an administrative position with Mayfield City Schools, my role included more leadership responsibilities. I was now leading teachers and administrators many of whom have been lifelong educators. I felt it was important to supplement my existing technology knowledge with a better understanding of teaching and learning and how technology can be used to enhance these efforts. This desire to bolster my credentials and better guide and lead teachers was my motivation for returning to school. I take great pride in knowing I completed this program from which I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and, as a result, have become a better leader and educator.

Finally, one of my greatest points of job satisfaction is derived from the positive relationships I have developed with colleagues and students. My approach is to always treat people with respect and support their needs. I have found that people appreciate when someone is empathetic to their situation and is willing to listen to their point of view. Throughout my career both outside and inside education, I have earned the respect and trust of others in the organization by listening and never being the "typical IT guy" who is condescending or arrogant with those who may be less tech savvy. In addition to collegial relationships, I have worked with many students either in classes or one-on-one and have helped students learn and developed a relationship with them based on mutual respect. I take tremendous pride in my ability to work with a diverse group of people and enjoy the sense of accomplishment this brings.

Language Skills

Do you know any language other than English? No

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Professional References

	Reference 1	Reference 2
Name:	Mrs. Susan Beatty	Mr. Zoilo Pedrozo
School/Org:	Curriculum Director, Mayfield City Schools (Ret.)	Odyssey/Tyler Technologies
Current Position:	Co-founder JujiGifts LTD.	Sr. Project manager
Home Phone:		
Cell Phone:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Work Phone:		
Mailing Address:		2393 Applegrove Street NE Canton, OH 44721
Email:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Relationship to Candidate:	Former Supervisor	Former Manager
Years Known:	10	15
	Reference 3	Reference 4
Name:	Dr. Terry Kindervater	Mr. Keith James
School/Org:	RyanKind Inc.	Crawford Consulting/Maximus
Current Position:	President	Senior Software Integration Engineer
Home Phone:		
Cell Phone:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Work Phone:		
Mailing Address:		6058 University Heights Circle NW North Canton, OH 44720
Email:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Relationship to Candidate:		Former Coworker
Years Known:	7	15

General Information

List any additional information which will support your candidacy.

Are you presently under contract?	Yes
When does contract expire?	7/1/2014
Have you ever failed to have your contract renewed, be rehired, been asked to resign a position, or resigned to avoid termination?	No
If yes, explain.	
Have you ever had a credential or certificate revoked, suspended or annulled in any state, territory or foreign country?	No
If yes, explain.	
Where did you hear of our vacancy?	

Referrals

How did you hear about employment with us?

www.K12JobSpot.com