

6.9.2021

The Honorable Judge Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge
Central District of Illinois
218 U.S. S. Vine St
Urbana, IL 61802

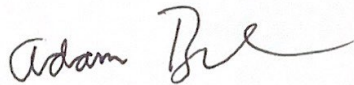
Dear Judge Colin S. Bruce,

My name is Adam A. Brue. I am Daniel's eldest son of three. I write this letter to you in hope to give you a better picture on who my dad really is. I have had a blessed life and my dad made it his mission to make that a reality for all of us. He has worked job after job, sometimes multiple at a time, and kept going back to school until he earned his way up to superintendent: All for us. He is a hard worker and has earned the respect he deserves from his co-workers and family.

I know what my father did was wrong, and I was shocked when he sat us down to talk about it. I also know how sorry and ashamed he is for the crimes that he committed and he will be for the rest of his life. I know what he did was for my brothers and my mom and I. He doesn't have a selfish bone in this body, but he did it the wrong way. No excuses. He has always made sure my family is safe, comfortable, and prepared for our future. My dad is the rock in our family and always has been. He has a solution for every problem and gladly fixes it for you without even asking for anything in return. It has been a hard year or so. My dad has picked himself back up, got a job and is still the rock in our family we need and always needed. There have been many transitions with our family in the past 19 months and my father has worked tirelessly to make sure that my brothers and I are prepared for the consequences of his actions.

My dad is a hardworking, kind man. He is working hard to pay restitution. He does everything in his power to give my family and I the support we need. I know we ask too much of him at times but he is always there and never complains. I am finding it almost impossible to write this letter to you because I cannot express in words how much my father means to me and our family; we need him. Please take this into consideration when you sentence my dad.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Brue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" and last name "Brue" clearly legible.

Adam Brue

PORTA Community Unit Schools

DISTRICT #202, 17651 BLUEJAY ROAD - P.O. BOX 202, PETERSBURG, IL 62675

Office: (217) 632-3803 — Fax: (217) 632-3221

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Colin S Bruce,

My name is Matthew W. Brue and am the current Superintendent of Schools for the PORTA District in Petersburg Illinois. This is my 17th year as a Superintendent at PORTA and I have been a school administrator for 24 years.

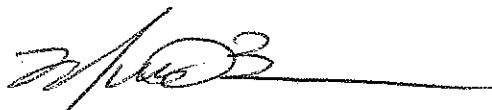
I am the eldest brother to Dan Brue. Dan is the third of four siblings and throughout our lives we have been extremely close. Our careers have mirrored one another and in many instances I would guess that my career choices influenced Dan's aspirations. He and I grew up in a hardworking family, like many, instilled honesty, hard work and family as the tenets of a successful person.

Since learning of Dan's investigation I have been extremely angry and disappointed with my brother. He was that one person I could not imagine would be capable of such untrustworthy behavior and so when I found out what had happened I was crushed.

As time has passed and I have had the opportunity to see him begin and thrive in a new career and take responsibility for the actions he knows were inexcusable. I have seen him rededicate his life to making amends for his infractions and he has taken steps to heal and become the person his family imagined him to be. I believe Dan has shown he is not willing to make the same mistakes again and this lapse of judgment can be used in a proactive way to dissuade others from feeling their only escape is a similar path as Dan's. I respectfully suggest that incarceration, in Dan's case, is not the most productive form of justice. Dan has already shown he is capable of leading in a positive manner and has established himself in a leadership role in his new profession. He is committed to "righting" all the wrongs he did. He certainly has impacted many already in a positive fashion and will continue to do so.

Dan's identity and eagerness to make amends resides in his ability to continue working so that he may make restitution to those who deserve to be made whole. I truly believe that he has and will continue to punish himself more severely than our justice system can hope to exact from him. As such, I ask the court to consider a sentence that would allow Dan to work, maintain his identity and allow for him to make amends to those who deserve it.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter.



Matthew W. Brue

PORTA Jr.-Sr. High School
17651 Bluejay Road - P.O. Box 202
Petersburg, IL 62675
Sr. 217-632-3216 • Jr. 217-632-3219
Fax 217-632-5446

PORTA Central School
1500 Owen Ave.
Petersburg, IL 62675
217-632-7781
Fax 217-632-5103

Petersburg Elementary
514 W. Monroe
Petersburg, IL 62675
217-632-7731
Fax 217-632-3551

Hon. Colin S. Bruce
United States District Judge
318 U.S. Courthouse
201 S. Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61802

Judge Bruce,

My father, Daniel Brue, has been a loving and caring guardian my entire life. He has been present throughout my childhood and continues to be a necessary guiding hand as I transition into adulthood.

My dad has provided for me regardless of circumstance, often working extremely long hours to support his family and usually spending his remaining free time assisting me, my brothers, or my mother. Whether it's helping me with my homework, my brothers find jobs, or mother move, my dad is always there to lend a helping hand.

Furthermore, he works tirelessly to ensure that my brothers and I have the resources we need to improve our own lives. He has endlessly supported me as I enlisted in the Army National Guard and as I work to obtain a college education.

Even as I am at Basic Combat Training, he supports me by sending me letters of love and support almost every day ensuring that every mail call I can look forward to at least one letter.

I was just as shocked as anyone when I learned of the crime he committed. However, I truly believe he is remorseful for his actions and is fully committed to remending his mistakes and working hard to repay what he owes. My dad has always been a positive force on everyone that knows him, especially his family, whom he devotes himself entirely.

Sincerely,

Jonah Brue

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Colin S. Bruce

United States District Court Judge

Central District of Illinois

218 U.S. Courthouse
201 S. Vine Street

Urbana, IL 61802

Regarding U.S. v. Brue

Dear Judge Bruce,

I have only known Daniel R. Brue for 5 months, but I am writing this character reference on his behalf. Dan is my boyfriend, and I have definitely seen his character on display since the moment I met him. Because I have been a teacher for over 20 years and worked with many different people, I feel that I am a good judge of character.

Dan and I met on a dating site. We began talking/texting on September 11, 2020. Throughout the talking and texting he seemed like an amazing man. We decided that we would meet for dinner on September 20, 2020. I asked Dan his last name the night before our meeting so that I could make sure he was okay for me to meet, knowing that I was a single mom. I'm sure you can imagine my feelings, when I discovered what he had done. My heart sank, and I decided that I was not going to meet him. I then talked to my mom and prayed a lot. I changed my mind based on the fact that everyone makes mistakes and regrets things they did in the past. I did not tell him before we met that I knew most of everything, but I agreed with myself that he must start telling me within minutes of sitting down at the dinner table. He did in fact start talking right away. He told me there were things he had to tell me. I tried to tell him that I already knew, but he was focused on getting everything out in the open. He talked and cried as with hands visibly shaking for nearly two hours. Yes, both of our food was cold, and I think our server was ready for us to leave.

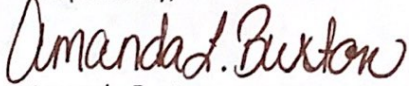
I am extremely glad that I made the decision I made. I am one lucky lady and my children are super lucky to have Dan in their lives. Dan is the type of man that will do anything for anybody, even it means putting himself last. I have witnessed this through how he treats my children, his children, and most importantly how he treats me. Let me give you some examples. Dan has been bound and determined to set his children up for success in case something happened to him. He helped his middle son research so that his son could buy a house that he could afford in case Dan was not there to help him pay the mortgage. Mason can now say that he is a proud

homeowner. Dan helped his son Jonah research and enroll in the Illinois National Guard. His son has already started Drill, and will be heading for Basic Training the summer after his Junior Year of High School. Dan is currently working with his oldest son to help him finish college so he can have the future he deserves. Regarding his community, Dan is always willing to help anyone that needs help. Dan volunteers at work as a mentor to young employees that are just starting out. Dan has been spending quite a bit of time at the Cass County Food Bank. As you probably know, most volunteers are up there in age, so they were excited for someone younger coming to help them. He helps unload the trucks, put together boxes, then deliver the boxes to the cars that pull through needing food. This is the type of person Dan is.

I know Dan acknowledges that he made horrible decisions, and committed serious crimes. I am absolutely positive that he will never make a mistake like this again. He and I have had several conversations that include Dan crying and telling me that I deserve better, but if I am being honest with myself, I know that I want Dan to be a part of my life for the long haul. I will be there every step of the way being strong for Dan and helping him get through all of this. Dan is a loving father, boyfriend, and bonus dad to my two kids. He also really cares about the community in which he lives.

Thank you, Your Honor, for taking these thoughts into consideration as you deliberate on the appropriate sentence. I stand ready by Dan's side to support him throughout everything.

Respectfully,


Amanda Buxton

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Judge Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge

Re: Daniel Brue

My name is Chelsea Cornelius. I am the Human Resource Director at JBS USA, Beardstown, Illinois. I have known Dan Brue since his hiring as a QA Tech in August, 2019. I was aware of the alleged offenses of wire fraud when Mr. Brue was hired. I am also aware that he has now pled guilty to four counts of wire fraud and is facing a sentence that could include incarceration. I know this information because Mr. Brue has been forthcoming with this information and continues to update me as his case continues its course of action.

Dan has proven himself as a good employee for the company, a positive role model for other employees, and has established himself as a leader in our department. Mr. Brue began working as a QA Tech in August of 2019 and was quickly promoted to QA Supervisor in November of 2019. Mr. Brue performed very well in those positions. He took his responsibilities seriously, had perfect attendance, and worked all hours that were assigned to him. In addition, he came to work earlier than required and stayed later. In June of 2020, Mr. Brue was promoted to Asst. HR Manager. In this role, Mr. Brue has become a valuable member of the Human Resource Team. He is very organized, treats people with respect, comes in early, stays late and accepts any responsibility that is given to him.

Although I cannot predict the future, I believe Mr. Brue has the potential to further his career at JBS Beardstown. If Mr. Brue is incarcerated it is likely that he would be re-employed at JBS. However, it would most likely be in a production or maintenance role. In these roles, he would have quite a bit less earning potential than the employment track that he currently enjoys.

Thank you, your honor, for taking the time to read this letter in support of Dan Brue. I hope that Mr. Brue can continue being a valuable employee at JBS Beardstown.

Sincerely,



Wednesday, 31 March, 2021 11:40:26 AM
Clerk, U.S. District Court, ILCD

37957 190th Avenue
Pittsfield, Illinois 62363
becky.ghrist@gmail.com
March 29, 2021

Honorable Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge
Central District of Illinois
218 U.S. Courthouse
201 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802

FILED
MAR 31 2021
CLERK OF THE COURT
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
URBANA, ILLINOIS

Re: Sentencing of Dan Brue 20-20073

Dear Judge Bruce:

It is with heavy heart that I write asking you to consider my personal plea as you make your ruling on the fate of Mr. Dan Brue.

Now retired, I was the school nurse when Dan was a principal at Pikeland Community School District #10 in Pittsfield, Illinois. I graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia and held a Type 73 Education Certificate issued by the State of Illinois. As the lone nurse in the district, I reported to each building principal. In twenty nine years, I had eighteen different principals. Dan was the best.

A natural leader, Dan provided a positive work environment where our opinions were valued and our efforts appreciated. His enthusiastic approach to education was contagious. Innovation was encouraged. It was a fun place to work.

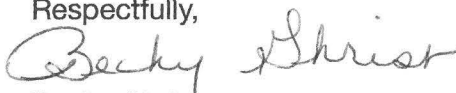
Dan was unique among the principals for two reasons: 1) He always acted in the best interest of the student. 2) As long as we did our job, we could count on his support. Though these attributes may seem fundamental in education, it was my experience in this small school district that social stratification often influenced the course of action taken. Dan's leadership provided a secure workplace environment because we were confident he would do the right thing, even if it meant challenging the social strata.

Living in this small community afforded me many opportunities to interact with Dan outside the work place. He is a devoted family man, and eager to help a neighbor in need.

Though I remain bewildered by Dan's actions, I do not waiver in my support for him. He has accepted responsibility by admitting his guilt, he sincerely expresses regret, and he has begun making restitution made possible by working and advancing at JBS in Beardstown, Illinois.

Judge Bruce, my plea is that your sentence will allow Dan to continue his efforts to make restitution.

Respectfully,


Becky Ghrist

March 6, 2021

The Honorable Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge
Central District of Illinois
218 U.S. Courthouse
201 S. Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61802

Regarding: U.S. v. Brue

Dear Judge Bruce,

I have been acquainted with Dan Brue since 2009 when he became the superintendent at Bement and I was superintendent in a neighboring district. The superintendents from area districts convened monthly in a 2-3 hour, short forum to discuss issues relevant to our districts. Other meetings and seminars were also held to keep us apprised of pending or new legislation. It became apparent early into Dan's tenure at Bement that he was very intelligent and had a great sense of humor. He was very likeable.

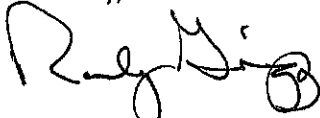
We usually ate lunch together at these meetings and socialized together at interscholastic meetings between our schools. The kids and parents from his district were friendly towards him and he seemed to be personally invested in their lives. He knew their names. It was obvious that this was more than a job to him. The kids loved him. He laughed a lot. His personality was engaging. As a fellow educator, it was encouraging to witness.

During our meetings, he asked more poignant questions than I was thinking ... he was obviously smarter than me. Dan also was not a whiner or a complainer. There was really just a sense of - 'let's just get it done.' He contributed to our conversations and to our meetings. I was older and had more years in the trenches, but I learned quite a bit from him.

During my last two or three years before my retirement, I tried to talk Dan into applying for the superintendent's position at Central A & M. I thought he would be a good fit for the school and the community ... and the kids. Even though I was probably relentless, he eventually went to the Meridian District instead. I have stayed in contact with him since we met in the fall of 2009. When the walls closed in on him, he called. He admitted to what he had done, how he had failed his family, district, and community. He seemed broken and it was hard to see.

I still consider Dan Brue my friend and that friendship will continue. He still has much to contribute. Those qualities that inspired many around him in the past will ultimately remain and he will become again, a productive member of society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Grigg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Randy Grigg

The Honorable Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge
Central District of Illinois
218 U.S. Courthouse
201 S. Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61802

Regarding U.S. v. Brue

My name is Barbara Mead. I am Daniel Brue's mother-in-law from his marriage with Tara Brue. I am a proud grandmother of their 3 boys.

Dan has been an exceptional father, nurturing his children through their education, sports, civic events, and social events. He has tirelessly devoted his time and his energy to his family, resulting in their respect and love for him. He is a major part of their lives.

My husband and I have known Dan since his high school years when he dated our daughter. He was always kind, thoughtful, and respectful.

Their university was in a different state and he frequently accompanied her by train for vacations and visits to our home. He was always welcomed in our home.

During their marriage, they made frequent visits to our home, with the children, even though we lived in another state. We enjoyed family events, visiting museums, zoos, picnics, hiking, amusement parks, festivals, and trips to the beach. We have cherished memories and pictures of their close and happy family.

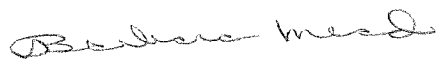
Dan was always the organizer, the planner, the one who put everything together. We were proud to have him as a son-in-law.

When we learned about his crime, I was shocked. Dan called to apologize and to tell me how sorry he was for his crime and that he had embarrassed his family. We cried together as he lamented his terrible crime, and how it shamed his family. He is a member of an honest family that love him and are sadden by his crime.

I have always known Dan to be a good person. We do not understand his actions or excuse what he has done. It has been difficult for his family, but I know that Dan is sorry for what he has done and how it has affected his community and those who love him.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. I think Dan wants to do everything possible to pay back his debt and to atone for his crime by being a good citizen, and making a positive impact on his family and community. He has a lot to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Mead".

Barbara Mead

Gary Woods
614 South Memorial
Pittsfield, IL 62363

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Colin S. Bruce
United States District Court Judge
Central District of Illinois
218 U.S. Courthouse
201 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61802

The Honorable Colin S. Bruce:

Needless to say when the news broke about Dan Brue, my wife and I were shocked. I hope this statement conveys my thoughts on the character of Dan. From the fall of 2005 until Dan left the Pikeland School District after the 2008 – 2009 school year, Dan and I served on the administrative team for the Pikeland Community Unit # 10 school district. In the 2005 – 2006 school year, I was the principal at Pittsfield High School and Dan was the principal at South Elementary School. After the 2005 – 2006 school year, I became the assistant superintendent and Dan became the principal at the Pikeland Community School, a 3 -8 facility. In this capacity, I worked very closely with the principals in the district on curriculum objectives and programs, building maintenance, school safety, and staff development.

My wife, Linda, was the secretary at South Elementary School when Dan was the principal, so we had a close up view of Dan's development as an administrator and being in a small community, enjoyed watching Dan's young family grow. Dan was a devoted husband and father to Tara and his three sons. Dan cooked a lot of the meals in his home, making an impression on me since I did not do the same. In the spring of one of our first years working together, Dan was going to take Tara to Las Vegas for the Easter weekend. While setting in my office, he suggested that Linda and I join them and we did. While Dan's and my relationship was mainly work related, we did bond away from the workplace also. This closeness helps explain why my wife and I were devastated when the news broke about Dan. This was not in character with the Dan Brue we knew and loved.

The principals and I worked very closely developing the guided reading program in our district. Dan and I were on the same page and he did a masterful job of implementing the program in his building. He went the extra mile in developing a reading library in the 3 – 5 wing of his building. His teachers bought into the program. Again, speaking volumes on his character.

Dan's building was fairly new and massive and I noticed that the floors were starting to look horrible with the buildup of wax that was discoloring. The janitorial staff were going through the motions of stripping the floors completely during summer and then reapplying wax for the new school year. The gradual buildup left the floors looking dingy. Rather than admonishing his janitors, Dan suggested that we do a test plot on a fifteen-foot section of hallway ourselves. We spent several evenings stripping the buildup of wax from the floor and

rewaxing with a veteran janitor from the high school. That section stood out glaringly and when Dan discussed with his staff, he didn't have to say much. Again, this speaks highly of his character.

On Wednesday, February 24th Dan came to my house. I had not seen him since the news broke and probably not for the last five years. After Dan left the Pikeland District and went to Bement, I would see him at School Board Conventions and Title I Conventions up until my retirement in 2013. The first thing he said to me was "I am sorry". Dan had become like a son to me in those early years of his administrative career and I think he felt like he let me down. We talked for two hours and he, very emotionally at times, told me everything that has happened in the last two years. Dan obviously made a big mistake and said he was going to accept responsibility and plead guilty.

It was the rest of the conversation after the incident that impacted me the most. While he has lost his marriage, he talked about his efforts to work with Tara to make sure she could care for their youngest son who was still in high school. He told me he has worked closely and encouraged his youngest son who signed up with the National Guard to ensure that his college education is taken care of. He said he has also made sure his other two older sons are on paths to success. His oldest son has an associate degree and is working as a teacher aide. Since Dan has seen he is a gifted teacher, he further stated that he has encouraged and helped him toward going back to school and getting his degree to become a teacher. All of these things show how much Dan cares about the people in his life and speaks to his true character.

Dan seems to be gainfully employed in the HR department at JBS in Beardstown. I got the impression that he would like to make things right with his past mistake. I do feel that Dan can be a productive member of society. It appears to me that he is deeply remorseful for the pain he has caused.

Gary K. Woods



Retired Teacher/Administrator

Pikeland Community Unit #10 School District