

Filed subject to approval

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/98663282873?pwd=MIBZVXpJaki2aytpSVBIN0V5ZGdudz09>

Meeting ID: 986 6328 2873 Passcode: 826848

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: T. Johnston, M. D'Agostino, C. Graziano, M. Pampel, G. Denny, M. Williams, K. O'Brien

Administration: R. Harrison, G. Pin

CALL TO ORDER

The Region 9 Board of Education special meeting was called to order by T. Johnston at 6:03 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: UPDATE ON THE SEARCH CONSULTANT RFP FOR THE PERSONNEL SEARCH FOR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT & HEAD OF SCHOOL

R. Harrison updated the board regarding hiring a consulting firm to help with the search. An RFP was posted to the district website and a variety of search consultant firms were contacted. The only consulting firm to respond was CES, a well-known firm that has been used many times by ER9. He reiterated that the short time frame can pose a challenge in this process.

T. Johnston agreed with Dr. Harrison and agreed that there were two options present; move forward with a consulting firm or move forward with the hiring process alone with the assistance of district office.

M. D'Agostino stated that at the beginning of this process he didn't think it was necessary to hire a consulting firm. He said his opinion has since changed given the timeline challenges and scope of the process. He feels a consultant firm may be necessary in order to hire a qualified candidate. He read through the RFP posting on the district website and suggested reviewing the posting with the advice of counsel. At this point, he feels a consulting firm is necessary for accountability and quality of candidate pool.

K. O'Brien asked if we have used CES previously for vetting and hiring candidates. M. D'Agostino said he was familiar with the firm and had been part of hiring committees that had used them in the past. R. Harrison stated he had not used them in the past.

C. Graziano asked if a consultant would help central office in the hiring process and would it alleviate pressure on them. R. Harrison felt it would be helpful with building a profile of potential candidates, scheduling, and feeling confident moving forward in the process.

T. Johnston stated the need for the firm to hold forums, conduct surveys, and collect data to drive their search for the ideal candidate.

Motion: move to enlist the services of CES in the search of Joel Barlow Head of School position, not to exceed \$6,900.00 in cost (D'Agostino, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

R. Harrison will reach out to head of services at CES to move forward and coordinate the search.

M. D'Agostino said everything needs to be run through the Board, as they also serve as the search committee in this hiring process. Also, suggesting the board meets with CES personnel committee to establish clear expectations.

K. O'Brien asked R. Harrison if he had spoken to any superintendent colleagues who had successfully used CES to hire employees. R. Harrison responded that he had reached out and overall, CES was the most suggested consulting firm.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS:

Discussion-Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding Matter Concerning Former Employee

Motion: to move to adjourn to Executive Session, inviting all members of the Board, R. Harrison, and attorneys Morgan Rueckert and Rich Mills to discuss matter concerning former employee (Denny, D'Agostino). Approved. Unanimous.

The Board moved to executive session at 6:22pm

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken at this time.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

T. Johnston thanked all members for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the Region 9 Board of Education Personnel Search Committee special meeting (M. D'Agostino, M. Williams). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm

Submitted by Juliette Berry, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary
Recorded by Kim Keil