

Board of Education

A special meeting of Northwest Education Services was held on February 20, 2025. Board President Fisher called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll call

Board Members Present:

Birgy
Brown
Fisher

Scherrer
Thomas

Board Members Absent:

Lajko*
Petrella

*Board Member Lajko joined the meeting virtually and announced “I am here remotely, simply to listen. I will not participate in voting or deliberation.”

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Scherrer, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Welcomed Visitors & Public Comment

There were none.

Review of Superintendent Search Process:

Peter Haines, Michigan Leadership Institute Consultant provided a review of the superintendent process to date. A total of 22 applications were received by the February 7 deadline. He distributed a superintendent search binder that included an outline for our agenda, all the candidates for review, sample interview questions and a checklist of do’s and don’ts during candidate interviews. After closed session board members will offer by the candidate number they are assigned to for selection of first round interviews.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Thomas, to enter into closed session under Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act. Members went into closed session at 3:11 p.m. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Board members entered back into open session at 5:42 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Thomas, to approve candidate #6 for a first-round superintendent interview. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Thomas, to approve candidate #12 for a first-round superintendent interview. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Brown, to approve candidate #22 for a first-round superintendent interview. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Birgy, to approve candidate #15 for a first-round superintendent interview. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Thomas, to approve candidate #13 for a first-round superintendent interview. Roll call vote: Ayes: 4; Nays: 1. Motion carried.

Board Member Birgy stated there may be other viable candidates we have not invited to interview yet, the ones selected tonight bring the strongest background and match the profile at this time.

Board members took a short recess at 5:47 p.m.

Board members returned from a recess at 6:03 p.m.

Peter Haines reported he was able to reach all candidates recommended for a first-round interview and set the schedule as follows:

March 3, 2025

4:30 p.m. Kathleen Xenakis-Makowski, current Superintendent at Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools and President of the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA)

6:00 p.m. John Mertz, current Superintendent at Olivet Community Schools

March 4, 2025

6:15 p.m. Michael Haynes, current Director of Instructional Services at Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District

March 5, 2025

4:30 p.m. Stephanie O'Dea, current Director of Instructional Systems at the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators

6:00 p.m. Dr. Tara Mager, current Superintendent at Clare-Gladwin Regional Educational Service District

Discussion Items:

Discuss interviews and responsibilities

Peter Haines reviewed protocol for interviews and responsibilities. He requested board members to send him 2-3 interview questions that are not current samples or on the list he provided from the profile. Peter will provide the interview script for each interview. An audience input sheet will be collected for board members to see comments before the second round.

Member Fisher asked for reports or requests from board members.

There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Joseph Fisher, President

February 20, 2025

Lisa Thomas, Secretary

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