



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on January 8, 2020 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the annual organization meeting and meet with the superintendent applicant screening committee.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, Melissa Sheffel, Theresa Miller, and Sylvia Covington.

Also, in attendance: Kelly Middleton, Superintendent, district administrators, and members of the superintendent applicant screening committee.

2020 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED B SHEFFEL the board approved the following meeting calendar for 2020:

- Work sessions will be held on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM
- Regular board meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM
- November's regular meeting date will be on the 11TH at 6:30 PM – no work session this month
- December's regular meeting date will be on the 9th at 6:30 PM – no work session this month

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT APPLICANT SEARCH COMMITTEE AND ROLES OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE

Don Martin, KSBA Consultant, introduced the search committee: Matt Atkins, representing district principals, Esther Fatsy and Jennifer Johansing representing teachers, Molly Wesley representing classified staff, John Hayden representing parents, and Ramona Malone representing the board.

Mr. Martin reviewed both the board and the screening committee's role in the recruitment and appointment of a superintendent. The committee will receive access to applications this evening, determine reference check questions, determine applicant questions, and review procedures for initial screenings. At the second meeting applicants will be chosen for interviews and background checks; and video interviews will take place at the third and fourth meetings. On February 12th, there will be joint meeting with the board and the screening committee will present their recommendations to the board.

Molly Wesley was chosen as the Chair of the committee.

BOARD CHARGE

When interviewing applicants, consider:

- The dynamics of our students, parents, city, and community; is this a fit?
- Do they understand the “Big Picture”; do they have a sense of where we were, where we are, and where we still need to go? Can they move our students forward academically;
- Can they work well with staff, parents, and community leaders;
- Can they help retain staff and make the district more inviting; can they help improve our perception;
- Can they build on the relationships and trust we’ve developed with the community and parents?

Please do a “gut” check. Leave out personal bias and choose candidates that you feel will really help the district shine in all areas. Does the candidate have the strengths to address our weaknesses? A candidate who understands and is aware of the issues we face; i.e. Re-Newport, the recent charter school application, etc. The district has come a long way over the last eight years, and we want to continue to build on that.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

20 applications have been received:

- 17 males
- 3 females
- 5 current superintendents
- 7 current central office personnel
- 6 current principals or assistants
- 1 current education related organization
- 1 current retired candidate
- 17 in state
- 3 out of state

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- January 15, 2020 2nd screening committee meeting
- January 29, 2020 first round of video interviews
- January 30, 2020 second round of video interviews
- February 12, 2020 joint meeting with board and screening committee to receive committee recommendations

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:12 PM

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Chairman

Secretary