Washington Central Unified Union School District

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Washington Central Unified Union
School Board Meeting
6.29.26
4:00 - 5:00 PM
Central Office

Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Chris McVeigh, Patrick Whelley, Ursula Stanley, Elizabeth Brown, Zach Sullivan, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Heidi Dimick, Marty McMahon, Sarah Pinckney, Sandra Cameron, Zach Sullivan, Celia Guggemos, Lila Richardson, Natasha Eckart, ORCA Media, Julia Hewitt, Andrew Boye

1. **Call To Order: Diane Nichols-Fleming called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

2. **Board Operations:**
   - **2.1. Superintendent Search:** Elaine Pinckney (VSBA) facilitated the following discussion
   - **2.2. Review Timeline:** She had provided this document; she explained that we are required to post as a one year position; and she had recommended that we post as a "one year, renewable" position. Patrick Whelley asked whether there is an opportunity for an in-person stakeholder meeting. Elaine Pinckney stated that this could be possible; she would like to coordinate it with the day that she spends in person with principals.
   - **2.3. Review Charge to Screening Committee:** Board members reviewed this document which had been provided as part of the board meeting packet. Julia Hewitt pointed out a typo. Chris McVeigh stated that he would like to indicate in the document a specific number of finalists that the board would like forwarded. He spoke about a situation in the past where this was not the case. There were two viable candidates and one dropped out last minute, and there was only one candidate which came to the board. Elizabeth Brown commented that the make up of the committee has overlap; she feels that representation is critical in this. She stated her understanding that we are hiring an "interim" as opposed to "one year renewable." Diane Nichols Fleming stated that the recommendation is to go through the process, see

where it leads us, and go with what is most expeditious and helpful to the district. Elaine Pinckney stated that framing it as "one year renewable" will garner more interest and she believes we will get more candidates. Julia Hewitt suggested that the committee could rank order other viable candidates below the top three, to work around the circumstance that Chris McVeigh had described. Chris McVeigh clarified, the intention of "one year renewable," is it reasonable for the person to assume that if they are doing a good job the board will renew the contract? Elaine Pinckney stated that would be an assumption. Zach Sullivan suggested stating that a goal is to have three viable candidates. Flor Diaz Smith stated that it will be important to trust the committee to bring forth viable candidates. "Recommend up to three finalists to the board" will be the verbiage included in the charge, as an outcome of above discussion. **Patrick Whelley moved to accept the charge as amended. Seconded by Chris McVeigh, this motion carried unanimously.**

2.4. **Review make up of Screening Committee and selection process:** Diane Nichols-Fleming stated that Natasha Eckart and Ursula Stanley had been on the previous hiring committee. She asked if other board members would like to be considered. Elizabeth Brown indicated that she would like to be considered. Chris McVeigh suggested expanding the number of board members to four to accommodate all four. Elaine Pinckney explained that the committee will vote by consensus and the information will come forward to the full board. Flor Diaz Smith stated that she feels four board members is too large for this committee. Marty McMahon stated that he feels four is appropriate, given the size of this board. Ursula Stanley stated that all of the top candidates will come to the full board so all board members will have input. Zach Sullivan asked, at what size is the committee unwieldy? She stated that eleven is about the limit. She stated that research has indicated that every person over the number of ten diminishes the effectiveness. There are important discussions that need to take place across the table; this becomes more complicated as the committee gets larger. She also indicated that in all of the circumstances that she has facilitated, the number of board members is three. Ursula Stanley asked, procedurally, would she prefer zoom chat? Diane Nichols Fleming asked board members to send a chat to her, top two from the three: Elizabeth, Ursula, Natasha, in order of ranking. She, as board chair, is already one of the three. **Diane Nichols Fleming counted the votes: outcome: Natash Eckart, Elizabeth Brown**

2.5. **Elect Board Representatives to Screening Committee: Ursula Stanley moved to appoint Natasha Eckart, Elizabeth Brown and Diane Nichols Fleming as board member representation to the committee. Seconded by Patrick Whelley, this motion carried unanimously.**

2.6. **Authorize Elected Board Representatives Delegation of Tasks Needed to Establish the Screening Committee for Superintendent Search: Flor Diaz Smith moved to approve the Superintendent Screening Committee as described in the Charge to the Screening Committee and authorize**

the three board representatives on the committee to: Finalize dates for the committee's work - Solicit volunteers to serve on the committee, and determine individual membership to the committee, and keep the board updated on the progress of the committee. Seconded by Marty McMahon. Discussion: Flor Diaz Smith suggested that the committee members will solicit volunteers to serve on the committee, with the guidance of Elaine Pinckney, through the equity lens. This motion carried unanimously. Elaine Pinckney explained that the next steps will be that the job description is updated; she will create a job listing; will set the dates for the first and second committee meeting; she will begin work on the stakeholder survey and she will work on a date for an in person stakeholder meeting. Diane Nichols Fleming will email the other two board members, within the next couple days, to create dates.

3. **<u>Adjourn:</u> At 4:53, Patrick Whelley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ursula Stanley, this motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Board Recording Secretary