

**EAST WASHINGTON SCHOOL CORPORATION – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTES
APRIL 28, 2016**

Members Present

Theresa Gottbrath, President
Linda McClellan, Secretary
Sue Jane Miller, Member
Hector Nale, Member

Members Absent

David Churchman, Vice President

Guests

NEWS MEDIA:

NEWSPAPER
Salem Leader, Kate Wehlann

OFFICIAL GUESTS:

Mr. Steve Darnell, Superintendent
Ms. Jodi Cole, Treasurer
Mr. Greg Hopkins, Trans. Director/Asst. to Superintendent

UNOFFICIAL GUESTS:

Kendra Floyd
Joanna Trueblood
Christina McGinnis
Kim Souder

Personnel

A. Approval of Personnel Changes

It is recommended that the Board approve the personnel changes as outlined:

POINT OF INFORMATION

Resignation(s)

CERTIFIED

- ✓ Mr. Steve Darnell, Superintendent, submitted his resignation effective the end of June, 2016.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

The Board members felt it best for Mr. Darnell to receive a payout of his vacation days, per his contract, versus him taking all accumulated vacation days prior to June 30. Superintendent Darnell agreed.

Motion: Hector Nale

Seconded: Sue Jane Miller

Vote: 4-0

Public Work Session

A. Strategy for Superintendent Selection Process

There was conversation between the Board members about using a service for the superintendent hiring process. After discussion, it was decided that President Theresa Gottbrath would get in touch with Indiana University to pursue using the free service of the University Search Team.

Also discussed was the possibility of sending out a Leadership Survey to the community to receive input on what is desired in a new superintendent. Member Hector Nale voiced that he would like to get input from our principals on determining what questions should be used for a survey. After President Theresa Gottbrath offered to meet with the principals, Secretary Linda McClellan stated that she would like to meet as a Board with the principals to receive feedback. Member Hector Nale stated that he would like the principals to be included on the interview process; he further stated he would like a committee to help hire the new superintendent. Secretary Linda McClellan agreed it was a good idea to get input on what questions the principals/community would like asked during the process, but ultimately it is the Board's responsibility to interview and hire the superintendent. She further stated we can't have subordinates hiring their boss. Member Hector Nale strongly disagreed. He would like principals to be present during interviews to hear candidate responses. President Gottbrath asked Superintendent Darnell what his opinion was. He stated that when he was hired for the Superintendent position at East Washington, the consultant casually took him to the principals to meet them. The principals' input was received by the consultant who conveyed it to the Board. Principals were not included in the formal interview. Member Hector Nale stated he doesn't want the principals to be asking questions, but wants the principals in the formal interview sitting on the back row to hear the candidate's answers. President Theresa Gottbrath stated she would contact the ISBA and hear what they say.

President Theresa Gottbrath stated that the Board needs public input on the matter, so the Board can get a feel for what people are looking for in a superintendent. Gottbrath suggested that public input be heard in the latter part of the next school board meeting, May 10, 2016. The Board agreed.

The Board discussed a timeline of the Superintendent hiring process. It was agreed that applications will be accepted until May 27, 2016. President Theresa Gottbrath will get in touch with Indiana University: University Search Team to discuss what the next steps will be in the hiring process. After Theresa finds out what dates the team could meet, she will get with the Board to set up a date to meet with them.

Superintendent Information

None

Items by the Board/Late Items

None

Public Comments

Kendra Floyd publically thanked Superintendent Darnell on behalf of the administration building staff for everything he taught them. She stated that it has been a privilege to work for him and with him. She also stated that with many of the support staff being new in the administration building, the support staff wanted the Board to be mindful of seeking a candidate who is experienced with the budget.

Greg Hopkins also thanked Superintendent Darnell for everything he has done. He stated he has been a great leader, taught him a lot, and supported him well. He will miss him.

Christina McGinnis stated that it has been wonderful as a parent and member of the PTO to work with Mr. Darnell. Mr. Darnell always has an open door, and it has been wonderful to work with him.

Linda McClellan stated she has worked with a lot of Superintendents and Mr. Darnell is top-notch. She would pick him as number one of all the superintendents she's worked with. She was hoping he would retire here, but that didn't work out. She respects him and appreciates the time had with him.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15. The next School Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion: Hector Nale

Seconded: Sue Jane Miller

Vote: 4-0