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## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion\_\_\_\_\_

Future Action\_\_\_\_\_

Action\_\_X\_\_

Item: Executive Director of West Michigan Teacher Collaborative

Submitted by: Dr. Jenny Fee

Date: 4-30-25

Recommended by: Dr. Jenny Fee

Board Meeting Date: May 19, 2025

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### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the hire of Mary Kay Murphy as the permanent Executive Director of the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC). This recommendation follows the resignation of Dr. Laura Castle, who previously held the position. Mary Kay has served as the Interim Executive Director since Dr. Castle's departure in mid-January 2025.

This recommendation is made in consultation with our regional partners, including the superintendents of both Muskegon and Ottawa ISDs, as well as those of local districts across Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties. All partners expressed strong confidence in Mary Kay's leadership and support for her direct appointment as Executive Director. This position is classified as a non-union Professional Grade 9.

### BACKGROUND:

Mary Kay was originally hired by Dr. Castle as the Supervisor of Teacher Development. Shortly after her appointment, Dr. Castle announced her resignation. Given Mary Kay's prior experience with WMTC as a consultant with Leading Educators and her strong reputation within West Michigan's educational community, she was a natural choice to step in as the Interim Executive Director.

In her interim role, Mary Kay led with skill and focus. She successfully managed key priorities, including the selection of a new resident cohort, delivery of professional learning and support to the current residents, coordination with ISD, local district, and higher education partners, and the planning of a large-scale recognition event for the inaugural cohort of residents. Simultaneously, she invested significant effort in learning all facets of WMTC and worked collaboratively with her team and partners to shape a strategic vision for the program's future.