

**MID VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS**

**REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD
September 5, 2012**

Mid Valley has responded to one (1) Freedom of Information Act Request

1. On August 13, 2012, Patti Lopuszanski of South Elgin, Illinois, requested the following regarding the hiring of a teacher for the Autism Program at Harrison School

- *Date the position was posted on the Mid Valley Special Education Cooperative website, K-12 JobSpot, Kane County Consortium, Applitrack and any other means that was used to inform the public of this open teaching position for the New Pathways Autism Program. Please note the means used by Mid Valley to verify college degrees for applicants and confirm their education and experience is valid.*

RESPONSE: Sent copies of both internal and external postings for the Special Education Teacher – Autism position.

- *How many applicants applied for this position and how many were interviewed? Note the dates and times that interviews were conducted for this position and the team within Mid Valley that participated in the hiring process.*

RESPONSE: The Cooperative received 500+ applications for the position due to shared resources on the Kane County Consortium. One applicant was interviewed for the position by Melissa Jackson on April 16, 2012.

- *Provide degree verification confirmation on when and where the candidate completed their education and was certified by the ISBE and Kane County ROE. Note the date that applicants completed any and all classes that were needed for such degree. Provide the college(s) that applicant attended for courses related to education and degrees, certifications, and endorsements held from all colleges that they attended that would make them highly qualified for the position being hired.*

RESPONSE: Sent application and education credentials for Sarah M. McCafferty, redacting all home/personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses from the responsive records because the information constitutes “private information” which is exempt from disclosure. The Cooperative declined to produce copies of Ms. McCafferty’s educational transcripts as the Illinois Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor has determined that they are exempt from disclosure under FOIA Section 7(1)(c).

- *Of the candidates interviewed and not hired, how many had experience in education students with autism? How many years of experience did other candidates have and why was a more qualified, experienced teacher not hired for this position?*

RESPONSE: There were no records responsive to this request

- *Was the Mid Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board made aware by the Executive Director, Dr. Carla Cumblad, that the applicant had not completed their course work at the time of hire and that at the time of approval by the Mid Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board under the action item Personnel Report on August 1, 2012 not certified to teach the autism program at Harrison Street School?*

RESPONSE: Sent copy of the Personnel Report, July 2012, and the Personnel Report for the Cooperative presented to the Board of Education for St. Charles CUSD 303

- *Provide any and all copies of emails/memos and documentation that was sent out between Melissa Jackson, Dr. Carla Cumblad, and Ms. Susan Caddy and the candidate (and amongst themselves) to be hired for the teaching position for the New Pathways program from the time it was determined the position would be open to the time the interview process was completed and the position was filled.*

RESPONSE: There were no records responsive to this request.

RESPONSE SENT VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL ON AUGUST 20, 2012

ESTIMATED PERSONNEL TIME TO RESPOND: Two (2) hours.

APPROXIMATE COST TO RESPOND: \$116.60