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## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

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

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

Action   X   \_\_\_\_\_

Item: Executive Director Education Advocates of West Michigan

Submitted by: Dave Rodgers

Date:   12-12-23  

Recommended by: Ron Gorman & Dave Rodgers      Board Meeting Date: December 18, 2023

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### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the hire of Dan Behm as the next Executive Director of Education Advocates of West Michigan. This recommendation comes as a result of Chris Glass taking a position with Arthur J. Gallagher last summer.

### BACKGROUND:

Five qualified applicants selected for interview progressed through the first round of interviews. Three finalists were invited back for a second round that included a presentation and performance task that allowed the team to get to know the finalists very well. The first interview panel was comprised of fourteen school leaders from across the Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon ISDs and local districts. The second-round interviews of the three finalists were conducted by a smaller sub-group of that initial panel. Mr. Behm impressed the panels with his depth of educational knowledge, experience and passion, complimented by his experience in legislative advocacy with MASA committees. Dan is a strong and respected advocate for public education having served as Superintendent for Forest Hills Public Schools from 2006 – 2023 until he retired last June. We are excited about what he brings to Education Advocates of West Michigan where he will build upon the foundation established by Chris Glass.

It is anticipated that Dan will begin his work in January following the holiday break. Dan earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan before beginning doctoral courses at MSU.