
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action X _____

Item: Director of Adult Education

Submitted by: Dave Rodgers

Date: 7-10-23 _____

Recommended by: Sue Gardner and Dave Rodgers

Board Meeting Date: June 24, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the hire of Dr. Laura Preuss as the next Director of Adult Education. This recommendation comes as a result of Oogie Lamar's retirement in January 2024. We have planned for a flexible transition period as Laura comes on board and Oogie departs mid-school year.

BACKGROUND:

Qualified applicants selected for interview progressed through up to four rounds of interviews, allowing the team to get to know the finalists very well. Dr. Preuss excelled in every phase and received very supportive feedback from the many Adult Education staff members that were involved. While this will be her first position officially within public education, much of her work in industry has paralleled aspects of Adult Education. We are excited about what she brings to our program, our partners and the community. Laura recognizes that she will have a learning curve but is honored and enthusiastic about this opportunity. We appreciate the opportunity for a leadership transition with Dr. Preuss and Oogie.

It is anticipated that Dr. Preuss, currently the Director of Workforce Development at DeWys Metal Solutions, will begin in her new role by early August. Laura earned a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University with a focus on Career and Technical Education. She also holds a MA from GVSU in Adult and Higher Education. She will begin working toward completing her Michigan school administrator certification.