

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

September 21, 2020

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular session at 7 p.m. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on September 18, 2020 and published in *The Register-Guard* on September 21, 2020.

NOTICE: In light of current public health concerns related to coronavirus COVID-19, the meeting of the Eugene School District Board of Directors took place virtually via Zoom Meeting. Pursuant to ORS 192.670, the meeting was open to the public via live radio broadcast on KRVM 1280-AM and via the Internet at www.4j.lane.edu/

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mary Walston, Chair
Judy Newman, Vice Chair
Anne Marie Levis
Alicia Hays
Martina Shabram
Jim Torrey
Gordon Lafer

STAFF:

Christine Nesbit, General Counsel
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

MEDIA: KRVM

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute, Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Mary Walston called the meeting of the 4J School District Special Session to order at 5:32 p.m. All Board members were present.

II. Agenda Review

Chair Walston said Ms. Nesbit would present to them the scores of each firm before they had interviews on Wednesday September 23, 2020.

III. Items for Action

1. Approve Finalist Selection of Search Consultant for Superintendent of Schools Vacancy

Ms. Nesbit shared that Baker Tilly scored 449 points, Ray and Associates received 569 points. She clarified that the references made last week that were made to Ray & Associates were technically for Gary Ray & Associates.

Ms. Nesbit mentioned that there were some firms that were already invited to come to the interviews, but they could invite a couple more if they desired. Ms. Nesbit thought they should invite Ray & Associates.

Ms. Levis inquired into if they could invite more firms to interview since they originally had a cap of just three interviews. Ms. Nesbit said that they could interview as many firms as they wanted.

Mr. Torrey asked about the cross-over between the two Rays and if someone left the firm. Ms. Nesbit replied that she did not know the history between the two firms, but they were both from the same city in Iowa. She agreed that it was confusing, but they would need to ask the firms if they wanted to know. Mr. Torrey was concerned that they would be throwing one firm out since they did not have all the information when ranking. Ms. Newman thought it would be awkward to go back and make a change at this point and that they should just interview four firms. Mr. Lafer did not feel strongly but preferred that they stuck with three firms since that was what they had decided.

Mr. Torrey understood that they had already contact the original three firms so it would be awkward to go back and make that change. He would prefer if Gary Ray & Associates and Ray & Associates were both there. Ms. Levis thought that having four 45-minute interviews with deliberation afterwards would make the meeting too long.

Ms. Nesbit clarified that they needed to invite firms in rank order. Gary Ray & Associates and Ray & Associates ranked in the top three, so they were already invited. McPherson & Jacobson was ranked number four and would still need to be invited. Ms. Newman scored McPherson & Jacobson the highest which was one reason she wanted to allow for four interviews.

Ms. Hays said that if they went with four firms then she would work to limit the number of questions.

Chair Walston remembered being confused by the Ray & Associates and Gary Ray & Associates websites and how they listed some of the same people. However, she wanted to make sure that they were thorough and did a good job picking a firm.

Ms. Levis pointed out that with breaks, four interviews, and deliberations they were looking at about a five-hour meeting. Chair Walston noted that they would not be announcing their pick that night. Ms. Hays pointed out that they would still have to agree at the end of that night on who they would choose or have the selection narrowed down.

Ms. Shabram asked if they could split the interviews up into two nights. Chair Walston said that they were not scheduled to do that, but they could do that if the Board decided to go that way.

MOTION: Ms. Hays moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to approve interviewing four candidates on September 23, 2020 for the firm selection interviews. The four firms were: Patrick Young, Ray & Associates, Gary Ray & Associates, and McPherson & Jacobson. The motion passed unanimously.

Interviews would take place on September 23, 2020 starting at 5:30 p.m. with each interviewing being 40 minutes.

Mr. Lafer asked what kind of decision they needed have by the end of Wednesday's meeting. Chair Walston replied that they needed to have their selection narrowed down. She thought that it would be apparent who was leading the group. Ms. Newman thought that they also needed to check references before making the decision. Ms. Nesbit stated that they could do a light deliberation before checking references and making a final decision on October 7, 2020.

Ms. Levis wanted to make sure a question covered what was and what was not included in the firm's cost proposals and what would cause increased costs. She also thought they should ask if there would be a price difference for everything being done remotely. Mr. Lafer thought they should have these questions answered in writing since it was supposed to be answered in the application. Ms. Levis thought it was very telling to see how people answered this type of question in person.

Chair Walston asked the work group to get the questions out before the meeting so everyone could be familiar with them. Ms. Hays thought they could have them out by 7:30 p.m. on September 22, 2020 once the work group was done meeting.

Ms. Nesbit said that they would schedule the first interview at 5:50 p.m. so the Board had 20 minutes to talk at the beginning of the meeting. A schedule would be sent out.

IV. Adjourn

Chair Walston adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)

Cydney Vandercar
District Clerk

Mary Walston
Board Chair