## Superintendent Search Process

ASBA CONFERENCE, LITTLE ROCK AR
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Kieth Williams, Ed.D.

#### McPherson & Jacobson

- ➤ Leading National Search Firm
- Our consultants have extensive backgrounds in education and public service including current and former superintendents, assistant superintendents, university professors, and school board members.
- Over one-fourth of our consultants minority or female
- Consultants have the valuable commodity of "TIME" to commit to the search

## **Company History**

- Why Arkansas?
- Home Office in Omaha, Nebraska--1991
- Partner-Affiliate of ASBA
- 35 + States and Over 100 Consultants
- Extensive State and National Network
- Retention History is High for Superintendents Placed by M & J-Indicates Good Match
- Last Five Years, 75% Superintendents are Still in the Position for Which they were Hired Through M & J Search
- ➤ Last 10 years—Over 50% still in Same Position

#### **Our Arkansas Consultants**

Mr. Bobby Lester

Mr. Andrew Tolbert

Mr. Wayne Gibson

Mr. Jerrod Williams

Dr. Megan Slocum

Dr. Kieth Williams

Dr. Diana Julian

Dr. Tony Thurman

Mr. Mitch Walton

Dr. Megan Slocum

## Sustained Leadership

- District Success is Dependent Upon Sustained leadership
- One Individual Does Make a Difference
- Board and Superintendent-MUST be a Team
- View Districts in Arkansas with Sustained leadership=Success
- Academic-Financial-Facilities

# Objectives of Macnjake Search

- Provide Support at a Very Critical Time
- Provide a Decision Making Model for Boards
- Advocate a Model to Fit the Particular Needs of School Districts-Each Search is Customized to YOUR needs
- We are not "Headhunters"
- You are in Control of the Selection Process
- We Provide the Resource you are Lacking-TIME

### **Objectives Continued**

- Every Student in Every District is Entitled to a Quality Education. Quality Education is Dependent Upon Quality Leadership.
- Public Schools are in Marketing Business
- > IT IS ALL ABOUT THE KIDS-YOUR KIDS
- The Needs of the Client Supersede the Needs of the Consultant or the Needs of the Firm.
- Professionalism Associated With Process

### Objectives Continued

- We add Credibility to Your Selection Process
- Consistency-Objectivity-Validity-Defendable
- Represent Your District and You in a Respectful Manner
- Provide a Plan That Will Result in Success for You as Board
- Transparency and Stakeholder Involvement is our MARK
- We ADD the Professional Touch
- We Know Arkansas

## What Implications Surround Hiring a Superintendent?

- Most Important Decision a Board Will Make
- Boards Access to a Superior Network System
- Importance of Board Members *Time* and *Dedication* to a Successful Search
- Truthful and Consistent Information
- We Recruit Good Candidates
- Best PR a Board can get
- Remove POLITICS From Search
- Remove Subjectivity From Process
- MACNJAKE REPRESENTS YOU IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER

## Recruiting and Hiring a Quality Superintendent (Items to Consider)

- Selection Criteria
- Establishing Realistic Timelines
- Advertising the Position
- Recruiting Quality Applicants
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Managing Application Materials
- Screening Applicants-Importance of Consistency
- Conducting Reference Checks
- Interviewing the Candidates
- Abide by the LAW
- ALL OF THESE COMPONENTS ARE PUT TOGETHER TO PROVIDE YOU A VALID SELECTION PROCESS

#### Search Protocol

- PHASES OF SEARCH
- I. Planning Phase
- II. Advertising, Promotion, Stakeholder -Groups, Recruiting
- III Application Review, Reference Work, Prepare Short List Reference Summaries and Videos
- IV. Board/Focus Group Interviews
- V. Goal Setting Board and new Superintendent

#### Phase I

- Identify the desirable characteristics of the future superintendent— <u>Foundation of search.</u>
- Establish appropriate timelines and target dates for the Selection process - <u>Search Calendar</u>.
- Identify stakeholder groups if applicable.
- Develop a vacancy announcement and advertise the position with the appropriate media, professional organizations, and McPherson & Jacobson site.
- Designate Point of Contact in District for M & J Consultants to work with

#### Phase II

- Develop promotional literature and brochure
- Prepare and place announcement of vacancy
- Develop an application form that reflects the criteria established by the board
- Assist in selection of Focus Groups/Stakeholders
- Assist in organizing Stakeholder Groups-Meetings
- Send out and receive application materials.
- Actively recruit applicants who will meet the District's needs (Align to Criteria)
- Assist Board in establishing compensation parameters
- Keep applicants informed of status in selection process
- Communicate with Board as search progresses

#### Phase III

- Evaluate each applicant based upon the criteria and characteristics established by the Board-Score applications based on rubric or scoring guide
- > Conduct extensive reference and background checks
- Review the top candidates and determine which candidates meet the Board's criteria and prepare a recommended short list
- Secure videos of short list for Board to review
- Assist Board in developing a set of interview questions to be used by Board that reflect the identified selection criteria and characteristics
- > Send a letter to all applicants who will not be interviewed
- Finalize Focus Groups interview procedures-questions

#### Phase IV

- Establish the interview process. (Lengthy day for candidates if using stakeholder groups)
- Assist groups identified by the Board in procedures for meeting each candidate and providing feedback to the Board
- Coordinate visitation procedures for candidate's spouse
- Make final arrangements for each candidates visit
- Contact all final candidates and schedule interview times
- After the selection has been made, personally contact each finalist (Only after signed contract)
- Assist in contract negotiations if requested

#### Phase V

- Establish performance objectives for the superintendent (NOT in lieu of required superintendent evaluation)
- Assist in providing forms to the Board for the superintendent's six-month and one-year performance review
- Promotes communication between Board and new Superintendent

#### **Review of five Phases**

- Phase I
- Phase II
- Phase III
- Phase IV
- Phase V
- NOTE: The Consultants provide the resource of TIME to complete all four phases with minimal time required by Board.
- We Know ARKANSAS

## M & J Consultants Work for and Represent the Board of Education

The goal of each search is to represent the Board in a professional manner and enhance the credibility of the Board within the community, with staff, and to all the applicants.

### **AEKANSAS SEARCHES BY M & J**

- Stuttgart School District (2)
- Pulaski County Special School District
- Marion Public Schools (2)
- Blytheville Public Schools
- Gurdon Public Schools
- Wonderview School District
- Texarkana School District
- South Conway County District
- Mountain Home Public Schools
- Hope Public Schools
- Searcy School District
- Little Rock District
- Hot Springs District
- Harrison
- McGehee
- Paris
- Smackover-Norphlet (2)

- Green Forest School District
- Bryant Public Schools (2)
  Brinkley School District
  Bentonville Public Schools
  Benton Public Schools
  Fordyce Public Schools
  Cross County School District
  Batesville School District (2)

- Crossett
- Star City (2) East End (4) Danville

- North Little Rock District
- School for Deaf
- Highland
- Fountain Lake
- Magazine School District
- Harrisburg
- Bergman

#### For more information:

Arkansas School Boards Association (501) 372 - 1415OR McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C. Omaha, NE 68127 (402) 991-7031/(888) 375-4814OR Kieth Williams 501-882-9317 www.macnjake.com mail@macnjake.com

### **QUESTIONS??**

- > Thanks,
- Kieth Williams
- Lead consultant for M & J in Arkansas