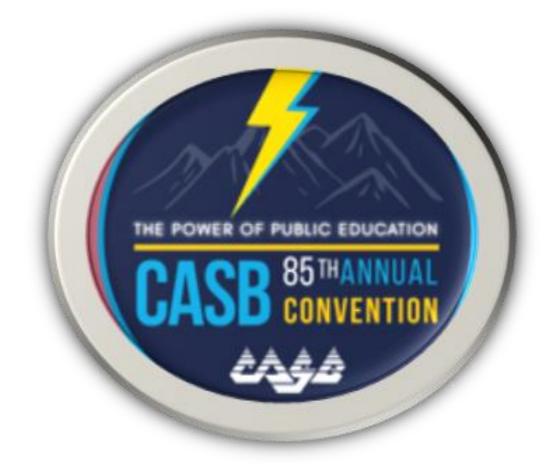


# MCPHERSON & JACOBSON, LLC

EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

ESTABLISHED 1991

# RECRUITING AND HIRING A QUALITY SUPERINTENDENT



The National Picture of Superintendent Search & Executive Consulting Firms



# Mac-n-Jake has conducted over 1,000 successful superintendent searches in 45 states with over 120 consultants across the United States.

# The McPherson & Jacobson Colorado Team





Dr. Christy Sinner Durango



Dr. Ken Haptonstall Grand Junction



Dr. Randy Zila Loveland



Dr. Lori Cooper Colorado Springs



Dr. Walt Cooper Colorado Springs



Dr. Brad Meeks Littleton



Dr. Norm Ridder, Owner Arvada



Dr. Henry Roman Pueblo

# Why are we here?

The Board of Education's **primary and most important responsibility** is to select the superintendent.

Selecting a new superintendent is one of the most important decisions a Board of Education makes. Finding and hiring the right chief executive for your leadership team is critical to the success of your students and your district.



# Participant Outcomes

At the conclusion of this session, you should be able to:

- Recognize the complexities of conducting a superintendent search
- Oiscover when to seek assistance in conducting a superintendent search
- Identify the critical components of a superintendent search



### Initial Considerations for the Board

#### Considerations for hiring a search consultant:

- Does the Board wish to conduct an internal or external search for their next superintendent?
- 2. Does the Board have a structured, objective, and comprehensive process to follow in making this important decision?
- 3. Does the Board have the time, staff, resources, and expertise to conduct the search on its own?



# Further Considerations for the Board

#### Some Boards...

- Retain a consultant strictly for a fresh look at the district, realizing that sometimes you "can't see the forest for the trees"
- Prefer a consultant with intimate knowledge of the state or region in which they are located
- Employ consultants to support the Board with an unbiased and objective process including public engagement
- Utilize consultants to enlarge and enrich the candidate pool for diverse perspectives
- Desire the credibility a consultant can bring to the search process, both to applicants and the public



## What Should the Board Expect?

An experienced search consultant can assist the Board with these best practices:

- Following a structured, transparent, and objective process from beginning to end
- Setting detailed timelines for the search
- Assisting the Board in developing search criteria
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Designing application and interview forms, postings, brochures and graphics, interview questions, and other materials needed for the process



### What Should the Board Expect?

An experienced search consultant can assist the Board with these best practices:

- Communicating directly with all candidates throughout the process
- Navigating open meeting requirements, advertising and posting rules, and ensuring confidentiality
- Investigating and evaluating appropriate salary and benefits, recruitment/moving expenses, contract terms, etc.
- Recruiting and vetting candidates with an objective screening process.
- Verifying resumes and conducting reference and third-party background checks.



# What Should the Board Expect?

#### **Example: 5 Phases of a McPherson & Jacobson Search**

#### Phase 1

#### *Meet with the Board to:*

- •Identify the desired characteristics of the candidate
- Identify stakeholders, partner groups, and feedback protocols
- •Establish the search timeline and critical dates
- •Determine advertising venues
- •Determine salary range
- •Craft the job posting and vacancy announcement

#### Phase 2

- Meet with stakeholders, partner groups, and distribute online surveys
- •Develop promotional materials and advertise the vacancy
- •Distribute, receive, and catalog all application materials
- Actively recruit applicants

#### Phase 3

- •Read and evaluate all applicant files
- •Conduct reference checks and background investigations
- •Invite selected candidates to produce video responses to questions

#### Phase 4

#### *Meet with the Board to:*

- •Review the remaining "short list" of candidates
- •Assist the Board in identifying final candidates the Board chooses to interview
- Prepare the Board for the interview process
- •Schedule and coordinate interviews
- •Keep all candidates informed of their status



#### Phase 5

#### Meet with the Board and the selected candidate to:

- •Establish performance objectives and measures
- Provide the two-year McPherson & Jacobson Guarantee



Typically 8 – 12 Weeks

## Hiring a Search Consultant

When hiring a superintendent search consultant, ask:

- How many successful searches have you conducted?
- How much experience have you had in Colorado and our region?
- What has been your experience in a district like ours (size, location, demographics)?
- What does your engagement with stakeholders look like?
- How much information do you typically provide about applicants?
- What services does your fee include?
- What additional expenses might the Board incur beyond the basic fee?
- What other services does your firm provide after the search?

Ask for a list of recent searches and references... and call them!



# THANK YOU.

