



South Washington County Schools

Keith Jacobus, Ph.D., Superintendent

District Service Center

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board

FROM: Keith Jacobus, Superintendent

DATE: July 12, 2017

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Resolution to fill vacant Board Seat

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: Policy 201.2

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Approval

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: July 20, 2017

REPORT

The South Washington County School Board is comprised of seven members elected at large for four-year terms. When a vacancy on the board occurs prior to the end of a board member's term in office, the school board is bound by statute and policy to follow a procedure to fill the vacant seat until the next general election in November. At the next general election, the vacant seat will be filled by electing a board member to complete the remaining time of the original four-year term. When filling a vacancy, past practice was to use the interview process outlined in policy 201.2. The procedure is to advertise the vacancy and solicit applications, review the applicants and schedule interviews with the full board, after which time, the board would vote for the person to fill the vacancy. The most recent legislative session made changes in the statute regarding filling board vacancies. The new statute requires a 30-day waiting period after the board appoints a candidate before the candidate can be seated on the board. During the 30-day waiting period, community members can petition to eliminate the appointed candidate from consideration if they garner enough signatures. Our interview process, coupled with the 30-day waiting period, creates a situation where a new board member would potentially not be seated until October. With the election on November 7th, there would be only two board meetings where the newly appointed candidate would be present. The resolution outlines the rationale and decision for leaving the vacant seat open until it can be filled through the general election process on November 7th.