

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

On May 31, 2016, the School Board approved, through the Organizational Chart process, an additional Assistant General Counsel position for the General Counsel's Office to handle contract matters, as well as other assignments. On June 15, 2016, the Board approved Barbara J. Myrick as the new General Counsel for The School Board, leaving the Assistant General Counsel position for ESE and school matters vacant. On June 17, 2016, the Office of Talent Acquisition and Operations (Non-Instructional Staffing) advertised the two Assistant General Counsel positions. The positions were also advertised in the Florida Bar News. The applicants were screened and nine (9) candidates were recommended for an interview.

Interviews were held on July 25, 2016. The interview panel consisted of Barbara J. Myrick, General Counsel; Marylin Batista-McNamara, Deputy General Counsel; and Robert Paul Vignola, Deputy General Counsel. The interview team reached consensus and recommends Janette Smith for the position handling contracts and Susan Hofstetter for the ESE and school matters position.

Ms. Smith is a product of Broward County Schools. She currently is an Assistant County Attorney for Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners. Previously, she worked for Lee County Clerk of Courts and was the City Clerk for the City of Oakland Park. Ms. Smith negotiated, drafted and oversaw contracts in her previous positions and has extensive experience working with Florida Sunshine and Public Records laws.

Ms. Hofstetter is currently an Assistant Regional Counsel for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, where she works with families and children in the dependency/family court, many of which have been involved with our ESE Department and other student services. Previously, Ms. Hofstetter worked for Legal Aid of Broward County with student discipline cases.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Hofstetter were notified that they were the successful candidates and both have accepted the positions. Contracts were negotiated with each candidate. A salary of \$105,000 was negotiated with Ms. Smith based on experience and qualifications. A salary of \$100,000 was negotiated with Ms. Hofstetter based on her experience and qualifications.

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