



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

November 12, 2003



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution Regarding Local School Board Member Recognition Month

Attached is a draft resolution declaring January 2004 as Local School Board Member Recognition Month.

The resolution encourages educators, students, parents, and community leaders to honor local school board members.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the Resolution Regarding Local School Board Member Recognition Month, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 12, 2003.

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**LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH
JANUARY 2004**

WHEREAS, providing for the education of Michigan's school aged children is a fundamental duty of state government, as stated in Article VIII, Section 2, of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963; and

WHEREAS, locally elected school boards play an important role in a representative democracy, and decisions made by boards of education directly influence instruction in Michigan's public schools; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,100 local school board members across Michigan demonstrate their dedication to education through this grass roots example of democracy in action; and

WHEREAS, the service of these committed men and women represents countless hours invested in deliberating difficult decisions about curriculum, budgets, personnel, and other matters which affect parents, students, teachers, and citizens throughout Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these decisions also set direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global economy, and ultimately affect 1.7 million Michigan children and more than \$11.5 billion in education expenditures; and

WHEREAS, School Board Member Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the thousands of men and women who champion the cause of public education as board members, their schools, and the community they serve; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme – School Board Members Lead So Students Succeed – reflects the efforts of these board members who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts and preserving the core of our democratic land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education declares January 2004 as Local School Board Member Recognition Month in Michigan, and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize our state's dedicated school board members.