



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 9, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Kathleen N. Straus

SUBJECT: Approval of Creation of Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award

The State Board of Education, in recognition of the innumerable contributions of Dorothy Beardmore to education policy reform, school improvement, and healthy schools for all students, is establishing the Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award. It will be awarded annually to the person whose past or current efforts on behalf of education and education reform are deemed to be of outstanding benefit to the quality of education for all Michigan students.

The Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award will be awarded for providing leadership in developing education policy, impacting the education system, or contributing to the improvement of education through involvement on state and national commissions, task forces, or other significant leadership organizations. The award should be presented at a State Board of Education meeting. The State Board of Education will make the determination from nominations made for this honor.

The Board intends to honor Dorothy Beardmore as the first recipient of this award.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education:

1. Approve the establishment of the Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award to be given annually to the person whose past or current efforts on behalf of education and education reform are deemed to be of outstanding benefit to the quality of education for all Michigan students; and
2. Designate Dorothy Beardmore as the first honoree to receive the Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award.

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Dorothy Beardmore

Dorothy Beardmore is ultimately about service to education. She has a generous heart, the sort of heart that is alert to opportunities for service, mindful of the needs of others, and willing to make sacrifices for the sake of the greater good. She is collaboration personified.

Dorothy Beardmore served two consecutive eight-year terms on the Michigan State Board of Education (1985-2001). She served the Board as president (1999-2000 and 1991-1992), vice president (1997-1998 and 1987-1988), secretary (1995-1996 and 1989-1990), and treasurer (1993-1994 and 1985-1986). Dorothy did not miss one State Board meeting in sixteen years.

Dorothy also served on the Board of Directors and the Resolutions Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) as well as several NASBE study groups. Prior to her election to the State Board of Education, Dorothy served eight years on the Rochester Board of Education (1967-1975), and ten years on the Board of Education of Oakland Schools (1974-1984).

Mrs. Beardmore promoted educational reform throughout her tenure on the State Board of Education, beginning with formulating new teacher certification rules in 1985 that require focused, relevant professional development for teachers to warrant re-certification at five-year intervals. From 1995-1997, she chaired the NASBE/U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Healthy Schools Network,” a 15 state interagency coalition to promote health for school age children and their families. She is a leader in encouraging and modeling interagency collaboration.

During Mrs. Beardmore’s tenure on the Michigan State Board of Education, the Board adopted:

Curriculum standards and benchmarks that provide guidance to school districts to implement objectives and goals that are beneficial in formulating a curriculum that is well rounded and adaptable at each level;

- Inter-district public schools of choice;**
- Special education policy framework;**
- School finance policy recommendations;**
- Revised standards for teacher preparation;**
- Interagency collaboration between and among state agencies to provide coordinated services to schools, parents, teachers, and students;**
- Character education policy;**
- Parental involvement policy;**
- Alternative routes to teacher certification;**
- Statewide educational technology plan; and**
- Policies for Creating Effective Learning Environments.**

In addition, with the Board's leadership, the Michigan legislature:

- Amended the Teacher Tenure Act;
- Enacted legislation requiring basic skills and subject area tests as part of teacher preparation programs;
- Enacted Public Act 25. This Act required accreditation, school improvement plans, an outcomes-based core curriculum, and updating areas of curriculum. Public Act 25 also required an annual report to the public of each school building and increased hours of instruction.

Dorothy Beardmore envisioned quality education for **all** students. She dedicated over 34 years of her life to achieving this vision, striving to identify and remove barriers to student achievement; setting high expectations for all; believing that every child is capable of learning; **and** encouraging others to recognize that every child is capable of learning.

Dorothy penned appropriate poems for special occasions. As she left the State Board of Education in 2000, she submitted her final poem as a member of the Board. It follows.

APPROACHING 01/01/01

by Dorothy Beardmore

In nineteen hundred and ninety-two,
With re-election surprisingly won,
Did I finally realize the term
Would end on 01/01/01.

That was so far in the future
It really didn't compute –
Well into a brand new century;
Start of a new millennium to boot!

Who could picture the changes
The next eight years could bring?
Board members with differing views,
Consensus sometimes a rare thing.

But we worked at it seriously
And learned much from each other.
We came to share respect,
If not quite love like a brother.

Sixteen years is a long, long time
To never have missed a meeting.
When asked about the highlights
So many memories are fleeting.

Lots of good work by board members,
Over twenty colleagues in my time.
Two Barbaras; two Sharons; and
Kathies two, which I can't make rhyme.

I suppose I have a special spot
For those with whom I campaigned.
Cherry and I teamed in eighty-four.
Since '92, Kathie and I may seem chained

Even though we were contestants
From parties in clear opposition.
We know we agree more than differ
On our public education position.

And who could ever forget Runkel?
Pretending gruff, but really kind.
Hawks (twice) and Bemis
And Schiller's razor sharp mind.

One superintendent left and
Art Ellis came the same day.
Never say, when the sun shone
The state board didn't make hay.

The famed Lad Dombrowski --
This room now bears his name.
A faithful and wise advisor,
Much loved, who never sought fame

Bob Harris had the daunting task
Of not trying to fill Lad's shoes,
But forging a different way
Of explaining what a NCSBEE does.

Eileen Hamilton now holds the post
And is the historian of this place.
She's expert in all that she does,
Which she does with amazing grace.

Marvelous people on the staff,
Who may now sigh in relief.
I won't be bothering them with calls
Or books and articles by the sheaf.

So it's time for me to move on --
Let others continue the search
For how to be completely certain
No child is left in the lurch.

We simply must keep trying
To convince folks near and far
It's vital for everyone's future
To continually raise the bar --

Expect even more in the future
Than anything asked in the past.
John Austin, I'm counting on you
To make our education reform last.