

**SPECIAL MEETING
EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY
__ BOARD OF DIRECTORS
X EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: September 22, 2011
Time: 7:30am
Location: Cadillac Place Building, Room L-150
3044 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Roy Roberts at 7:31am.

II. Roll Call

Melissa Hamann called the roll.

Board Member Attendance:

Roy Roberts, Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Duggan, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Morris*, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mark Murray*, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
William Pickard*, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

*Indicates member joined by phone.
A quorum of the Executive Committee was determined.

Also joining via phone were Education Achievement Authority Board Members Shirley Stancato, James Stapleton, Sharlonda Buckman and Judith Kaye Berry.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Member Murray

Support: Member Duggan

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

IV. New Business

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2011 Special Meeting

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2011 meeting.

Motion: Member Murray

Support: Member Morris

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

b. Review of Transfer Agreement

Chairperson Roberts provided a brief overview of the transfer of functions and responsibilities from the State School Reform/Redesign District to the Education Achievement Authority.

Key points are as follows:

- The transfer is authorized by Public Act 8 of the Extra Session of 1967, which provides for the transfer of functions and responsibilities from one governmental entity (such as a school district) in Michigan to be performed by another (including a special authority).
- The Reform District was established in 2009 by the Michigan Legislature as part of a multiyear effort to reform state education laws and enhance Michigan's competitive position in the Race to the Top Program designed by the United States Department of Education.
- As part of the 2009 legislation:
 - The State publishes an annual list of the lowest achieving 5% of all public schools. Schools on the list fall under the jurisdiction of the State School Reform/Redesign Officer (Reform Officer) and must implement an approved redesign plan.
 - If a redesign plan is not approved by the Reform Officer, or if the Reform Officer determines that a redesign plan for a public school is not achieving satisfactory results, the Reform Officer must issue an order placing the public school in the Reform District, removing the school from its local school district.
 - The Reform District consists of all public schools from throughout Michigan placed in the Reform District by the Reform Officer. The Reform District has authority over all funds attributable to students at a school placed in the Reform District.
 - For a school placed in the Reform District, the Reform Officer exercises all of the powers and duties otherwise vested in the local school board for the school, except the power to levy taxes or issue bonds.
 - A public school under the control of an emergency manager is not subject to transfer to the Reform District.
- No schools are currently in the Reform District.
- Under the transfer contract, a school placed in the Reform District would be operated by the EAA and its Chancellor, providing a statewide component for EAA activities.
- The functions transferred to the EAA under the transfer contract would be in addition to the functions of the EAA under the interlocal agreement between Detroit Public Schools and Eastern Michigan University that established the EAA.
- The contract must be signed by the State School Reform/Redesign Officer, and upon approval of the Executive Committee, by the Chancellor, Dr. John Covington.

There was some discussion about to whom, or to which entity, the duties, functions, and responsibilities would be transferred, specifically to the EAA Executive Committee or to the Chancellor. Members agreed that the transfer should be to the EAA Executive Committee, which can then delegate the duties, transfers, and responsibilities to the Chancellor.

Member Murray made a motion for approval of the transfer of functions and responsibilities from the State School Reform/Redesign District on the condition that Section 2.02 of the contract is amended to reflect that the "powers, duties, rights, obligations, functions, and responsibilities of the Officer related to the Redesign District are transferred to, and shall be administered by, the EAA and EAA Executive Committee."

The approval is further conditioned on the inclusion of conforming amendments to all subsections of 2.02 by striking references to "the Chancellor" and replacing them with "the EAA and the EAA Executive Committee."

Support: Member Duggan

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Member Murray remarked that, based upon an attorney review of the matter, this motion may be insufficient and it may be necessary for the Executive Committee to review and approve the revised transfer agreement in its next session.

V. Other Business

Member Pickard asked for clarification regarding the EAA's bonding authority.
Member Morris remarked that the EAA Board should respond to the news regarding Kansas City's accreditation.

VI. Public Comment

The Executive Committee heard comments from the following individuals:

Marie Thornton: Ms. Thornton referred to oath of office requirements per the Michigan Constitution. She also spoke about legislation that would allow for conversion schools, which she understood would operate outside of the control of DPS and EAA. She indicated that this reflects a local response because people question whether DPS and EAA can do the job.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Thornton for her comments.

Wayne Bernard: Mr. Bernard expressed concern about a number of matters related to DPS, including adults on student buses, teacher pay cuts and potential loss of jobs, and continued school closures.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Bernard for his comments.

Verna Brooks: Ms. Brooks spoke on behalf of the Detroit Council PTA and indicated that they would like to figure out how they can sit at the table collaboratively and be part of the solution for EAA.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Brooks for her comments.

Elena Herradon: Ms. Herradon expressed her dissatisfaction with the public notice and timing of the meeting. She indicated that the notice and timing were not conducive to public participation.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Herradon for her comments.

Russ Bellant: Mr. Bellant asked for documents from the meeting and clarification about whether only schools under an Emergency Manager can be transferred to the EAA.

Response: Member Duggan responded that no decisions have been made yet about the transfer of schools. Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Bellant for his comments.

Annie Carter: Ms. Carter also expressed her dissatisfaction with the timing of the meeting. She indicated that she does not feel that the public's input is really being sought. She also sought clarification on whether the EAA would be for Detroit schools only in its first year.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Carter for her comments. He also stated that the participation at the meeting was the most to date. Finally, he indicated that decisions about schools have not yet been made and conversations will continue with State Superintendent Flanagan.

Helen Moore: Ms. Moore expressed her concerns about Roy Roberts' dual role as Emergency Manager and EAA Chairperson, about Dr. Covington's leadership, and about the EAA as a system. She expressed concern that the solution is driven by the Governor's office and by charter schools, and cautioned the Board to stop and re-assess the EAA as a system.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Moore for her comments.

Sister Consuelo Alcalá: Ms. Alcalá expressed concern that the EAA Board is bringing people together, but not really and truly listening to public input. She also expressed concern about whether financial decisions being made are truly for the good of children.

Response: Member Duggan remarked that Detroit Public Schools and the Education Achievement Authority are two separate entities and that EAA decisions have yet to be made. Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Alcalá for her comments.

LaMar Lemmons: Mr. Lemmons expressed concern about the dual role of Roy Roberts and remarked that the creation of EAA is a presumption of failure for DPS.

Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Lemmons for his comments.

Juvette Hawkins-Williams: Ms. Hawkins-Williams asked what research had been done to show that the EAA will work. She expressed concern that Detroit schools and students were the first to be part of the "EAA experiment."
Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Hawkins-Williams for her comments.

Chairperson Roberts thanked the public for their comments and concluded the public comment portion of the meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion: Member Duggan
Support: Member Murray
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
The motion was carried.

Chairperson Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:25am.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Michl E Duggan

Secretary / Recording Secretary

10-14-2011

Date

Approved by the Authority Board

Secretary

Date