



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## **BOARD BRIEFS**

MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 14, 2009

*The following is a summary of items addressed by the State Board of Education, with web links to electronic versions of those items—as provided to the State Board.*

### **Awards and Recognitions**

The Board announced Linda Bushong, secretary in the Office of Grants Coordination and School Support, School Nutrition Training and Programs Units, as the 2009 recipient of the Stella Gikas Professional Support Staff Excellence Award. Linda has been an employee of the Michigan Department of Education for the past 28 years.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

#### **[Presentation on Proposed Standards for the Preparation of Social Studies, History, Geography, Economics and Political Science Teachers](#)**

The proposed revisions for the Social Studies, History, Geography, Economics, and Political Science standards for teacher preparation have been aligned with and go above current Grade Level Content Expectations and High School Content Expectations, as well as place greater emphasis on integrating content, content specific instruction/assessment, and technology. The standards will be available for a field review in April and May, and returned to the Board for approval in June.

#### **[Presentation/Discussion on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)**

The MDE continues to receive guidance from the U. S. Department of Education on implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Staff provided an update on targeted dollars to districts via existing federal education programs, and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The presentation focused on funds districts will receive upon application. [Click here for the PowerPoint presentation.](#)

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324

## [Presentation on Financial Literacy](#)

Financial literacy instruction provides students with the skills and information necessary to make reasoned decisions about their finances and careers. Staff highlighted some of the resources that are available to teach financial literacy. The high school graduation requirements were modified in late 2008 to add a financial literacy course as a permissible mathematics course. As a result of this change, MDE is updating its *Financial Literacy Resource Guide for Kindergarten to Grade 12* which provides teachers with low cost or free, quality resources to teach financial literacy. [Click here for the PowerPoint presentation.](#)

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

The Superintendent provided the State Board with information on the following grants that have been awarded by the MDE.

- [2008-2009 Title III – English Language Acquisition Program – Amendment](#)
- [2008-2009 Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program, Regular School Year – Amendment \(\\$-1 and \\$89,191\)](#)
- [2008-2009 Michigan Charter School Grant Program – Amendment](#)
- [2008-2009 Hearing and Vision Screenings – Initial](#)
- [2008-2009 Child and Adolescent Health Centers – Initial](#)
- [2008-2009 Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology, Category III, Comprehensive K-12 Data Management and Student Tracking System – Initial and Continuation](#)
- [2008-2009 Section 54a Grant; Central Assessment Lending Library – Continuation](#)
- [2008-2009 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Subsidy Grants – Amendment](#)
- [2008-2009 CTE Perkins Secondary Reserve Grants – Initial](#)

## [REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR](#)

Mrs. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-09 Michigan Teacher of the Year, provided a report on her activities over the last month both in her Hudsonville classroom and as Michigan Teacher of the Year.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Discussion Regarding Project Re-Imagine**

Building on the State Board of Education's goal to re-imagine Michigan's PreK-16 education system, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) launched Project Re-Imagine to urge districts to dedicate themselves to significant and substantive reform. MDE will select up to 20 school districts to become Demonstration Districts committed to dramatic district-wide reform to significantly improve learning for all

students. It is expected these Demonstration Districts would represent a cross-section of Michigan communities: urban, rural, and suburban districts; intermediate districts/educational service agencies; and public school academy authorizers. While Demonstration Districts would be expected to adopt a set of desired outcomes and required core components, they would have significant latitude in shaping their reform initiative. Core outcomes and components, as well as a menu of reform focus areas were presented and revised based on the Board's discussion.

In addition, as the U.S. Secretary of Education's Race to the Top grants become available, Project Re-Imagine Demonstration Districts will be incorporated into state plans to seek additional federal funds to reform and improve Michigan's educational system.

The Board voted to support the concept of Project Re-Imagine.

For information on Project Re-Imagine, go to [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) and click on the Project Re-Imagine.

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

The Board was provided with a legislative update since its March meeting. The report included recommendations from the Board's Legislative Committee. The following actions were taken:

The Board recommended that the Legislature pass legislation mandating certification of school administrators as was previously in the law, grandfathering in the current administrators.

The Board commended the Michigan House of Representatives for taking the first step in the recently passed School Aid budget (HB 4447) that requires 170 days and 1,098 hours of instruction for schools. The Board recommended the Legislature require 180 days and 1,098 hours of pupil instruction for schools using a seat-based model of education, while allowing for the continuation of waivers of such days and hours by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to explore and promote innovative educational models.

The Board recommended the Legislature maintain the requirements related to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests as opposed to moving toward an off-the-shelf test as proposed by HB 4771 and SB 56. Such a test could jeopardize federal funding unless a costly wraparound test is added to the off-the-shelf test, much like the ACT test is supplemented for the Michigan Merit Exam in order to meet the federal requirements.

The Board recommended the Legislature explore ways to make alternative education for children, especially in grades 8 to 12, financially viable, and to expand options for children in alternative education schools and programs, including a

variety of models such as middle colleges, dual enrollment, online learning, and individualized education.

### [Discussion Regarding 2009 NASBE Award and 2010 Board of Directors Nominations](#)

The Board has been asked by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to submit nominations for the 2009 Policy Leader of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Friend of Education Award. The Board approved the following nominations:

Policy Leader of the Year Award – Governor Jennifer Granholm

Distinguished Service Award – Eileen Weiser, former member of the State Board of Education and current chair of the Board's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers

Friend of Education Award – The Skillman Foundation

The nominations will be submitted to NASBE for consideration. The awards are presented at NASBE's Annual Conference held in October.

At its May 12 meeting, the Board will consider nominations for the 2010 Board of Directors.

### [Approval of 2008 Public School Academy Report to the Legislature](#)

This report fulfills a statutory obligation for the Board to summarize charter school experience for the Legislature. The report was revised based on the Board's discussion at its March 17 meeting. There was consensus at the meeting to change the term "host district" to "cluster district." Prior to developing the 2009 report, staff will consider additional recommendations and input.

The Board approved the report for transmittal to the Legislature.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

As part of its consent agenda, the Board received the [2007-2008 Annual Report of the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers \(PSCT\)](#) and Approved the Appointment of Members to the PSCT.

In addition, the Board approved a [resolution regarding 2009 Talent Development Week \(May 10-16, 2009\)](#).

## **Future Meeting Dates**

The next Committee of the Whole and Regular meeting of the Board is May 12, 2009.  
The Board cancelled its July 14, 2009 meeting.

This publication is an effort to provide information on State Board of Education meeting highlights. The Board is interested in your feedback. Please direct your feedback to Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, at [hamiltone@michigan.gov](mailto:hamiltone@michigan.gov).