

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

December 8, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich

Absent: Mr. Reginald M. Turner
Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Rob Stephenson, 2009-2010 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Special Education Advisory Committee Quick Notes – November 4, 2009
- B. Information on Great Parents, Great Start Grant Program Legislative Report
- C. Information on the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) Great Start Collaborative Legislative Report
- D. Information on the Michigan After-School Partnership Year-End Report for 2009

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Presentation Regarding Public School Academy Legislative Report – removed from agenda.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire,
Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS,
DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education, Department of Education staff, and guests attending the meeting.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:44 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

VII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of Recipient of the 2009 Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award

Mrs. Straus said the Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award is named after the late Dorothy Beardmore, Past President and member of the State Board of Education. The award is given annually to a person for (1) providing volunteer leadership in developing education policy, or positively impacting the education system; or (2) contributing to the improvement of education through involvement on local, state, or national commissions, task forces, or other significant leadership or community organizations; and (3) volunteering at the local, state, or national level.

Mrs. Straus said this year's recipient of the Dorothy Beardmore Service to Education Award is Mr. David Borth, Chair of the Network of Michigan Educators, Director of the Hawthorn Learning Center, adjunct professor at Ferris State University, and former administrator for Big Rapids Public Schools.

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Borth received the award during a surprise announcement at the Network of Michigan Educators Banquet on December 1, 2009. She said Mr. Borth was present at the Board meeting, and she wanted to acknowledge him.

Mr. Borth said he is thankful to receive the award, and he believes there are many people that deserve to receive the award.

B. Recognition of Association of Educational Service Agencies Award

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Flanagan received the Walter Turner Award from the Association of Educational Service Agencies at its conference last week where he was the keynote speaker. She said the award is given for contributions to the advancement of regional education programs at the regional, state, and local levels.

C. Recognition of Project ReImagine Demonstration Districts

Mr. Flanagan said Project ReImagine is driving grass-roots education reform in Michigan. He said the school districts are incubators of reform that will push the current limits and eventually can be replicated in schools across Michigan.

Mr. Flanagan said 71 proposals were submitted to the Michigan Department of Education. He said of the 14 proposals selected, ten are local district proposals and four are intermediate school district proposals. He said the total number of districts involved in Project ReImagine is 65.

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, said district representatives were at the Board meeting and then will receive technical assistance that will help them to strengthen, plan, and implement the bold initiatives.

Dr. Vaughn said key initiatives in the Project ReImagine proposals include:

- Multi-language immersion programs in prekindergarten through grade 12
- Reforming teacher assignment processes and compensation packages including merit pay

- Project-based learning programs including New Tech High Schools
- Early post secondary transition models including early/middle colleges
- Moving from seat time models of proficiency to performance based models
- Flexible calendar and flexible grouping of students
- Multiple pathways to a Michigan Merit diploma
- Bold changes in early childhood programs

Dr. Vaughn introduced representatives of the Project ReImagine districts; Armada Area Schools, Battle Creek Lakeview School District, Comstock Park Public Schools, Detroit Public Schools, Farwell Area Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools, N.I.C.E. Community School District (Ishpeming), Oxford Community Schools, Utica Community Schools, University Preparatory Academy (Detroit), Ingham Intermediate School District, Mason-Lake Intermediate School District (in partnership with Oceana Intermediate School District), Saginaw Intermediate School District, and Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District.

Mr. Austin thanked participants for their leadership, courage, and willingness to make changes.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the meeting from 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

IX. DISCUSSION TIMES

A. Presentation of the Draft 2010 State of Michigan Educational Technology Plan

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation
- Mr. Bruce Umpstead, State Director of Educational Technology

The 2010 revision of the State of Michigan Educational Technology Plan was presented. The proposed revisions in the Plan align the State's educational technology goals and objectives with those of the Michigan School Improvement Framework and update the Plan's action steps to reinforce and enhance the state's school improvement efforts and set forth a

clear, ambitious roadmap for transforming teaching and learning in Michigan. The document will be posted for public comment and then be returned to the Board for approval at its February 2010 meeting.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. consortia are not in contiguous counties – *consortiums are defined by those using the same data warehousing tool and they are not necessarily in contiguous counties;*
2. can the eight consortia and four tools communicate for analysis; why isn't there one system – *interoperability allows the systems to communicate with each other; this is an effort to get closer to one system; in the past there were many systems;*
3. how can people outside the system view the data – *each has identified a teacher preparation institution to work with to analyze data;*
4. is data being collected to assure program quality; this would be important for seat time waivers; where does it go – *yes data is being collected as a requirement of seat time waivers;*
5. is information being collected on expelled students – *yes it is; there is a federal requirement to report number of expulsions; this is a way to stop students from dropping out of school and keep them involved;*
6. what would the implications be for home school students – *they are reported among the previously unenrolled;*
7. visited a very impressive seat time waiver program in Westwood Schools that serves Wayne County; it is a cyber high school that is at capacity with 580 enrolled;
8. is the comment period long enough – *there will be enough time; holidays provide a break to have the opportunity to review the document; could add one more webinar in the second week of January;*
9. there are increases in enrollment and waiting lists; this is how students learn; why is there a 10 percent limit – *to make sure there is data that this produces results;*

10. Goal 2, Strategy 1, page 10, regarding leadership; should include a statement about how we will access and share research – *we are committed to research based models; grants required a research base; it will be included;*
11. Goal 3, Strategy 1, number 2, page 13, regarding teacher preparation; how do teachers learn differently to use an online course and how to help students to gain the most from the online experience; there is a difference between online teaching and learning and textbook teaching and learning – *language can be strengthened in number 5;*
12. Goal 4, Strategy 1, number 5 on page 17; will the data be tied to a grade level, school, or specific students and teachers; should it be strengthened to meet the requirement for Race To The Top – *there are federal requirements to provide school performance data;*
13. Mark C. Taylor quote on page 4 is noteworthy;
14. we are educating students for jobs that are not yet available;
15. how did Pennsylvania get universal access across the state – *it was done several years ago when funding for broadband was more available; we are talking to the person who developed the plan;*
16. The Online Teacher of the Year teaches traditionally during the day and online at night and in the summer; she could be a tremendous asset regarding teacher preparation for online learning;

B. Presentation Regarding Public School Academy Legislative Report

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. Report by State Board of Education Regarding NASBE Study Groups and Annual Conference

Mrs. Straus said she, Mr. Austin, Mrs. Curtin, Mrs. Danhof, and Mr. Turner attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Annual Conference on October 15-17, 2009.

Mrs. Straus said Governor Jennifer Granholm received the Policy Leader of the Year Award and her speech was a conference highlight. She said people from all around the country were impressed with her knowledge and commitment to education.

Mr. Austin said Governor Granholm spoke about what Michigan has done in spite of tough economic times including rigorous K-12 standards and learning expectations, the Promise Scholarship, and No Worker Left Behind.

Mrs. Danhof said she would welcome the opportunity to do a study group presentation at a future date.

D. Discussion Regarding Criteria for Grant Programs

There were no questions from Board members regarding grant criteria.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 13, 2009

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 13, 2009.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

B. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 26, 2009

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 26, 2009.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

- C. Approval of Record of Retreat of November 24, 2009

Mrs. Curtin moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of the State Board of Education Retreat held on November 24, 2009.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

XII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Race To The Top

Mrs. Straus said there is a lot of focus on the Race To The Top application process and the legislation necessary to ensure eligibility to apply for the grant. She said she has been attending the meetings of the Oversight Committee, and the Board also held a retreat on November 24 to discuss Race To The Top issues.

Mrs. Straus said although school districts are eligible to receive Race To The Top funding, they must first sign a memorandum of understanding.

Mrs. Straus said there will be four public stakeholder meetings to explain Race To The Top. The meetings will be held in Marquette, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and Detroit. She said there will also be webinars.

Mrs. Straus said Mrs. Bauer is on the Stakeholders Committee, and Mr. Austin is on the Operations Committee.

- B. Public Television Strategic Plan for Southeast Michigan

Mrs. Straus said she met with Rich Homberg, who is President of Channel 56, the public television station in the Detroit area. She said he has developed a strategic plan with education as a major part including tutoring. She said this would be helpful in reaching students who may not be reached by any other means.

- C. Network of Michigan Educators

Mrs. Straus said she, Mrs. Bauer, and Mrs. Curtin met with members of the Network of Michigan Educators during the conference breakout sessions on December 1. She said she continues to be impressed with the caliber of the teachers from

the Network of Michigan Educators, and she said she learned a lot from speaking with them.

D. School Improvement Conference, JumpStart Conference, and Michigan Virtual University Banquet

Mrs. Straus said on December 2 she was able to see Mr. Flanagan's video presentation at the School Improvement Conference, and then she left to speak at a JumpStart Conference for teachers regarding personal finance and financial literacy. Mrs. Straus said Mrs. Curtin attended the School Improvement Conference as well as the Michigan Virtual University (MVU) Banquet to present the award to the MVU Teacher of the Year.

E. Westwood Cyber High School

Mrs. Straus said, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, she and Mrs. Bauer visited Westwood Cyber High School.

F. U.S. Census Bureau Lesson Plans

Mrs. Straus said she received a packet of information on the 2010 Census including lesson plans from the U.S. Census Bureau. She said the Census is very important not only because it determines apportionment, but also population counts that become the basis for distribution of Federal funds which are critical for Michigan citizens. She said it is essential that everyone is counted.

G. Detroit Public Schools

Mrs. Straus said she is very concerned about Detroit Public Schools, and she asked if the State Board of Education can be given more information. Mr. Flanagan said the focus continues to be not only Detroit Public Schools, but all schools that perform in the bottom five percent.

XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

H. Human Resources Update

I. Report on Property Transfer Decisions

Grants

J. Report on Grant Awards

- 2009-2010 Enhancing Education Through Technology, Title II, Part D, Competitive Programs – Initial
- 2009-2010 Enhancing Education Through Technology, Title II, Part D, Competitive Program – ARRA – Initial
- 2009-2010 *Early On* Formula Allocation Grants (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 – Amendment
- 2009-2010 Mandated Activities Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), Part C – Continuation
- 2009-2010 Title I, Part C Regular Migrant Program Allocations – Amendment
- 2009-2010 Title I, School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial
- 2009-2010 U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Initial
- 2010-2011 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II (B)) – Initial
- 2009-2010 Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) – Initial

Reports

- K. Report on the Mason-Lake Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- L. Report on a Modification to the Previously Approved Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on:

A. Deficit Districts

Mr. Flanagan said the Department of Education will continue to have direct conversations with districts regarding the need for a deficit elimination plan or State Aid payments will be withheld. He said the process maintains local control.

B. ReImagining

Mr. Flanagan said ReImagining can lead to higher levels of student achievement by rethinking the way things are done. He said the Harlem Children's Zone Project in New York City is year round education including Saturday mornings, and it is highly successful.

Mr. Flanagan said processes, rules, and manuals are being evaluated at the Department level to determine if they are necessary.

Mrs. Bauer said she is part of a committee of superintendents and Department staff that is examining the Pupil Accounting Manual to determine if it can be streamlined.

C. Van Buren ISD and Benton Harbor Visit

Mr. Flanagan said he made school visits to Van Buren ISD and Benton Harbor, and he is convinced that academic credits can be obtained through career and technical education courses. He said he was impressed with the students, staff, board members and superintendents, as well as the community partnerships.

Mrs. Bauer said it is good for students to have options. She said the Westwood Schools program mentioned earlier in the meeting draws from all of Wayne County.

XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Marianne Yared McGuire

Mrs. McGuire asked if Mr. Bobb submits reports to the Michigan Department of Education. Ms. Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, said the Department receives regular updates on the Deficit Elimination Plan, and the consent agreement requires regular cash flow statements as well as other updates.

Ms. Andrea Post, Administrative Aide, said there is a memorandum from Mr. Flanagan to Mr. Robert Bobb, Emergency Financial Manager of Detroit Public Schools, requesting that Mr. Bobb submit monthly reports of any payments that are paid to him from the district.

Mrs. McGuire asked if Mr. Bobb reports any problems that he has uncovered. Ms. Post said the Department knows about accounts payable.

Mrs. McGuire asked if Mr. Bobb sends reports to the Governor. Mr. Flanagan said the Governor makes the appointment, but under Public Act 72, his relationship is with the Michigan Department of Education, and the Governor receives no reports.

XV. REPORT OF THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Robert Stephenson, 2009-2010 Michigan Teacher of the Year presented the Report of the Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Stephenson said his district continues to address financial concerns, and he appreciates the sense of optimism in his district as they work toward solutions.

He said as Teacher of the Year, he was the keynote speaker at Ingham Intermediate School District's Celebration of Public Instruction on November 18 where Board members were present.

Mr. Stephenson distributed a Network of Michigan Educator newsletter that included conference highlights. He said he appreciated the attendance of the Board members and Mr. Flanagan.

Mr. Stephenson said his classroom units of study have recently included Native Americans and engineering.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

XVII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Emily Whitney, Clinton County, Michigan. Ms. Whitney provided verbal comments regarding her experience as a high school student participating in an introduction to education class at Lansing Community College.
- B. Dr. Carole Ames, East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Ames, Michigan State University, Dean of the College of Education, provided verbal information on Michigan State University's Program to train teachers of American Sign Language.

XVIII. UPDATE ON AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009

Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Cary Cuiccio, Senior Program Manager, District and School Improvement Services, Learning Point Associates; and Dr. Jann Jencka, Education Director in the Governor's Economic Recovery Office; presented Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Mrs. Wolenberg provided an update on Phase I of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund award of \$872 million for local educational agencies and institutions of higher education. She said everyone worked very hard, and the process has gone well. A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Mrs. Wolenberg said Phase II is \$429,781,767 for local educational agencies. She said it is contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature and an acceptable and approved application.

Dr. Jencka reviewed the funding requirements for Institutions of Higher Education.

Dr. Vaughn used a PowerPoint presentation to review the four reform goals under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (1) standards and assessments, (2) data systems, (3) effective teachers and leaders, and (4) support for struggling schools and districts.

Ms. Cuiccio reviewed the point system and considerations for the Race To The Top application. She said local support will be demonstrated through a memorandum of understanding signed by each local educational agency's superintendent, board president, and labor leadership in order to receive any Race To The Top funding.

Dr. Vaughn reviewed the timeline including December webinars, stakeholder gatherings, memorandum of understanding signatures, and statements of support culminating in an application submission by January 19, 2010.

Mr. Flanagan said in an effort to give districts advanced notice, he and Mrs. Straus will sign a letter to districts notifying them that the signatures of its Superintendent, Board President, and Teacher Union President will be required on a memorandum of understanding.

In response to Mr. Austin, Ms. Cuiccio said Race To The Top applications must be submitted by states, and Investing in Innovation (i3) applications can be submitted by local school districts. Mr. Austin asked if the ReImagined districts will be folded into the Race To The Top application, and Dr. Vaughn said those districts are currently receiving technical assistance toward that goal.

Mrs. Bauer said there should be clarification between the state's Race To The Top application that requires a memorandum of understanding and the Investing in Innovation application that districts can submit.

Mrs. McGuire said newspaper advertisements could be used as a way to inform the public. Mr. Flanagan said associations could also notify their membership.

XIX. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE INCLUDING POSITIONS ON BILLS REQUIRED FOR RACE TO THE TOP APPLICATION

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, State and Federal Legislative Director; Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Cary Cuiccio, Senior Program Manager, District and School Improvement Services, Learning

Point Associates; and Dr. Jann Jencka, Education Director in the Governor's Economic Recovery Office; presented State and Federal Legislative Update Including Positions on Bills Required for Race To The Top Application.

Ms. Hansknecht provided current updates on the status of legislative initiatives required to be eligible for Race To The Top funding.

Mr. Austin said the Board needs to endorse the legislation, not because it qualifies Michigan for the Race To The Top, but also they are the right things to do for education. He said he believes they are the right things to do for education.

Mrs. McGuire said she does not believe that alternative certification will help students, because it is lowering the standards for teachers. She said it also sends the message that traditional degrees are cheapened. She said it has not been demonstrated that there is a need for teachers that are alternatively certified. She said she is opposed to alternate routes to teacher certification.

Ms. Ulbrich said the Board has had extensive conversations regarding alternative certification for people who want to change careers and would bring enhanced knowledge to the classroom. She said she agrees that in those instances it would be a good thing to bring some enhanced knowledge to the classroom, but that is not addressed in the proposed legislation which requires a bachelors degree and a minimum grade point average. She said the Board has spent much time developing standards, and this is not the right way to do alternative certification.

Mrs. Straus asked if the proposed legislation mentions people who are changing careers and that the Board and Superintendent would ensure that providers would be offering rigorous programs. Ms. Hansknecht said career changers are not mentioned in legislation. She said the federal guidance for Race To The Top wants it to be more than career changers targeting a different pool of people.

Mrs. Hansknecht said the Department develops standards, which along with criteria, come before the Board for approval.

Mrs. Straus said she does not want to lower standards.

Mrs. McGuire said the bill would allow teachers to go into the classroom after one semester of pedagogy, and learn on the job.

Mr. Austin said the candidates would go through a quality, rigorous program and the Board would approve the program standards.

Dr. Jenkins, Director of the Office of Professional Preparation Services, said the Superintendent of Public Instruction has the authority to make rules regarding teacher certification. She said the programs will be quality programs.

Mrs. Curtin said the first time alternative routes to teacher certification was presented an example was given that it could be used for engineers who had mathematics and science skills and wanted to teach and share their expertise.

Mrs. Straus said there is nothing to preclude institutions of higher education from providing alternative certification programs.

Ms. Cuiccio read the United States Department of Education's definition of alternatives routes to teacher certification.

Mrs. Bauer said Senate Bill 965 addresses the Board's concerns.

Mr. Stephenson said he is not threatened by people who want to change careers. He said he had a previous career in woodworking. He said he has mentored old and young teachers and the mentor experience is supervised. He said it is apparent whether or not they are prepared. Mr. Flanagan said the local district has the option of hiring their choice of candidate.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education supports and urges prompt action on the following legislative proposals needed to position Michigan to compete for Federal Race To The Top funding.

The Board supports measures before the Legislature currently designed to: turnaround underperforming schools and districts (HB 4787, as passed the House; and SB 981, as passed the Senate); develop high quality alternative routes for administrator and teacher certification at all levels (HBs 5623 [H-1]); allow additional demonstrated effective public school academies to be created (SBs 925, as passed the Senate; and 926 as passed the Senate); and to connect student performance as one component in teacher and administrator evaluations (SB 981, as passed the Senate; and HB 5623[H-1]).

Ms. Ulbrich said she does not support the public school academy portion of the motion. She said this would make her vote no on the entire motion. She said she could support alternative routes to certification, because there could be checks and balances. She said she believes the public school academy portion is unnecessary and creates a disincentive to fix charter schools that are not performing.

Mrs. Danhof asked what the federal requirement is for Race To The Top. Mr. Austin said states cannot inhibit the growth or development of charter schools.

Mrs. Straus said she would be willing to remove the public school academy portion from the motion. She said Michigan has more charter schools than most states. She said there is only a cap on university chartered schools, and local educational agencies and intermediate schools districts can charter as many schools as they choose.

Ms. Hansknecht said legislators were trying to be competitive and increase the number of high quality schools. Ms. Cuiccio said there is nothing in the Race To The Top application requiring that the piece be passed. She said the intent is to create an atmosphere to promote successful charter schools and close bad ones.

Mrs. McGuire said there is insufficient funding to provide oversight. She said she believes this is deregulation of charters and other sectors of education and we know deregulation does not work.

Mrs. Bauer said there is no cap, and it would be good if monitoring and oversight of high-quality programs could be written in the legislation. Ms. Hansknecht said the legislation regarding schools that are not performing and in the bottom five percent applies to charter schools.

In response to Mr. Austin, Ms. Hansknecht said there have been ongoing discussions with labor, the Governor's Office, the Michigan Department of Education, the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding accountability for closing the bottom performing schools and how to define high quality.

Ms. Ulbrich said Michigan has the least restrictive environment for charter schools than any other state.

Mr. Austin said he will support removing the public school academy language as proposed in the original motion.

Mrs. Curtin said Mrs. Bauer suggested that the application include an explanation of the public school academy cap and the authorizing options currently in place in Michigan. Mrs. Curtin said if an explanation is included she will support the revised motion.

The motion as modified reads:

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education supports and urges prompt action on the following legislative proposals needed to position Michigan to compete for Federal Race To The Top funding.

The Board supports measures before the Legislature currently designed to: turnaround underperforming schools and districts (HB 4787, as passed the House; and SB 981, as passed the Senate); develop high quality alternative routes for administrator and teacher certification at all levels (HBs 5623 [H-1]); and to connect student performance as one component in teacher and administrator evaluations (SB 981, as passed the Senate; and HB 5623[H-1]).

The vote was taken on the motion, as modified.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

Ms. Hansknecht said legislators recognize that the public school academy issue is a competitive edge in the Race To The Top application that promotes replication of successful programs and addresses the closure of the bottom performing five percent.

XX. APPROVAL OF FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY AS A TEACHER PREPARATION INSTITUTION WITH PROBATIONARY APPROVAL

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services; Dr. Steve Stegink, Higher Education Consultant; Office of Professional Preparation Services; Dr. Lorene Ziegler, Chair of Elementary Education, Finlandia University; and Dr. Kirk Nigro, Committee of Scholars, (retired) from Northern Michigan University; presented Approval of Finlandia University as a Teacher Preparation Institution with Probationary Approval.

Mr. Flanagan said that at its October 13, 2009, meeting, the Board was asked to grant probationary approval to Finlandia University as a teacher preparation institution. He said the Board did not grant the request and asked for clarification on a number of issues.

Dr. Jenkins said the report includes the information requested by the Board at its October meeting. She said Finlandia University staff have also fixed the "broken links" that were included in the previous report.

Dr. Jenkins said the Committee of Scholars has recommended that Finlandia University be granted three-year probationary approval and has developed specific criteria before a request for full approval will be considered.

Mrs. McGuire said outreach to the Native American community was a concern that she had, and it appears that concern has been addressed.

Mrs. Danhof said K.S.4 on page 6 of the conceptual framework document addresses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate student performance. She said the document later states on page 14 that it is met with weakness. She asked what kind of strategies there are to meet the weakness. Dr. Ziegler said students learn how to assess through various formative and informal methods.

Mrs. Straus said 7.I.A.1.d on page 7 was met with weakness. Dr. Ziegler said the research that it was based on needs to be specified.

Mrs. Danhof said the classroom has dramatically changed, and she is concerned about whether or not that is being addressed. Dr. Ziegler said the classroom discipline instruction has been moved to the student teaching seminar.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education grant probationary approval to Finlandia University's professional education unit for three years (December 2009 – December 2012), as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich

Nay: Bauer, Danhof

Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

Finlandia University will return to the State Board of Education in three years for final approval of its elementary teacher preparation program if all requirements are met.

Mrs. Danhof left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

XXI. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTABILITY WORKBOOK AMENDMENTS FOR 2009-2010

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; and Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented Approval of Accountability Workbook Amendments for 2009-2010.

Mr. Flanagan said the Accountability Workbook is the annual negotiation of the details of the state's plan for No Child Left Behind, and the Board is being asked to approve the amendments.

Dr. Vaughn said the Board has supported the requested amendments in past years. She said the U.S. Department of Education has asked every state to provide a detailed worksheet to request an amendment for cohort

graduation rates. She said the Michigan Department of Education is adding four amendments to clarify current practices.

Ms. Galloway explained the amendments, as specified in the Accountability Workbook.

Mrs. Straus asked how home schooled students are tracked. Ms. Galloway said that is optional data, but in some school districts students who are home schooled are taking core classes in a public school and that data is included.

Mrs. Straus said the statewide graduation rate goal is 80 percent, but there are 231 schools that are lower. Ms. Galloway said out of 753 high schools in the state, 231 have a graduation rate that is from zero to 79 percent.

Mrs. Straus said adequate yearly progress is based on reading, so how does writing fit in? Ms. Galloway said writing is still assessed but not at every grade level, and the state accreditation system includes reading and writing.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Accountability Workbook Amendments for 2009-2010, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof, Turner

The motion carried.

The Accountability Workbook Amendments will be submitted to the United States Department of Education.

XXII. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S DEAF EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

Mr. Flanagan said that at the November 24 State Board of Education Retreat, the Board asked staff to draft a resolution regarding the decision by Michigan State University to eliminate its Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program.

Mr. Austin thanked Dr. Carole Ames, Dean of the College of Education of Michigan State University, for attending the Board meeting, and offering suggestions for solutions. Mr. Austin said Michigan State University takes its land grant status seriously. He said Michigan State University is doing a great job of preparing educators to teach deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution regarding Michigan State University's Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 24, 2009.

Mr. Austin said although the State Board of Education would like Michigan State University to reconsider its decision to terminate its Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program, he respects their authority to do so.

Mr. Austin said he would like to amend the draft resolution to state that if MSU terminates its program, that Michigan State University work with the Michigan Department of Education to determine how Michigan can best continue to provide high quality diverse teacher preparation programs to train teachers to serve Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students in Michigan.

Mrs. Straus agreed to the proposed amendment.

Mrs. Bauer said there needs to be a sense of urgency that if the program is not going to be preserved or restored there needs to be an alternative model right away.

Dr. Ames and Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, said there are alternative methods that could be explored to address the need.

Dr. Thompson said low incidence disabilities will continue to challenge universities from a financial standpoint.

Mrs. Bauer said the process should include preparation of educators for all low incidence areas.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof, Turner

The motion carried.

The Resolution regarding Michigan State University's Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program is attached as Exhibit A.

XXIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Criteria

- R. Approval of Competitive Grant Criteria for *Early On* Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009
- S. Approval of Criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs
- T. Approval of Criteria for Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program
- U. Approval of Criteria for Statewide Collaboration for Technical Assistance Grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program
- V. Approval of Criteria for Grants to Create and Implement Middle College High Schools Focused on the Field of Health Sciences or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- W. Approval of Criteria for Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant
- X. Approval of Grant Criteria for Migrant Education Program Identification and Recruitment Centers

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:

- R. **approve the criteria for Early On under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**
- S. **approve the criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**
- T. **approve the criteria for the Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**

- U. approve the criteria for Statewide Collaboration for Technical Assistance Grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**
- V. approve the criteria for the Middle College High School Health Sciences or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**
- W. approve the criteria for the Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**
- X. approve the criteria for Migrant Education Program Identification and Recruitment Centers under Title I, Part C, No Child Left Behind, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009;**

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof, Turner

The motion carried.

XXIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- A. Inclusive Schools Week – Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer**

Mrs. Bauer said this is Inclusive Schools Week and she is pleased that the Department e-mail signature blocks include a tag line highlighting the importance of inclusive education.

- B. Board Meetings to Address School Funding – Mr. John C. Austin**

Mr. Austin said Board members will be contacted regarding their thoughts on a process for addressing school funding through a series of Board meetings beginning with the January meeting.

XXV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mrs. Straus, Mr. Austin, and Mrs. Curtin with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, January 12, 2010
- B. Tuesday, February 9, 2010
- C. Tuesday, March 9, 2010
- D. Tuesday, April 13, 2010

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

Resolution

Michigan State University Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program

WHEREAS, The Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program at Michigan State University's College of Education is one of only two in the State of Michigan, and the only teacher preparation program in the State that prepares teachers for bi-lingual (American Sign Language/ASL and English) programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the proposal by the College of Education to terminate this program as well as the ASL program has significant negative consequences for the State of Michigan, its public schools, and students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing as well as the supply of teachers; and

WHEREAS, Michigan students who enroll in Deaf Education programs in other states are less likely to return to Michigan after completion of such programs, thus increasing the exodus of Michigan citizens; and

WHEREAS, the loss of nationally prominent faculty at Michigan State University who created this federally recognized Deaf Education Program will negatively impact the training of higher education faculty in Deaf Education as well as teachers of students who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Michigan identifies over 3,000 students as Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and eligible for special education services annually, all of whom are entitled to special education programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of the termination of this program and the ASL program will disproportionately impact signing Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and multiply impaired students in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, not only Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing persons, but also Hearing persons without verbal language learn through the use of sign language; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Department are dedicated to ensuring that teachers and other personnel serving children with disabilities are adequately prepared and trained; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education, serving as the Board for the Michigan School for the Deaf, has a Constitutional responsibility to provide leadership and general supervision over all public education, including special education services; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education request Michigan State University's College of Education reconsider the decision to terminate the Deaf Education Teacher Preparation and ASL Programs, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that if MSU terminates its program, that Michigan State University work with the Michigan Department of Education to determine how Michigan can best continue to provide high quality diverse teacher preparation programs to train teachers to serve Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students in Michigan.

Adopted December 8, 2009