

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

November 9, 2010
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
Mr. Daniel Varner
Mr. Michael Zeig, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Also Present: Ms. Matinga Ragatz, 2010-2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mrs. Hamilton said Discussion Regarding Outcome of Election 2010 (Item A) and State and Federal Legislative Report (Item K) will be combined and presented as Item A.

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan introduced Daniel Varner, who was attending his first meeting as a member of the State Board of Education. Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Varner was appointed by Governor Granholm on October 27, 2010, to fill the term expiring January 2015 that was vacated when Reginald Turner resigned to spend more time with family and at his law practice. Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Varner is a program officer with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and he co-founded Think Detroit, a youth development organization that is now called Think Detroit Police Athletic League.

Mr. Flanagan said that in December, the Board will formally recognize the contributions of Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. Curtin, and Mr. Turner whose terms are expiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Flanagan said Eileen Weiser and Richard Zeile were elected in the November general election to serve terms on the State Board of Education from January 1, 2011, to January 1, 2019.

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. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Discussion Regarding Outcome of Election 2010 and State and Federal Legislative Report

The following individual presented:

- Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, Director, State and Federal Relations

Discussion Regarding Outcome of Election 2010 and State and Federal Legislative Report were combined into one presentation.

Ms. Hansknecht provided an update on state and federal November election results and state legislative initiatives including an update on the Michigan School Assessment and Accountability System, teacher tenure legislation, and the appropriation of the remainder of the Education Jobs Fund.

Mr. Flanagan said Governor-elect Rick Snyder asked him to be the education person on the transition team, and he is appreciative of the opportunity.

Mr. Austin said the State Board of Education will also be working directly with Governor-elect Snyder.

Mr. Austin said that Carolyn Curtin did not seek re-election for her term that ends January 1, 2011; and Elizabeth Bauer was not successful in seeking re-election. He said Eileen Weiser and Richard Zeile were successful in their election bids for eight year terms ending January 1, 2019. He said Casandra Ulbrich was not successful in seeking a Senate seat, and she will remain on the State Board of Education.

Mr. Austin said new legislators will need to be acquainted with the Board's agenda including the continuation of reforms and accountability, turning around failing schools, and adding more to teacher quality and its support system. He said the State Board of Education will persist as strong advocates for a strong educational system that will help the state to be strong economically. He said priorities need to be rearranged and resources invested in things that makes Michigan strong such as early childhood education, a strengthened K-12 educational system, and a reverse in the dismantling of the higher education system. He said education and human capital need investment because that is what makes Michigan strong.

Mrs. Straus said she is happy to welcome Dan Varner to the State Board of Education as a Governor-appointee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Reginald Turner, a valued Board member. She said she is sad to see Elizabeth Bauer and Carolyn Curtin ending their terms on the Board as they have been very knowledgeable and active Board members. Mrs. Straus said she welcomes Casandra Ulbrich's continued participation on the Board. She said she is proud of the State Board of Education and our collegial bipartisan relationship.

Mrs. Bauer said she appreciates all the support she has received from State Board of Education colleagues, the education field, and department staff.

B. Discussion Regarding Michigan Department of Education Budget

The following individuals presented:

- Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Deputy Superintendent and State School Reform Officer

The presentation focused on the significant impact of past budget cuts and the recent retirement incentive on the Michigan Department of Education.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. how many of the 60 staff retiring are full time – *most are full time; there are a few seasonal workers at the Michigan School for the Deaf;*
2. how many Michigan School for the Deaf teachers are retiring – *one teacher;*
3. are all of the 60 positions state funded – *no, there is a mixture of state and federal funding;*
4. is the State Board of Education Executive Secretary position being eliminated – *yes;*
5. the economy and education are critically linked together; job cuts have also been occurring in the private sector; we need a solid economy to fully fund public and private jobs;
6. think another way entirely and combine education offices from all departments; reorganize the silos of state government resulting in ease and greater resources for the user with less administration;
7. need to keep the employees we have so we don't lose them to other jobs; they are dedicated, hard working, and caring;

8. there are broad outcomes derived from education which are delivering achievement gains and are some of the best investments that can be made;
9. discussion and factual detail was helpful;
10. if the lack of staff means that grant programs cannot be monitored then we should not seek funding;
11. need to speak in terms of how many dollars in grant funding will be given up, because that message resonates with the public and Legislature;
12. Governor-elect Rick Snyder speaks of outcomes and the Michigan Department of Education is good at that, but we need to get better;
13. impact should be what matters to children; outcomes, rather than numbers, must be used to determine if there was impact for investments;
14. Board should consider having fewer meetings and saving staff time; and
15. the State Board of Education can do more in terms of public policy shaping and public dialogue leading and have a larger role as well as implement and respect the need for efficiencies of staff time; the Board needs to step up more and be more active; it will require more work but it can be done.

C. Discussion Regarding School Districts Operating in Deficit

The following individuals presented:

- Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Mr. Daniel Hanrahan, Director, State Aid and School Finance

Forty one school districts ended the 2008-2009 school year in deficit. The data from the 2009-2010 school year are due on November 15. A review of unaudited budget transparency shows nine additional districts are in deficit as of June 30, 2010, and seven districts have come out of deficit.

An explanation was provided regarding what happens when a school district is in deficit including what is required and how the Michigan Department of Education provides assistance.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. 11 of the 41 deficit districts are charter schools; by statute the deficit elimination plan must eliminate the deficit in two years; some districts have been in deficit for more than two years – *the Superintendent of Public Instruction has the authority to grant an extension; some districts have received three year extensions for a total of five years;*
2. why did districts get into deficit; when does the Department begin to see red flags – *districts have been identified that are precariously close for reasons such as less than 5% fund balance or enrollment decline; Michigan Department of Education authority does not start until there is an audited financial statement that shows the district is in deficit; there is no staffing to address this earlier;*
3. can districts borrow – *most districts use the Michigan Municipal Finance Authority in the Department of Treasury; districts typically borrow for one year and pledge the next year's State School Aid; interest rates are 1 to 3 percent; there is also longer term borrowing for capital projects; if a district is in deficit an approved deficit elimination plan must be in effect; districts can also go out on their own and get a loan;*
4. if a district cannot put together a deficit elimination plan that can be approved, then an emergency financial manager is appointed by the Governor, and that has happened in Detroit; all parties need to work together to make shared sacrifices to allow districts to erase the deficits;
5. self-determination in communities is important and it should be respected, but it should not trump the rights of children to receive a quality education;
6. what is the total amount of the deficit as of June 30, 2009; what trends should the Board expect to see – *as of June 30, 2009, 41 districts were in deficit for a total of \$289 million; the number of school districts going into deficit is increasing each year;*

7. many urban and rural districts are experiencing pupil decline, large transportation costs, or security costs; and
8. are any of the districts that were to have come out of deficit in 2009-2010 still in deficit – *although final numbers are not yet available, approximately seven districts are anticipated to come out of deficit status; the others will have to submit a new deficit elimination plan.*

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole meeting at 11:51 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

D. Discussion Regarding Home Schooling

The following individuals presented:

- Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Ms. Mary Ann Chartrand, Director, Grants Coordination and School Support
- Dr. Joseph Martineau, Director, Educational Assessment and Accountability
- Mr. Louis Burgess, Supervisor, Grants Coordination and School Support

Staff provided the Board with a Home Schooling in Michigan fact sheet, a summary of home schools meeting reporting requirements in Michigan from 1989 through 2010, and a summary of home school regulations in the United States.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. are the MEAP scores of home schooled students reported in the district scores – *no*;
2. registration is not required so we do not have complete data on educational levels of home schooled children;
3. we do not know how many children are home schooled, and we are not doing children a service if we do not know how many students are home schooled;
4. the Board should have a discussion regarding policy on this topic, but there are other partners who should be included in the discussion;

5. in Michigan the rationale is to let parents teach their children in the manner they prefer, and the Board is politically unlikely to gather support for any type of learning regime; common sense ideas could be developed for helping local school districts become aware if there are home schooled students within their district that may at some point enter the public school; school districts could reach out to offer curriculum;
6. push for registration; how does the Board fulfill its obligation if there is no information;
7. do home schooled children have the same access to postsecondary education; do we have data when they attempt to enter a college or university – *no, we do not have the data*;
8. if people register then they have to meet certain requirements which may be a deterrent for registering;
9. personal experience as a teacher has been that home schooled students have been well educated, but it is a responsibility the Board cannot shrug off;
10. need to know where these children are; there is an obligation to be sure children are safe; someone could work through a home schooling advocacy group so that if people do register they will see it as in their best interest and not as a threat;
11. home schooled children can be wonderfully educated; but there is a fear of not knowing if children's needs are being met;
12. Board could begin to get some common sense policy directions; stakeholder input will be eagerly provided; and
13. research what has been done in other states.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole meeting at 1:30 p.m. to reconvene the Regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. Gary Oyster, Lapeer, Michigan. Mr. Oyster provided verbal and written comments on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Michigan Merit Exam test results.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular meeting at 1:38 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

- E. Discussion Regarding Criteria for Grant Programs

Mrs. Bauer asked how many grant recipients are indicated by "several" as specified in the Criteria for Grants to Create and Implement Middle College High Schools Focused on Health Sciences or Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Ms. Patty Cantu, Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education, said it was three this year, and it depends on the total amount available and the grant amount requested.

Mrs. Danhof asked if there has been a determination of whether or not Detroit is still considered a district of the first class, due to declining enrollment. Mr. Flanagan said no determination has been made.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:38 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. State Board of Education Colleagues

Mrs. Straus said she is glad to welcome Eileen Weiser and Richard Zeile to the Board meeting. She said they will begin serving their eight-year terms on the State Board of Education on January 1, 2011. She said Elizabeth Bauer, Carolyn Curtin, and Reginald Turner will be honored at the December meeting, as they end their terms as Board members.

B. Foundations Meeting

Mrs. Straus said Ms. Ulbrich, Mr. Austin, and she participated in a meeting of funders with Mr. Flanagan and key Department staff. She said Mr. Flanagan is exploring possible outside sources of revenue to help support the Department's role in turning around the persistently lowest achieving schools. She said the representatives of a number of foundations were exploring where our missions might coincide.

C. Belding High School Visit

Mrs. Straus said that following the adoption of the nutrition standards at the Board's November meeting, she visited Belding High School for an announcement of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funds. She said the grant was awarded to the Departments of Community Health and Education to implement the nutrition standards plus physical education and exercise in three pilot districts.

D. National Milken Educator Award

Mrs. Straus said she attended the surprise announcement of the National Milken Educator Award with Mr. Flanagan and Jean Shane. Mrs. Straus said this year's recipient is Ms. Patty Paxton, a teacher at Krause Later Elementary School in the Armada Area School District.

E. Michigan Virtual University Online Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Straus said she attended the Michigan Virtual University Online Teacher of the Year banquet with Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. Curtin, and Mrs. McGuire. She said Molly Bruzewski of Bay City and Andrew Vanden Heuvel of Grand Haven were named the Michigan Virtual University Online Teachers of the Year.

F. Michigan Council on Economic Education

Mrs. Straus said she attended the Michigan Council on Economic Education 2010 Economic Summit where Doug Rothwell was the speaker and he talked about the Business Leaders for Michigan Turnaround Plan For Michigan. She said the 2009 Michigan Council on Economic Education Educator of the Year is a fourth grade elementary school teacher.

XVII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

G. Human Resources Update

H. Report on Teacher Certification Revocation Decision

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

- 2009-2010 ISD Collaboration Grant – Amendment
- 2010-2011 ISD Collaboration Grant – Initial and Continuation
- 2010-2011 Title I School Improvement – Initial
- 2010-2011 Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial
- 2010-2011 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Amendment
- 2009-2010 ARRA – The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Amendment
- 2009-2010 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Amendment
- 2010-2011 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Evaluation Grant – Continuation
- 2010-2011 Training and Technical Assistance for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant – Continuation
- 2010-2011 Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Continuation
- 2010-2011 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants – Amendment
- 2010-2011 Title III, Part A, Immigrant Program – Initial
- 2010-2011 Region 3 ISD Partnership Grant – Initial and Continuation

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on:

A. Governor-Elect Rick Snyder's Transition Team

Mr. Flanagan said he was asked to be the Education Transition Representative for Governor-Elect Rick Snyder, and he is looking forward to that opportunity.

B. Foundations Meeting

Mr. Flanagan said as Mrs. Straus reported, he had the pleasure of meeting with a cadre of foundation representatives interested in helping with education reform efforts such as the persistently lowest achieving schools and developing a cadre of people who can assist with the turnaround schools.

C. Grosse Pointe Public Schools Visit

Mr. Flanagan said he visited Grosse Pointe Public Schools and he saw an elementary school that is excelling despite a high percentage of students on free and reduced lunch. He said this is the type of school that can serve as a model for others. He said he also had the opportunity to meet with students, teachers, administrators, and the board.

D. Benton Harbor Area Schools Visit

Mr. Flanagan said he visited a Benton Harbor Area Schools high school which is on the persistently lowest achieving list. He said he has tremendous faith in the new Superintendent, Dr. Leonard Seawood, and he appreciates that they are linking their education reform plan with their deficit elimination plan.

XVIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked Dr. Joseph Martineau, Director, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, to provide an explanation of the timeliness of the release of data from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Michigan Merit Exam.

Dr. Martineau said public release cannot occur until information is verified. He said administrators can review their data as long as the data is not released at a local board meeting. Mr. Flanagan said that message can be communicated more clearly to districts.

XIX. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Matinga Ragatz, 2010-2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented her report.

Ms. Ragatz shared her experience of participating in the Grand Ledge Public Schools teachers' group trip to see the movie Waiting for Superman.

XX. APPROVAL OF REVISED ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Ms. Mary Ann Chartrand, Director, Grants Coordination and School Support Services; and Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Supervisor, School Health and Safety Programs; presented Approval of Revised Anti-Bullying Policy.

Mr. Flanagan said the Board discussed the existing policies on Anti-Bullying at its October meeting, and based on that discussion staff have provided proposed modifications to both the Policies on Bullying and Model Anti-Bullying Policy.

Mr. Flanagan said pending Board approval, the policies will be distributed and posted to the internet.

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the (1) Policies on Bullying, and (2) Model Anti-Bullying Policy, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 5, 2010.

Ms. Ulbrich said the definitions of bullying and harassment on page 4 of the Model Anti-Bullying Policy are redundant. Mr. Guerrant said it is written that way to be consistent with the 1999 Safe Schools Legislation.

Mrs. Bauer said the document should be consistent in citing both students and adults.

Mrs. Straus said the State Board of Education's Legislative Committee asked that the Anti-Bullying Policy be reviewed and updated, and she is appreciative of the work done by staff.

Mrs. Wolenberg said that on page 2, second paragraph, the wording should be changed to "violence in schools and suicides."

Mr. Flanagan said he will request that the Michigan Association of School Boards publish the updated policies.

Ms. Ragatz said sexual orientation is a concern among students who are bullied. Dr. Wolenberg said there is reference made on page 4 of the document.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Policies are available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

XXI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

XXII. CONSENT AGENDA

Criteria

- L. Approval of Criteria for Grants to Create and Implement Middle College High Schools Focused on Health Sciences or Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Resolutions

- M. Adoption of Resolutions Honoring Department of Education Employees

- Linda Armstrong
- Mary Beckwith
- Donna Beltz
- Barbara Campbell
- Jim Constandt
- Mary Dredge
- Linda Droste
- Rick Floria
- Jean Hude
- Pamela Matelsky
- Bonnie Norton
- Leonora Okeke-Aaron
- Jennette Woodruff
- Karen Zarka

- N. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Local School Board Recognition Month

- O. Adoption of Resolution Regarding International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- P. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Inclusive Schools Week

Approvals

- Q. Approval of the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Assessments for General Management and Accounting – Advanced for Career and Technical Education Business, Management and Administration (MBA) and Finance and Financial Management Services (FFMS) Students
- R. Approval of State Board of Education Expense Report – July-September 2010

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:

Criteria

- L. approve the Criteria for Grants to Create and Implement Middle College High Schools Focused on Health Sciences or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 25, 2010;**

Resolutions

- M. adopt the resolutions honoring the following employees retiring from the Michigan Department of Education: Linda Armstrong, Mary Beckwith, Donna Beltz, Barbara Campbell, Jim Constandt, Mary Dredge, Linda Droste, Rick Floria, Jean Hude, Pam Matelsky, Bonnie Norton, Leonora Okeke-Aaron, Jennette Woodruff, and Karen Zarka, as described in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated November 4, 2010;**
- N. adopt the resolution regarding Local School Board Member Recognition Month, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 25, 2010;**
- O. adopt the resolution regarding International Day of Persons with Disabilities, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 25, 2010;**
- P. adopt the resolution regarding Inclusive Schools Week, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 25, 2010;**

Approvals

- Q. approve the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Assessments for General Management and Accounting-Advanced for Career and Technical Education Business, Management and Administration (BMA) and Finance and Financial Management Services (FFMS) Students, as discussed at the October 12, 2010, State Board of Education meeting; and**
- R. approve the July 1 – September 30, 2010, report of State Board of Education expenses dated October 25, 2010.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions are available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- A. NASBE Update – Carolyn Curtin, Marianne McGuire

Mrs. Curtin said the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference was one of the best conferences she has attended. Mrs. Curtin distributed conference folders. She said a main focus was on the importance of reading, and she said they also recommended that a student be at the board table.

Mrs. Curtin said she believes that John Austin was the most qualified candidate for the position of Central Area Director of NASBE, but he did not win the election.

Mrs. McGuire said the conference was based on technology in education. She said one of the speakers stressed reading for evaluation and checking the credibility of sources, as well as the importance of children using computers for more than recreational games.

- B. Probability and Statistics – Elizabeth Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said she is speaking on a panel on November 13 regarding probability and statistics in mathematics education.

C. Online Instruction and Nutrition Standards – Nancy Danhof

Mrs. Danhof said she has had the opportunity to work with students in an after school program. She said the fifth and sixth grade students have worked with Michigan Virtual University on online assessment in mathematics.

Mrs. Danhof said she had the opportunity to visit Michigan State University's new cafeteria in the Brody complex where the nutrition standards are being used.

D. Welcome – Daniel Varner

Mr. Varner said he is appreciative of the warm welcome he has received at his first meeting as a member of the State Board of Education.

XXIV. 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.

XXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, December 7, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, January 11, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, February 8, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, March 8, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary