MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

August 11, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Brian J. Whiston, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Treasurer
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mrs. Eileen Weiser
Dr. Richard Zeile
Mrs. Karen McPhee, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Rick Joseph, 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Ulbrich, Zeile
Absent: Pugh, Straus, Weiser

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus arrived at 9:36 a.m.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Schneider invited guests to introduce themselves.

Dr. Pugh arrived at 9:40 a.m.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston welcomed the Board and guests to his first meeting as State Superintendent. He said he began serving as the State Superintendent on July 1, 2015, and he thanked the Board for placing their trust in him.

Mr. Whiston said he is asking all stakeholders to work together with the Board, Department and State Superintendent to develop Michigan into a Top Ten Education Performing State in Ten Years. He said several organizations will provide input during the afternoon portion of the meeting and additional organizations will present during the September 8, 2015, State Board of Education meeting. He invited all stakeholders to provide their input and participate in the process.

Mr. Whiston congratulated the following individuals who are receiving recognition from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) at its annual conference in October. He said Mrs. Eileen Weiser will receive the Distinguished Service Award; Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will receive the Friend of Education Award; and Dr. Richard Zeile has been nominated for President-elect of NASBE.

Mrs. Weiser arrived at 9:42 a.m.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:42 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE MICHIGAN SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS AND PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented the Michigan Social Studies Standards and Period of Public Comment.

Mr. Whiston introduced Mrs. Sass, who has joined the Department as the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services. He said Mrs. Sass most recently served as Associate Superintendent of Elementary Instruction, Special Education, Assessment, Bilingual and Compensatory Education for the Dearborn Public School District. He thanked Ms. Forward for serving as Interim Deputy Superintendent over the past several months as well as maintaining her job as Director of the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation.

Mr. Whiston said over the last 16 months the Social Studies Standards have been updated through the lens of the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework. He said the social studies community was involved in the process and several practitioners have participated in the update and review process. He said the updated standards are ready for public comment, and the Michigan Department of Education will be conducting public information sessions around the state for further feedback.

Information was shared via a PowerPoint presentation.

Board member comments included participation by stakeholders in the development of the standards, inclusion of civil rights in the standards, opportunities for comment by the public and organizations online and during information sessions, and inclusion of disability civil rights activism.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE MICHIGAN SCIENCE STANDARDS AND PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented the Michigan Science Standards and Period of Public Comment.

Mr. Whiston said in May 2014, the Michigan Department of Education started a series of presentations on the proposed Michigan Science Standards, including considerations for implementation from the classroom to state-level policy. He said, per the request of the State Board of Education, the standards have been discussed with stakeholders and state-level policymakers. He said the standards are ready to be revisited for public comment and Michigan Department of Education staff will be conducting public information sessions around the state for further feedback.

Information was shared via a Keynote presentation.

Board member comments included informing the Senate and House of Representatives about the public information sessions and opportunities to comment, providing information during meetings with individual legislators, and comments from Project Lead the Way and other educators who are piloting the standards.

IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

Mr. Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education is embracing the challenge put forth by the Governor's Workgroup on Third Grade Reading through implementing the programs explicitly funded within State School Aid. He said there are two initial sets of criteria for grants being proposed today focusing on the years prior to kindergarten entry,

both enhancing the infrastructure that exists in the form of the Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions, and building on cross-agency efforts to support parents in interactions with their children through home visitation programs and a new pilot focused on parenting education programs. He said further discussions on early literacy will be included in upcoming Board meetings.

Dr. Zeile thanked staff for listing the dollar amounts of the grants on the agenda.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

E. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 9, 2015

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 9, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Weiser, Zeile
Abstain: Ulbrich

The motion carried.

XII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin officially welcomed State Superintendent Brian Whiston. He said the Board appreciates Mr. Whiston's energetic start as he begins serving as Michigan's State Superintendent.

Mr. Austin said he presented and Ms. Ramos-Montigny attended a gathering of national leaders in sustainability which was hosted by Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell on August 10, 2015. Mr. Austin said Grand Rapids is committed to building a vibrant community and they have a profound commitment to education.

Mr. Austin distributed an invitation to the Kalamazoo Promise 10-Year Anniversary Community Celebration on August 15, 2015. Mr. Austin said the Kalamazoo Promise is funded by anonymous donors and provides college scholarships to graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools. He said the commitment to education is revitalizing the city.

Mr. Austin said in February, 2015, Business Leaders for Michigan issued a report, "Business Leaders Insights: How Higher Education Can Help Michigan Become a Top Ten State."

Mr. Austin said he is chairing a Postsecondary Credential Attainment Workgroup comprised of many stakeholders. He said the Board and Department will be briefed and the final report will be issued in a few months.

Mr. Austin said Mrs. Karen McPhee, Senior Education Policy Advisor to the Governor, led a delegation that attended a State Policy Academy sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and USC Rossier School of Education. He said the State Policy Academy addresses equity gaps in state goals for postsecondary education attainment.

Mr. Austin said many stakeholders are actively involved in the goal of developing Michigan into a Top Ten education performing state in K-12 and higher education attainment. He said the Board is welcoming organizations to share their suggestions in the afternoon and also during the September Board meeting.

Mr. Austin said several organizations have published reports based on the results of education studies that include initiatives from other states, financing, and other factors in increasing education performance.

Mr. Austin said the Department of Technology, Management and Budget is issuing a request for proposals for an adequacy study which will also inform the discussion on education and education financing.

Mr. Austin invited guests to welcome Mr. Whiston at a reception following the State Board of Education meeting.

XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

F. Human Resources Report

G. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Lenawee Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Grants

H. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2014-2015 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects – Amendment; $14,971,830
2. 2014-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program – Amendment; $5,545,050
3. 2014-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program – Amendment; $8,670,856
4. 2014-2015 Training and Technical Assistance for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant – Amendment; $636,759
5. 2014-2015 Promoting Adolescent Health in Michigan through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention and School-Based Surveillance – Amendment; $91,272
6. 2015-2016 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Initial; $4,211,180

Mr. Whiston said he has been spending time meeting with people inside and outside of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) learning what they believes contributes to effective education and what needs improvement to develop Michigan into a Top Ten education performing state in ten years. He said he is meeting with various education groups and he is asking MDE staff to solicit input as they travel to school districts across the state.

Mr. Whiston said he believes in accountability and he is working on a draft document that will be used to evaluate his performance as State Superintendent, and he will share the document with the Board shortly. He said setting goals and holding people accountable will be important in moving Michigan forward and he will model that accountability.

Mr. Whiston said his short-term initiatives are educator evaluations, kindergarten through twelfth grade reading, testing and assessment, and customer service.

Mr. Whiston said his long-term initiatives are: developing Michigan into a Top Ten education performing state by listening to stakeholders and developing a report by the end of the calendar year; a pre-kindergarten to 14 strategy that ensures everyone who wants a preschool option has it available, as well as making postsecondary options accessible to everyone; defining accountability; discussion of funding recommendations; improving student achievement, developing model classrooms, and publicizing models of best practices that are working in Michigan schools; celebrating the good work in classrooms across the state and engaging in conversations about teacher preparation and professional development; and increasing graduation rates.

Dr. Zeile asked what the criteria is for a best practice. Mr. Whiston said proven results based on research and data, and examples would include two or three different districts in terms of size and situation.

Mrs. Straus requested clarification on Item G – Report on Modification to the Previously Approved Lenawee Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services. Ms. Forward said additional information would be provided by the end of the meeting.

XIV. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Rick Joseph reviewed his activities since being named the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of Year. He shared his website, www.rickjoseph.org, and described his platform as threefold – Equity, Literacy, and Job-embedded learning.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny and Mrs. Straus said they are happy that the Board and Department will celebrate the successes of public education.

XV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Mrs. Kathleen Straus, NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said state legislators have been in their districts, working on road funding and other legislation. He said the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is still being developed at the federal level. He said the Board's Legislative Committee did not meet, due to lack of discussion topics since the Legislature is not in session.

Dr. Ulbrich said Mrs. Straus sits on the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee and she has been watching the ESEA legislation very closely. Mrs. Straus said staffs have been working together to determine areas of agreement. She said a monthly conference call is scheduled for August 24, 2015.

Ms. Fecteau asked if there has been action on the federal reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Mrs. Straus and Mr. Ackley said there has been no action at this time.

Ms. Fecteau asked for an update on the education plan for Detroit. Mr. Ackley said he believes legislation is under discussion and has not yet been introduced.

Mrs. Straus asked for an update on the Governor's Third Grade Reading Workgroup and early literacy. Mr. Ackley said there are discussions in the Education Committees, but legislation has not yet been introduced. Mr. Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education is taking the recommendations of the Third Grade Reading Workgroup and moving forward.

Dr. Ulbrich asked if the Michigan Department of Education has provided input on the urban education agenda. Mr. Whiston provided an update.

Dr. Pugh suggested that the School Reform Officer be invited to present an update at a future Board meeting. She said it is important to maintain a connection to the School Reform Office in the Department of Management and Budget.

Dr. Pugh also requested that the Detroit Public Schools Board of Education be invited to present at a future meeting.

XVI. CONSENT AGENDA

J. Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorships

K. Approval of Criteria for Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grants (SIG), $16,647,156

L. Approval of Criteria for Michigan STEM Partnership, $475,000

M. Approval of Criteria for Section 32p Grants, $15,600,000

N. Approval of Criteria for Pilot Parenting Education Grants and Program Evaluation, $1,100,000

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the consent agenda as follows:

J. support the cosponsorships, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015;

K. approve the Criteria for the Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grants (SIG), as described in the attachment to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015;

L. approve the Criteria for the Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Partnership, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015;

M. approve the Criteria for Section 32p Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015; and

N. approve the Criteria for Pilot Parenting Education Grants and Program Evaluation, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Weiser, Zeile
Absent During Vote: Pugh

The motion carried.

XVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Weiser said she, Ms. Linda Forward and additional staff met with Dr. Tonya Matthews, President and Chief Executive Officer, of the Michigan Science Center. She said the meeting was to explore the role of the Michigan Science Center in meeting learning objectives.

Mrs. Weiser said the Pacific Research Institute has issued a study titled "Not as Good As You Think: Michigan." She urged Board members to review the report and examine the data which may shed light on what is not working in schools where children are not proficient.

Ms. Fecteau said Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley will present to the State Board of Education in September. She said she and other Board members have travelled around the state attending his listening tours to hear concerns from parents of children with special needs.

Dr. Pugh said she attended the New Member Institute sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and she found it very informative.

Dr. Pugh said she was a member of the NASBE Career Readiness Study Group, and a report will be issued in September outlining the definition of career readiness on a national level. She said she contributed information from Michigan experts. Dr. Pugh said Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, President of Mott Community College, presented to the study group on career readiness. She said Dr. Walker-Griffea is involved in discussions regarding replication of a college and career readiness program in Flint that was instituted in Montgomery County.

Mrs. McPhee arrived at 10:58 a.m.

XVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Whiston asked the Board to notify him of agenda topics they would like included on a future agenda. He provided the upcoming State Board of Education meeting dates.

XIX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A. Ms. Robby Cramer, Grand Haven, Michigan. Ms. Cramer, representing Michigan Science Teachers Association, shared verbal comments and a written letter of support for the Michigan Science Standards.

B. Mr. LaMar Lemmons, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Lemmons, representing the Detroit Board of Education, shared comments regarding Detroit Public Schools.

XX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

XXI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

C. Mr. Christopher Erickson, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Erickson shared verbal and written information on National Board Certification. He was joined at the table by Ms. Leslee Bullock and Mr. Christopher Thomas.

D. Ms. Anna Petersen, St. Johns, Michigan. Ms. Petersen shared verbal comments on the needs of public schools.

XXII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston asked Deputy Superintendents to introduce employees who have recently been hired by the Michigan Department of Education.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start, introduced Ms. Kelly Young from Early Childhood Development and Family Education, and Ms. Maria Ackerson from Child Development and Care.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Mr. James Gullen from Professional Preparation Services.

Mr. Ross Fort, Special Assistant, Administration and School Support Services, introduced Ms. Jessica Beagle from State Aid and School Finance.

XXIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:43 and reconvened the Committee of the Whole at 1:00 p.m.

XXIV. PRESENTATIONS ON MICHIGAN AS A TOP TEN EDUCATION PERFORMING STATE IN TEN YEARS

Mr. Whiston said the shared goal of the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education is to develop Michigan into a Top Ten education performing state over the next ten years. He said as a step toward this goal, organizations have been asked to share three to five ideas on how to achieve this goal. He said the presentations begin today, and there will be presentations from additional organizations in September.

Mr. Whiston said input is being gathered from Michigan Department of Education staff, as well as input from the field. He said he expects the overall plan will be finalized by the end of the year.

The following presentations occurred:

1. Middle Cities Education Association
   Ray Telman, Executive Director

2. W. E. Upjohn Institute
   Kevin Hollenbeck, Vice President

3. Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
   Wendy Zdeb-Roper, Executive Director
   Bob Kefgen, Assistant Director for Government Relations

4. Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
   Paul Liabenow, Executive Director
   Shanna Spickard, President of MEMSPA and Principal of Milan Middle School

5. Michigan League for Public Policy
   Gilda Jacobs, President and Chief Executive Officer

7. Great Lakes Education Project
   Gary Naeyaert, Executive Director

8. Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan
   Dan Hurley, Chief Executive Officer

9. Business Leaders for Michigan
   Tim Sowton, Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy

10. Michigan Parents for Schools
    Steve Norton, Executive Director

XXV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY

Mrs. Ramos-Montigny welcomed Mr. Whiston as the State Superintendent and presented him with a basket of products made in West Michigan.

XXVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

A. Tuesday, September 8, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
B. Tuesday, October 13, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
C. Tuesday, November 10, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
D. Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau
Secretary