

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 17, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Dr. Richard Zeile

Also Present: Ms. Melody Arabo, 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

Dr. Ulbrich requested that discussion and possible action on a State Board of Education Statement on Governor Snyder's Executive Order Transferring the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget be added to the agenda. Mr. Austin suggested that the item be added before Item D.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mr. Flanagan invited audience members to introduce themselves.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan shared a photo of his grandson, who was born in March. He also shared letters he received from elementary students regarding snow days.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:44 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**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. PRESENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; Mr. Jim Cameron, Social Studies Consultant; and Mr. Andrew Middlestead; presented on the Implementation of the Social Studies Standards.

Mr. Flanagan said on January 13, 2015, the State Board of Education was presented with an overview of the updates that are being made to the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework and the Social Studies Standards. He said this presentation addresses the assessment considerations of educators, students and schools with regard to social studies content and practices. He said staff will share examples of how revised standards may frame the assessment of learning from the student and classroom level up to statewide assessment.

*Teaching the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework: Exploring Inquiry-Based Instruction in Social Studies* by the National Council for the Social Studies was distributed.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included pass rate of students mastering social studies objectives, degree of change from previous version, applying concepts at appropriate developmental levels, engagement of teachers and ownership of students, assessing various points of view, and Civil Rights collaboration.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) FLEXIBILITY RENEWAL

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Abbie Groff-Blaszak, Special Assistant to Education Services and Accountability Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation, presented on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal.

Mr. Flanagan provided context and chronology of the placement of priority schools. He said the ESEA Flexibility Renewal includes key elements related to priority schools.

Mr. Flanagan said ESEA Flexibility Renewal requests must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by March 31, 2105.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion focused on resources including human resources; lessons learned from schools who have made progress; supports in terms of human capital from Michigan Department of Education, intermediate school districts, building coaches, and School Improvement Grants; the effect of the Executive Order transferring the School Reform Office from the Michigan Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget on the Flexibility Renewal; stakeholder participation at the local level; district response if the flexibility renewal was not submitted; exit criteria proficiency targets; scope of public comment; communication with Legislature; and addressing the achievement gap in the top to bottom list.

IX. REORDERING OF AGENDA

Mr. Austin proposed, and there was Board consensus, to reorder the agenda. He said Item C, Presentation on English Language Learners (ELL): Supports and Achievements will be moved to the afternoon portion of the meeting. He said the Board will begin discussion on the Statement regarding Governor Snyder's Executive Order to transfer the School Reform/Redesign Office, which was added to the agenda during the Approval of Agenda and Order of Priority.

X. DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR SNYDER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TRANSFERRING THE STATE SCHOOL REFORM/REDESIGN OFFICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Mr. Austin said Executive Order 2015-9, signed by Governor Snyder on March 12, 2015, transfers the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Michigan Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Dr. Ulbrich said she has drafted a statement for Board discussion and possible action. The statement was distributed, and Dr. Ulbrich read the statement.

Discussion followed and continued during the Regular Meeting.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:08 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XII. ACTION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR SNYDER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TRANSFERRING THE STATE SCHOOL REFORM/REDESIGN OFFICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Following discussion during the Committee of the Whole, a motion was made.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education reconvene the Regular Meeting.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the Statement by the State Board of Education Regarding Governor Snyder's Executive Order Transferring the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The Statement by the State Board of Education Regarding Governor Snyder's Executive Order Transferring the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget is attached as Exhibit A.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Ms. Shelleyann Keelean, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Ms. Keelean, a Member of the Network of Michigan Educators, provided verbal comments and written information on the Parcels Middle School Boomerang Project: Where Everyone Belongs. Students McKenzie Martin Turner and Sharelle Hardin joined Ms. Keelean at the table, and Miss Hardin recited a poem, Where Everyone Belongs.

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING (continued)

2. Mr. John Lauve, Holly, Michigan. Mr. Lauve shared comments and provided written information on the duties of the State Board of Education and the School Aid Fund.
3. Mr. Rick Catherman, Chelsea, Michigan. Mr. Catherman, representing the Partnership for Music Education Policy Development, provided verbal comments and written information on Music Education Advocacy.
4. Dr. Holly Windram, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Windram, Executive Director, Michigan Education Corps, presented verbal comments and written information on Hope Network's Michigan Education Corps.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XVII. PRESENTATION ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL): SUPPORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Mr. Mike Radke, Director, Office of Field Services; Dr. Shereen Tabrizi, Special Populations Unit Manager; Ms. Maria Silva, Title III English Learners and Immigrant Consultant; and Ms. Jen Paul, Assessment Consultant for English Language Learner; presented on English Language Learners (ELL): Supports and Achievements.

Mr. Flanagan said Board members requested a presentation on supports for English Language Learners. He said the presentation is an overview of the assessment requirements, the accountability measures, and the services provided to English Learners.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included exemptions from testing for first year English Learners which are only allowed for English language arts, ensuring support services are provided in school districts, and English Learners who have not attended school prior to arriving in Michigan.

XVIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING (continued)

5. Mr. Roberto Torres, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Torres, Director, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, provided verbal comments and written information on Supporting Our Leaders youth program.
6. Mr. Omar Cuevas, Annie Cuevas, Emily Cruz, Omar Cuevas, Jr., Adrian Cuevas, Ashley Cruz, and Samantha Cruz, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Cuevas Cruz family provided verbal comments on Grand Rapids Public Schools and Cesar Chavez.
7. Mr. Cory Micheel-Mays, Jackson, Michigan. Mr. Micheel-Mays, representing the Michigan Music Education Association, provided verbal comments and written information on music education.

XX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 2:38 p.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XXI. REPORT ON STATE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Austin reported on the State Superintendent Search.

Mr. Austin said that on March 18, 2015, the Board will interview three very strong candidates who are finalists for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

He said it is important for the Governor and the Board to come together during the selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify someone who can work well with both the Board and the Governor on educational issues, as well as the Legislature and stakeholders. Mr. Austin said he had reached out to the Governor's staff to express the importance of representation from the Executive Office during the selection process and Karen McPhee, Senior Education Policy Advisory, did participate. He said he

was dismayed that the Executive Order to move the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Department of Education surfaced during the interview process, and he was hopeful that the Governor would reconsider; however, the Executive Order was signed on March 12th.

Mr. Austin reviewed the process for the March 18, 2015 interviews of the three finalists.

Mr. Austin thanked everyone who applied to be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said the Board is particularly thankful for the semi-finalists and finalists who were willing to serve and submit to a public review process.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at the Regular Meeting 1:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XXIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, to introduce new employees. Ms. Baker introduced Lisa Seigel who works in Career and Technical Education. Ms. Seigel shared her past and present work experience.

XXIV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

E. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 10, 2015

**Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 10, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said he has nothing further to report.

XXVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

F. Human Resources Report

G. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Saginaw ISD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2011-2012 Child Care Development Block Grant – Amendment; \$3,144,773
2. 2014-2015 Child Care Development Block Grant – Initial; \$10,784,206
3. 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial; \$1,325,090
4. 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial; \$14,501,920
5. 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial; \$22,150,000
6. 2013-2014 Consolidation of Operations or Services Grant – Amendment: \$4,301,807
7. 2014-2015 Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education – Initial; \$1,273,446
8. 2014-2015 Promoting Adolescent Health in Michigan Through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention and School-Based Surveillance – Initial; \$29,038
9. 2014-2015 Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Planning, Local Education Agencies and Local Communities – Amendment; \$171,400

Mr. Flanagan shared a video clip from the Governor’s Economic and Education Summit. He reported on his visit to see the Albion High School merger with Marshall, which is providing great educational opportunities for students.

XXVII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Melody Arabo shared a slide presentation highlighting her monthly activities as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXVIII. APPROVAL OF NOMINATIONS TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Teri Johnson Chapman; presented Approval of Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Mr. Flanagan said each year the State Board of Education is asked to approve nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee membership. He said the Board is being asked to approve eight organizational nominations, four at-large nominations and six alternate nominations.

Ms. Johnson Chapman reviewed the membership and nomination criteria.

Discussion followed.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the nominations for eight organizational delegates, six organizational alternates and four At-large nominations for the terms specified in Attachment B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 3, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXIX. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. KATHLEEN STRAUS

Mrs. Straus asked for more detailed information on Item G – Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Saginaw ISD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services. Ms. Johnson Chapman said she would provide further information.

XXX. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – DR. RICHARD ZEILE

Dr. Zeile asked for clarification on Items H.3, 4 and 5 – 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants. Ms. Forward explained the grant program.

Mrs. Straus asked if Detroit received grant funds, because information appears to be missing from the board item. Ms. Forward said she would provide further clarification.

Dr. Ulbrich left the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

XXXI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on March 9, 2015. He said they discussed a letter to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to offer the Board's expertise in developing the request for proposal for a statutory adequacy study for education funding. He said funding has not yet been appropriated. He said the letter from John Austin was sent to Director David Behen last week.

Mr. Ackley said that by Board request, House and Senate appropriation subcommittee members as well as the standing committee members have been invited to have lunch with the Board during the April 14, 2015 State Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on pending legislation including the early warning system for deficit districts, and the creation of a state-endorsed Science Technology, Education and Math diploma.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee also discussed the 2013-2014 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans at its last meeting. He said Section 380.1277 of the Michigan Revised School Code requires an annual review and report to the Legislature. Ms. Ramos-Montigny, Mrs. Straus and Mrs. Weiser said the Legislative Committee is recommending approval by the full board.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 3, 2015, and submit the report to the Senate and House Education Committees on Education.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XXXII. CONSENT AGENDA

K. Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorship

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:**

**K. support the cosponsorship, as attached to the Superintendent's Memorandum dated March 3, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XXXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Pugh Smith thanked the music educators from Saginaw for attending the meeting. She said one of them was her elementary educator, and it was inspiring to see them at the Board meeting.

Dr. Zeile said he attended a performance of Much Ado About Nothing at Kensington Woods High School. He said each year the senior class presents a William Shakespeare play, and they do a wonderful job with challenging material.

XXXIV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, March 18, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- B. Tuesday, April 14, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- C. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- D. Tuesday, May 19, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Board Retreat

XXXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**Statement by the State Board of Education  
Regarding Governor Snyder's Executive Order  
Transferring the State School Reform/Redesign Office  
From the Dept. of Education to the Dept. of Technology,  
Management and Budget**

The State Board of Education is deeply concerned about Governor Snyder's recent decision to transfer oversight of the State School Reform/Redesign Office from the Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

The Constitution of Michigan of 1963 states "Leadership and general supervision over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except as to institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees, is vested in a state board of education. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith."

The Constitution of Michigan of 1963 further states, "The state board of education shall appoint a superintendent of public instruction whose term of office shall be determined by the board. He shall be the chairman of the board without the right to vote, and shall be responsible for the execution of its policies. He shall be the principal executive officer of a state department of education which shall have powers and duties provided by law."

The framers of the state Constitution were clear in their intent to vest oversight of Michigan's public education system with a publicly elected board that would appoint a State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The reasons for such are as relevant today as they were in 1963. Decisions affecting the educational environment, from school safety to effective learning environments and health and well-being, should be directed by those with expertise in effective education policy, not by individuals or government departments with no expertise in educating children.

The State Board of Education opposes any effort to diminish the Constitutional authority of either the State Board of Education or the State Superintendent.

We believe that the Executive Order 2015-9, signed by Governor Rick Snyder on March 12, 2015, violates the State Constitution by stripping the State Superintendent of his/her authority to execute the policies of the State Board of Education. We respectfully request that the Governor reconsider this action and restore the Reform/Redesign District to the direct supervision of the State Superintendent.

Approved March 17, 2015

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • PAMELA PUGH SMITH – TREASURER  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS  
EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER • RICHARD ZEILE

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