

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

January 12, 2010
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer (via telephone)
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone)
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich
Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Absent: Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer

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 9:48 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

A. State and Federal Legislative Update – removed from agenda

There was no action taken due to a lack of a quorum physically present, as required by the Board's by-laws. There was consensus by Mr. Austin, Mrs. Danhof, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Straus, and Ms. Ulbrich to proceed with the agenda as presented.

III. 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.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting via telephone at 9:57 a.m.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Mr. Rob Stephenson on being selected as one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year. Mr. Flanagan said interviews will be conducted in Washington, D.C. in March, and the final announcement will be made in late April.

Mrs. Danhof said Mr. Stephenson's quote was very memorable in the Council of Chief State School Officers press release of January 12, 2010, announcing the four finalists.

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Stephenson was a dynamic keynote speaker at the Ingham County Celebration of Public Education and Network of Michigan Educators Banquet.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:59 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Flanagan said that on January 11, 2010, Governor Granholm signed legislation that enacted significant education reforms. Mr. Flanagan said it was a bipartisan effort lead by Republican Senator Wayne Kuipers and Democratic Representative Tim Melton, who serve as Education Committee Chairs.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Initiative and Michigan's Race To The Top Application

The following individuals presented:

- Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer

Staff provided an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act including the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and overview of the Race To The Top application.

Two PowerPoint presentations were shown.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. the Race to the Top summary is not clear regarding local negotiations in determining performance evaluation systems that use multiple effectiveness categories that take into account data on student growth – *local districts will develop plans that would be submitted to the state; language will be clarified in the Race To The Top application;*
2. purpose of Race To The Top is not to rubber stamp a federal program, but rather to do the right thing for children based on research, detail, rigor, sound judgment and understanding; State Board of Education members have been involved in committees working with the Department;
3. some people are concerned about the clarity of the wording regarding alternative certification and three-tier certification; Mrs. Straus said she would like to see the entire application before she signs it – *there is nothing in the application that doesn't tie into the summary that was posted on January 9;*
4. do districts understand that they need to develop a local plan rather than follow the state application – *districts have been informed that they will have 90 days to develop their own local plan that must align with the state plan;*
5. would like more union signatures – *would welcome more local union signatures; a decision was made by the Michigan Department of Education to accept from local districts memoranda of understanding that did not include all three signatures of the local superintendent, local board president, and union president;*
6. thank you to the Department and education stakeholder community for the hard work, leadership, and compromise to develop the application to extend Michigan's education reform agenda;

7. role of the Board and Superintendent could be clarified to make sure the language is not promising something that the Board has not discussed – *Board will discuss common core standards in February; three-tiered licensure and alternative certification have been discussed by the Board; Board is free to approve or disapprove details by way of policy decisions;*
8. there is concern that the application is putting the level of achievement on teachers; need appeal process for teachers; three-tier system is an idea and not a plan – *appeal process and evaluation system will be determined locally through negotiations; Michigan Education Association and Michigan Federation of Teachers were invited to chair discussions regarding three-tier licensure and meetings began in the summer; three-tier licensure would be voluntary;*
9. Race To The Top is a great example of bipartisanship across the country to create accountability in public education to benefit all concerned; the application is not perfect and there is much work to be done, but this is a giant step forward to diminish disparities; and
10. administrator certification will be required and administrators will share in the responsibility for student achievement; the three-tier licensure process will not happen unless it is jointly created, and the process is occurring currently.

VIII. PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR REVENUE RESTRUCTURING TO BETTER SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is an opportunity to have a discussion with four individuals who each have a perspective on Michigan's school funding structure.

Mr. Austin said the Board is continuing public policy discussions regarding proposals for revenue restructuring to better support public education in Michigan. He said discussions will result in recommendations that will be developed and shared later in the year.

Mr. Austin introduced Jeffrey Guilfoyle, President Citizens Research Council of Michigan, who provided a context of the current education budget situation and the Citizens Research Council's agenda to research and inform budget and education reforms.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. is the realization in savings for schools through collaboration viewed under current laws or if laws changed; under current law there may be unintended consequences preventing cost savings – *Citizens Research Council will look at both;*
2. is the cost savings through consolidation of districts or services – *both; and*
3. do lottery and casino funds offset other funds that would be in the School Aid Fund – *the amount of General Fund money that comes to the School Aid Fund is an appropriation decision; at this point almost no general fund dollars come to the School Aid Fund; the amount dropped significantly after Proposal A.*

Mr. Austin introduced the following panelists who discussed Perspectives on Restructuring Michigan’s Budget and Education Investments:

- Charles L. Ballard, Professor, Department of Economics, Michigan State University
- Timothy L. Bartik, Senior Economist, W.E. Upjohn Institute
- Michael Van Beek, Director of Education Policy, Mackinac Center for Public Policy

PowerPoint presentations were shown by Dr. Ballard and Dr. Bartik. Mr. Van Beek provided a written handout.

Board member comments and *clarifications* included:

1. what are the best ways to fill the funding gap - *focus on savings that can be realized and a new structure; should not rely exclusively on revenues; stop cutting taxes; get a tax revenue system that keeps up with the economy; band aid reforms are insufficient to deal with the magnitude of the problem; focus on research based solutions that have a high rate of return on investment such as preschool, high quality summer school programs, and high school career academies;*
3. taxes are not collected on many internet sales – *internet sales should be taxed the same as sales from brick and mortar stores; Congress should push for a change in the federal law; state sales tax revenues are being eroded;*
4. need to recognize that something needs to be done so that the state budget does not totally crumble; tax on services and graduated income tax need to be considered;

5. how do you enact changing tax structures in an environment of term limits – *public is in favor of some sort of term limits, but limits don't have to be as restrictive as they currently are in Michigan; there needs to be a change in political culture to include a focus on long-term issues;*
6. what is on the list of spending pressures that is growing – *what would it take for K-12 to have the same resources per student when there is adjustment for things like inflation, increase in the retirement rate, teacher pay keeping pace with inflation, maintaining class size; operating funding not capital funding;*
7. how do you get dual credit for dual high school and college enrollment – *need to change practices of universities so credits will count for both high school and college;*
8. what is the percentage of students leaving private schools and going to public schools – *private school enrollment declined six percent this past year; some students could be home schooled, leaving the state, or going to public schools;*
9. what does an efficient business tax look like – *business income tax is the least objectionable part of the Michigan Business Tax; gross receipts can cause different goods to have dramatically different tax rates depending on how many times the goods change hands and are taxed; the entire state and local state business tax system needs to be reviewed; what is the incremental tax burden associated with expansion in Michigan; and*
10. districts need to know their budgets prior to the start of their fiscal year – *could consider a two-year budget.*

Mr. Turner ended his telephone connection at 12:45 p.m. Mrs. McGuire rejoined the meeting via telephone at 1:48 p.m.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:48 p.m.

X. EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Kim Dabbs, Executive Director, Michigan Youth Arts, Birmingham, Michigan; and Mr. Mike Latvis, Director of Public Policy, ArtServe Michigan, Wixom, Michigan; provided verbal comments and written information on arts education.
- B. Mr. Tom Goodwin, Grand Ledge Public Schools, Grand Ledge, Michigan, provided verbal comments and written information on school finance reform.
- C. Mr. David Martell, Executive Director, Michigan School Business Officials, Lansing, Michigan, provided verbal comments on school finance reform.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:05 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 8, 2009

There was no action taken due to a lack of a quorum physically present, as required by the Board's by-laws. The item will be on the agenda for the February 9, 2010, State Board of Education meeting.

XIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING ACTIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR REVENUE RESTRUCTURING

Mrs. Straus said it is incumbent upon the State Board of Education to develop recommendations in cooperation with other groups that are working on similar issues. She said consideration should be given to the need for health and human services as well as education. She said there is another State Board of Education meeting on February 17, 2010, to continue the discussion.

Mrs. McGuire said the discussion earlier in the meeting regarding school funding was beneficial, but she would also like a discussion on Proposal A.

Mrs. Danhof said a long term view is needed. She said consideration needs to be given to what has been, what is, and what could be.

Mr. Austin said it is necessary to look at the school budget in the context of the whole state budget.

XIV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This item was removed from the agenda.

XV. PRESENTATION ON MEAP-ACCESS FALL 2009 ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; and Dr. Joseph Martineau, Director, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, presented MEAP-Access Fall 2009 Assessment Results and Recommendations.

Dr. Vaughn said the Operational MEAP-Access assessment was implemented for the first time in fall 2009, but has not yielded expected results. She said far fewer students participated than were expected, or than participated in the pilot, and results were insufficiently reliable to set cut scores using traditional methods. She said Dr. Martineau consulted with the Technical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Martineau said that before he begins speaking on the MEAP-Access item, he would like to recognize Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability staff and contractor staff for releasing the MEAP results on December 18, 2010, which is three months earlier than the results have ever been released.

Dr. Martineau said, regarding MEAP-Access, there were lower reliabilities than they would want to set standards in the traditional manner. He said it was important to hold harmless schools that administered the assessment in good faith. After consulting with advisory committees it was recommended that standards be set in a statistical manner rather than a judgmental manner. He said, for this interim year, the recommendation is that the proficient level be set at a point on the scale that is significantly above what the student could get by simply guessing.

Dr. Martineau said the recommendations being presented to the Board include cut scores, performance levels, and use of the results for calculating Adequate Yearly Progress.

Mrs. Danhof asked if there are resources to ascertain how students are dealing with regular classroom situations and if they are being pushed to achieve to their potential. Dr. Martineau said only

students with disabilities can take the MEAP-Access, and they must have a Standards Based Individualized Educational Program.

Dr. Martineau said the Department has received a grant to study consequential validity and make sure the correct student populations are taking the MI-Access and MEAP-Access assessments with the appropriate classroom supports and decisions being made on the Individualized Educational Program.

Mrs. Straus asked for an explanation on Standards Based Individualized Educational Program. Ms. Joanne Winkelman, Supervisor, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, joined Dr. Vaughn and Dr. Martineau at the Board table. Ms. Winkelman said the federal regulations for the MEAP-Access assessment require that the goals and objectives for the subject area be linked to the state grade level content expectations as part of the Individualized Educational Program. At every Individualized Educational Program the appropriate assessment is determined for the student.

There was no action taken due to a lack of a quorum physically present, as required by the Board's by-laws. The item will be on the consent agenda for the February 9, 2010, State Board of Education meeting.

XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Grants

- 2009-2010 Michigan Charter School Grant Program – Amendment and Continuation
- 2008-2009 Title V, Part A Innovative Programs – Amendment
- 2008-2009 Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality Statewide Activities – Amendment
- 2008-2009 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects – Amendment

Reports

- G. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- H. Report on the Oakland Schools Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- I. Human Resources Update
- J. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on:

A. State School Reform Officer

Mr. Flanagan said based on Public Act 204 of 2009, that was passed as part of the education reform legislation, work must now begin to identify a Deputy Superintendent/State School Reform Officer who will report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and be part of the Michigan Department of Education. He said he is hopeful there will be an appropriation to support the position, as the duties cannot be added to the responsibilities of existing staff.

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no action taken due to a lack of a quorum physically present, as required by the Board's by-laws. The item will be on the agenda for the February 9, 2010, State Board of Education meeting.

XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Charles Morton – Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus

Mrs. Straus said Reverend Dr. Charles Morton, who served on the first State Board of Education that was elected after the adoption of the 1963 Constitution, passed away and she wrote a letter of condolence to his family.

B. Letter from Former State Legislator – Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus

Mrs. Straus said she received a letter from a former State Representative concerning an upcoming House Education Committee meeting being convened by Representative Melton. She said it is dealing with the powers of the Emergency Financial Manager in Detroit, but other issues should be considered such as class size and consolidation. Mrs. Straus said it may be a topic for the Legislative Committee meeting.

XIX. 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.

XX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, February 9, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Wednesday, February 17, 2010 (1:00 p.m.)
- C. Tuesday, March 9, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, April 13, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- E. Tuesday, May 11, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary