



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 5, 2015
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Rick Joseph, Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY)
SUBJECT: August MTOY Report

I have been meeting with people over the course of the past six weeks to address my three platform issues of equity, literacy, and job-embedded professional learning.

I discussed peer-to-peer mentoring with Bob Shenefelt from an organization called iMatter. I met with Michael Mallon of Superhero Training Academy regarding youth empowerment. I sat with former State Board of Education member Dan Varner to learn about the work of Excellent Schools Detroit. I spoke with Amy Senier of the Michigan ACLU to learn more about the case in Highland Park involving literacy as a civil right. I also met with Lauren Childs who directs the Job-Embedded Professional Learning Network based at Oakland Intermediate School District to determine how I might help this organization grow statewide.

I introduced the keynote speaker at the Oakland County Effective Practices Conference in mid-June. I have also been active as the MTOY on social media and am working to build a robust web presence. I attended a three-day workshop at Eastern Michigan University entitled *Telling Our Stories/Raising our Voices: From Anecdote to Action*. I have been named a Michigan Educator Voice Fellow, and will attend a two-day training in Grand Rapids August 17-18, 2015.

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