

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 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 (via telephone)
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate (via telephone)
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich
Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio
- Absent: Mr. Rob Stephenson, 2009-2010 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof**

The motion carried.

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.

Mrs. Hamilton said Mr. Rob Stephenson, 2009-2010 Michigan Teacher of the Year is unable to be present because as one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year he is being interviewed in Washington, D.C. this week.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said Michigan was not one of the states chosen as a finalist to receive Race To The Top funding in Phase I. He said the Department expects to receive feedback regarding the Phase I application from the United States Department of Education in April. He said the Department will apply for Phase II funding in late spring.

Mr. Flanagan said the State Board of Education is continuing its bi-partisan leadership through the series of public forums to share recommendations for stabilizing Michigan's education funding system. He said he also appreciates the efforts of Senator Kuipers and Representative Melton in passing the education reform legislation that was signed into law in January. Mr. Flanagan said that these reforms are the most significant changes to educational policy in Michigan in decades.

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.

Mrs. Danhof joined the meeting via telephone at 10:05 a.m.

VII. 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 five individuals who each have a perspective on Michigan's school funding structure.

Mrs. Straus introduced the first presenter, John Bebow, Executive Director of the Center for Michigan.

Board member comments and *clarifications by John Bebow* included:

1. there needs to be compromise in balancing reform and changes in revenue; some say cuts only or reform only – *the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies could determine the details; The Center for Michigan and business organizations have listed many reforms that can be made;*

2. listen to the student customer and dialogue with students; start early; integrate technology as a means of instruction that children already own and use daily; renewal is important, but we should be building a system to address what children want or need to know to be global citizens and then we can determine how to best support them; it may result in a more economic whole child approach – *focus on innovation and include teachers;*
3. is there public support for equity in educational funding – *there is support for a broader concept of equity; there is public support for helping troubled cities;*
4. school year needs to be extended – *the Center for Michigan can provide the Board with information from districts that are experimenting with year round schools; keep pushing to strengthen the legislative requirements regarding number of days; and*
5. elaborate on additional cuts to education – *there will be an issue guide available at the March 10 Education Town Hall Meeting produced by the Center for Michigan in cooperation with Public Sector Consultants; examples of efficiencies could address consolidation of services at the intermediate school district level and sustaining legacy costs.*

Mrs. Straus introduced the second presenter, David Hecker, President of the American Federation of Teachers – Michigan.

Board member comments and *clarifications by David Hecker* included:

6. administrators have the power to document good performance and poor performance, and recognize teachers who are performing well and work with teachers who are not performing well;
7. parental involvement is a cultural issue and there needs to be continued discussion regarding ways to motivate parents to become involved in their child's education – *community schools would help with parental involvement by bringing the community into the school;*
8. early childhood education through higher education should be viewed as a spectrum;
9. what is the view of potential savings in legacy costs – *reducing retirement benefits is not the answer; there is a revenue problem not a spending problem; we need to attract the best and brightest to the classroom;*
10. look at it from a user's perspective and examine who uses education, mental health, and social services and how the services can be located together to be accessible to the user; this would decrease infrastructure costs and parental involvement may also increase; this would also allow the educator more time to educate;

11. early childhood education works and is cost effective saving money for the state in the long run; community schools that include health clinics promote student achievement; locating social services in schools would keep neighborhood school buildings open to be the hub of the community;
12. what policies would help administrators do their job; – *provide training for administrators so that great teachers can become great administrators; proper strong evaluations to help people develop and become better;*
13. how does declining enrollment affect education – *there should be a funding level to support declining enrollment districts or all children that remain are being hurt;*
14. should Proposal A be reworked or eliminated – *seriously look at educational funding with a different view as if starting anew;*
15. if the state has a revenue problem is there also room for restructuring – *overall it is not a spending issue; it is a revenue issue; there could be more spending changes such as sharing superintendents, consolidation of purchasing, consolidation of districts; need to balance savings with effect on community involvement in schools; and*
16. in small school districts some of the problem is that principals have come from the teaching ranks and they feel isolated and don't want to be hard on their friends – *peer review and assistance is needed;*

Mrs. Straus introduced the third presenter Iris Salters, President of the Michigan Education Association.

Following Ms. Salters' presentation, Mr. Flanagan said Michigan's Race To The Top application was a plan signed by the State Board of Education President, the Governor, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said almost every local school district's Superintendent and Board President signed a memorandum of understanding and some local union leaders also signed. The application was developed based on the information that was available from the federal government at that time. He said the plan was developed after several monthly Education Alliance meetings with educational organizations where a common understanding was reached. He said it was unfortunate that the Michigan Education Association chose not to attend the Education Alliance meetings.

Board member comments and *clarifications by Iris Salters* included:

17. people were acting in good faith to put together a competitive Race To The Top application; all are trying to do the right thing; there has been criticism that the Race To The Top application failed to provide reform that would benefit students in the classroom; what are the specifics that are or are not addressed or would be detrimental to students and teachers – *backing away from prekindergarten is a disservice to the*

future; dropout issue is deplorable; adding to class sizes; not enough stations to put the students in;

18. it has been projected that eighty percent of schools will eat up their fund balance – *some schools are having to use up fund balances; some intermediate school districts are holding fund equity balances, and money is distributed in a disproportionate way; there is a contract between districts and the state to provide the best education possible for students; some districts are hoarding money rather than having an appropriate fund balance;*
19. double dipping needs to end; is there discussion regarding retired educators who would volunteer in schools and communities – *there is a difference between the duties of volunteers and paid employees; 75-80 percent of retirees volunteer in schools;*
20. there is work to be done on Race To The Top collaboration; efficiencies, cost-savings, and reforms need to be demonstrated when the public is asked to support an increased investment in prekindergarten, K-12, and higher education – *need to look at all efficiencies in education with the goal in mind that we need to do things that would result in the increased learning of students; and*
21. could Board members receive a copy of the research study on tax expenditures commissioned by the Michigan Education Association – *yes, the “Effectiveness of Michigan’s Key Business Tax Incentives” will be made available to the Board; the second part of the study was unveiled last week.*

Mr. Turner left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole from 11:29 a.m. until 11:55 a.m.

IX. PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR REVENUE RESTRUCTURING TO BETTER SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN (continued)

Mrs. Bauer introduced Mike Murray, Superintendent of Suttons Bay Area Schools, representing Consensus for Change Think Tank Leaders. He was joined by Marsha Myles, President and CEO, EdTech Specialists, LLC.

Board member comments and *clarifications by Mike Murray* included:

22. barriers to education can be changed; student outcomes and his or her ability to apply knowledge are important;
23. who participates in the Consensus for Change Think Tank – *there are approximately 40 participants; a list will be provided;*

24. funding should be based on mastery of content rather than if a child is physically present – *interested in discussing this; and*
25. teaching to the test is a concern; is funding tied to mastery perpetuating that concern – *most assessments are currently based on knowledge; should also include knowing what to do with the knowledge; each community should develop its own performance based assessments linked to opportunities available in the local community;*

Mrs. Danhof and Mrs. McGuire ended their telephone connections at 12:35 p.m.

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

- A. Mr. John Bracey, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Bracey, Executive Director, Michigan Council for the Arts, provided verbal comments and written information on grants for field trips related to the arts.
- B. Mr. Chris Hansen, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Hansen provided verbal comments and written information on Math in Color, a color coded aid in teaching math.
- C. Mr. Rick Henkel, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Hinkle, representing Resource Heating Solutions/Clean Burn, provided verbal comments and written information on a recycling project that could provide savings for school districts.

XI. RECESS

The Committee of the Whole Meeting recessed at 12:52 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent During Vote: Danhof, McGuire, Turner**

The motion carried.

- B. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent During Vote: Danhof, McGuire, Turner**

The motion carried.

XIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Future of Detroit Forum

Mrs. Straus said she, Mr. Turner, and Ms. Ulbrich attended a forum on the future of Detroit sponsored by Time Magazine and the Brookings Institute. Mrs. Straus said Mr. Austin, a Brookings Institute Fellow, was a panelist and helped arrange the program, and he did an excellent job. Mrs. Straus said presenters included Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Skillman Foundation President Carol Goss, *Time* Reporter Steven Gray, and Steve Hamp, one of the founders of "More Good Schools" a nonprofit organization that will launch charter schools in Detroit.

- B. Visit to Floyd Elementary School in Midland

Mrs. Straus said that on March 2 she and Mrs. Bauer celebrated March is Reading Month in Midland at Floyd Elementary School which is part of the Bullock Creek School District. Mrs. Straus said she read to kindergarten and first grade students and Mrs. Bauer read to first grade and second grade students and then they had lunch with students from every class, which provided an excellent opportunity to engage the students in conversation to obtain their views on various issues. She said the school emphasizes academic excellence.

Mrs. Straus said Congressman Dave Camp had read to students the previous day. She said the school principal uses Reading Month as an opportunity to invite policy makers and journalists into the school.

- C. Internationalizing Michigan Education Conference

Mrs. Straus said she, Mrs. Bauer, and Mrs. Danhof attended the Internationalizing Michigan Conference at Michigan State University on March 4. She said Kai Vacher, Head of Innovation, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in London, England spoke on engaging students in their education through personalized learning. She said the students are very creative and they use many online experiences.

Mrs. Straus said she attended "Now is the Time to Invent: Creating a Model Global School While Increasing Your School District's Fund Balance" presented by William Skilling, Superintendent of Oxford Community Schools. She said academics, arts, and athletics are all viewed as important parts of the educational system. She said Oxford Schools teach Mandarin and Spanish from kindergarten through eighth grade with a goal of every student being fluent in another language by the time they enter 9th grade. She said Mr. Skilling also emphasizes music instruction for every student throughout their school experience.

D. Science Convention

Mrs. Straus said she, Mrs. Bauer, and Mrs. Danhof attended a Science Convention at Wardcliff Elementary School in the Okemos Public Schools. She said Rob Stephenson, the 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year, started a science convention for third grade students that has grown into a school wide event with speakers from Abrams Planetarium and other resources. She said the students were very engaged in learning and explaining their science projects. She said that Mr. Stephenson's classroom was uniquely decorated to resemble a planetarium.

Mr. Turner rejoined the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

XIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Grants

C. Report on Grant Awards

- 2009-2010 Pre-College Engineering Program Grants – Continuation
- 2010-2011 Team Nutrition Training Grant Mini-Grants – Initial
- 2009-2010 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial
- 2009-2010 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program Identification and Recruitment Centers – Initial
- 2009-2010 Section 41, Bilingual Education Grant – Initial and Continuation
- 2009-2010 Title II, Part A(3) – Improving Teacher Quality – Initial

XV. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions

- D. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Michigan School Support Staff Week
- E. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Michigan School Nurse Day – May 5, 2010

- F. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Days of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mr. Turner, that the State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- D. **adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 22, 2010, recognizing April 19-23, 2010 as Michigan School Support Staff Week;**
- E. **adopt the Resolution Regarding Michigan School Nurse Day, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 22, 2010; and**
- F. **adopt the resolution regarding Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 22, 2010.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent During Vote: Danhof, McGuire**

The motion carried.

The resolution regarding Michigan School Support Staff Week is attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution regarding Michigan School Nurse Day is attached as Exhibit B.

The resolution regarding Days of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is attached as Exhibit C.

XVI. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Bauer said Mrs. Straus previously reported that they read to students in the Bullock Creek School District in Midland in celebration of March as Reading Month. Mrs. Bauer said she had a discussion with a digital learner at Floyd Elementary School when she asked a student how reading is used while looking at a map. She said the student answered the question and then said, "or you could buy a gps (global positioning system)." Mrs. Bauer said it is important to reach students through digital learning, as one of their preferred learning methods.

XVII. RECESS

The Regular Meeting recessed at 1:11 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XVIII. PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR REVENUE RESTRUCTURING TO BETTER SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN (continued)

Mr. Austin introduced Sabrina Keeley, Chief Operating Officer of Business Leaders for Michigan.

Ms. Keeley shared a PowerPoint presentation, and distributed written information.

Mrs. Danhof and Mrs. McGuire resumed their telephone connections at 1:15 p.m.

Board member comments and *clarifications by Sabrina Keeley* included:

26. what is the nature of the business tax change and the extension of the sales tax that are being proposed by Business Leaders for Michigan – *business tax change would be the elimination of the surcharge and a reduction of gross receipts tax rate in the surcharge from .8 to .45 percent; drop sales tax rate on goods from 6 to 5.5 percent and extend the tax to services excluding business to business, housing, education, or health care; budget reform, tax reform, and priorities for spending longer term are all needed;*
27. there is long-term research regarding economic return on investment in early childhood education; how much conversation has occurred with leaders of other states – *McKinsey & Company is represented on the Board and does the benchmarking and there are conversations among members located in other states; a benchmarking study done by McKinsey & Company will be available in late March and Board members will get a copy; will make a note to discuss early childhood;*
28. what are the labor and benefit costs and are education levels a factor – *average wages; there have been questions regarding whether the information is an accurate comparison of the data factoring in educational levels; data could be made available to Board;*
29. plan is balanced and requires shared sacrifice all the way around; are there best practices for other states that have lower incarceration rates – *National Center for Justice made recommendations last spring; Michigan incarcerates people for longer periods of time; administration, labor, and sentencing guidelines need to be addressed;*
30. regarding consolidation of services that will produce savings based on results that have been seen in other places; is there a right size or a model for school districts – *could look into it and let Board know;*

31. can't cut our way out of this – *cannot run a state on \$7 million, because we will be left with nothing;*
32. happy to see there is support for extending the sales tax to all services; happy to hear discussion on reducing sentences for incarceration;
33. clarification on taxation of services – *tax exemptions would include business to business, health care, education, and housing; and*
34. transforming correctional system is not unlike transforming the mental health system; there was a public information campaign and training.

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, April 13, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 11, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, May 18, 2010 (9:30 a.m. Retreat)
- D. Tuesday, June 15, 2010 (9:30 a.m.)

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF WEEK
April 19-23, 2010

WHEREAS, Throughout Michigan and across the country, school support staff play a vital role in the day-to-day successful operations of schools and preschools; and

WHEREAS, Within the preschool and school environment, school support staff are an essential complement in the success of students, teachers, administrators, and parents; and

WHEREAS, The support staff's role in support of teaching and learning directly affects the morale and performance of students, teachers, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, These professionals provide nurturing, caring, learning support, and a safe and appropriate environment; and

WHEREAS, School Support Staff Week is dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions made by Michigan school support staff; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education designate April 19-23, 2010, as the Michigan School Support Staff Week; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education encourages schools and communities to appropriately recognize School Support Staff and the vital role they play in the success of the learning community.



Adopted March 9, 2010

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

MICHIGAN SCHOOL NURSE DAY
May 5, 2010

WHEREAS, the school nurse provides services to an increasing number of students with a multitude of health conditions in order for them to safely attend school; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse, an invaluable member of the education team, is an experienced professional responsible for providing high quality health care, counseling, and educational services in the school environment; and

WHEREAS, school nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that maximizes each child's potential to learn and grow and advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students; and

WHEREAS, school nurses support the needs of students and reduce barriers to learning by facilitating positive student responses to normal development; promoting health and safety; intervening with actual and potential health problems; providing case management services; and actively collaborating with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning; and

WHEREAS, school nurses conduct health screenings and assessments, evaluate and monitor communicable diseases, work to comply with immunization laws, provide specialized nursing treatment and care, and share specialized knowledge through health education; and

WHEREAS, school nurses continue to adapt to an ever-expanding role in which they provide expertise in health counseling, preventative health care, environmental health and safety, school and community health programs, and emergency health services; and

WHEREAS, school nurses diligently adhere to high standards of professionalism and continually work to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to ongoing change in the education and health care delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, school nurses' efforts to improve the overall health and well-being of our children are worthy of the highest recognition and praise, and with their dedication, nurturing care, and professional expertise are very much appreciated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education declare May 5, 2010, as Michigan School Nurse Day; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education support the Michigan School Nurses and the School Nurse Day initiative, and encourage schools and communities to appropriately recognize school nurses for the impact they have on children and the valuable and meaningful contributions school nurses offer on a daily basis.



Adopted March 9, 2010

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

FOR THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

April 11–18, 2010

WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles also were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and

WHEREAS, Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of Michigan should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to those victims; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with its Congressional mandate, the Museum is responsible for leading the nation in commemorating the Days of Remembrance, and for encouraging and sponsoring appropriate observances throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Museum has designated *Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters* as the theme for the 2010 observance; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of Michigan should actively rededicate themselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, The Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of the State of Michigan to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980) the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be April 11–18, 2010, including Holocaust Remembrance Day April 11, 2010; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education hereby proclaims the week of April 11–18, 2010, as Days of Remembrance in memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education urges that the citizens of Michigan strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through life-long learning and remembrance.



Adopted March 9, 2010

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction