

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 8, 2011  
11:00 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, Secretary  
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer  
Mr. Richard Zeile, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mr. Daniel Varner  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser

Absent: Ms. Matinga Ragatz, 2010-2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. He said Board members were meeting individually with legislators prior to the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Discussion on (Approval of) State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget – added to agenda

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Danhof, McGuire, Varner, Zeile  
Absent During Vote: Straus, Ulbrich, Weiser**

**The motion carried.**

Mrs. Weiser joined the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS,  
DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and acknowledged staff and guests who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Flanagan welcomed visitors from Uzbekistan who are learning about inclusive education in the United States and how funding and programs are provided in Michigan. He said the group includes teachers, university personnel, pediatricians, and government officials, and they are accompanied by Ms. Judy Kebl with the International Visitors Council, Detroit Community Connections Program.

Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Jerry Crandall has been attending State Board of Education meetings providing news coverage for MIRS several years. Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Crandall is retiring from MIRS, and he is appreciative of his fair, honest reporting.

Mrs. Straus joined the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:35 a.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

V. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole to order at 11:36 a.m.

VI. MICHIGAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM  
(MI-SAAS) DISCUSSION

Mr. Austin said Board members have been meeting with individual legislators on the Michigan School Accreditation and Accountability System (MI-SAAS) and other educational issues. He said they have been discussing the history of educational accreditation systems and MI-SAAS which is an aligned, focused system that is in compliance with State statute regarding accreditation and includes performance measures of academic achievement, growth, and graduation rate. He said MI-SAAS has been developed with two years of input from educational stakeholders. He said MI-SAAS is not being implemented unilaterally, and the Michigan House and Senate Education Committees are being asked to support MI-SAAS. He said if MI-SAAS is not implemented, Education Yes! will remain in place.

Ms. Ulbrich joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

VII. TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR QUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on what is currently being done with teacher/administrator quality recommendations as they relate to Priority 2 – Ensure Excellent Educators of the Board’s Education Improvement and Reform Priorities.

Dr. Vaughn reviewed professional development policy and guidance; voluntary three-tier licensure as a career ladder to recognize teacher leaders; and administrator certification and training.

Mr. Austin said demands are being placed on educators for student performance and outcomes at a high level. He said it is important to help teachers deliver instruction that meets these high expectations.

Mr. Austin said the Gates Foundation has funded the development of effective measurement systems to fairly determine if student achievement is based on practice in the classroom, and the single most decisive factor in student achievement is excellent teaching. He said compared to other countries that out-perform the United States in education, we do very little to measure, develop, and reward excellent teaching.

Following discussion regarding professional learning, there was agreement that State Board of Education Continuing Education Units should move from a time-bound system to a valid, credible proficiency system that allows educators to increase their strengths and address their areas of weakness.

Following discussion on alternate routes to teacher and administrator certification, there was agreement that there will be discussion at a future Board meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ON GOVERNOR SNYDER’S BUDGET

Mr. Austin presented Discussion on State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder’s Budget.

Mr. Austin said the Board supports Governor Snyder’s commitment to a balanced and sustainable budget, with shared sacrifice from all stakeholders, pushing schools and educational institutions to find greater efficiencies and cost-savings including in school district health care and pension systems.

Mr. Austin said the budget, as proposed does not yet provide the financial requirements to fund the threshold elements of the P-20 education system needed in Michigan to provide individual opportunity and economic success.

There was agreement to discuss the financing of education at a future Board meeting.

Following Board discussion, Mr. Austin said a revised document will be presented for approval during the Regular meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:46 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 12:47 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. Eugene Buckley, East Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Buckley provided verbal comments and written information on education reform.
- B. Mr. John Lauve, Holly, Michigan. Mr. Lauve provided verbal comments and written information on duties and improvement to management.
- C. Mr. Russ Bellant, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Bellant provided verbal comments and written information on the Emergency Financial Manager and Detroit Public Schools.
- D. Mr. Chris White, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. White, representing the Coalition to Restore Hope to Detroit Public Schools, provided verbal comments on the Emergency Financial Manager and Detroit Public Schools.

XI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN AND JOHN C. AUSTIN

Mr. Flanagan said, although Board members do not usually comment during Public Participation, he would like to address the comments made regarding Detroit Public Schools contracts.

Mr. Flanagan said the Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Board of Education do not have authority over Detroit Public Schools contracts authorized by the Emergency Financial Manager. Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Austin said upon determination of the proper authority, the information will be forwarded.

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

- E. Ms. Sandra Hines, Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Hines, representing the Coalition to Restore Hope to Detroit Public Schools, provided verbal comments on Detroit Public Schools.
- F. Mr. John Anderson, Okemos, Michigan. Mr. Anderson provided verbal comments on the failure of the education system in Michigan.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education convene in closed session at the request of Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as provided in Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye  
Danhof – Aye  
McGuire – Aye  
Straus – Aye  
Ulbrich – Aye  
Varner – Aye  
Weiser – Aye  
Zeile – Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed at 1:20 p.m. at which time the Board met in closed session until 2:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 2:25 p.m. in the Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room.

XV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- C. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2011

**Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2011.**

Mrs. Straus presented a collection of minor changes for the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2011. There was Board consensus to modify the minutes.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XVI. REPORT/ACTION ON EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Mr. Austin said the Board met in closed session earlier in the day to discuss the Evaluation of the superintendent of Public Instruction and the Seventh Addendum to the Agreement Between the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Austin said the Board is pleased to give its continuing endorsement to Mike Flanagan. He said the Board appreciates Mr. Flanagan's strong leadership in difficult times, focusing on educational reforms that will improve educational outcomes in Michigan.

Mr. Austin said the Seventh Addendum provides for a contract extension of one year until May 1, 2014. He said Mr. Flanagan will receive the same salary increase or decrease equivalent to those provided to or taken from classified state employees. Mr. Austin said Mr. Flanagan's performance is deserving of a salary increase, and he appreciates Mr. Flanagan's willingness to sacrifice and accept a salary level below his peers outside state government.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the seventh addendum to the Agreement between the Board and Michael P. Flanagan which extends the agreement between the Superintendent and the Board to May 1, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Flanagan said he is thankful for the opportunity to help the system change and students improve.

XVII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ON GOVERNOR SNYDER'S BUDGET

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting during the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Austin said the document has been revised to include comments made during the Committee of the Whole.

**Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget, as attached to the President's memorandum of March 4, 2011, and as modified by discussion.**

Following discussion, the vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Weiser  
Nay: Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

The State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget is attached as Exhibit A.

#### XVIII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, State and Federal Legislative Director, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update. She provided an update on the federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, federal and state budgets, and State Emergency Manager legislation.

Mr. Austin said Lisa Hansknecht, Marianne McGuire, and Kathleen Straus will attend the Joint Legislative Conference of the National Association of State Boards of Education and the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, D.C. on March 27-29. He said there should be a unified message regarding the federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act when they meet with members of Congress.

Mr. Austin said Casandra Ulbrich has drafted a Board Resolution on Emergency Financial Manager Legislation. Ms. Ulbrich distributed the draft resolution.

Following discussion, the draft resolution was revised to include Board member comments.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Resolution on Emergency Financial Manager Legislation dated March 8, 2011, as modified by discussion.**

Following further discussion, the vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Danhof, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Weiser  
Nay: McGuire, Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

The State Board of Education Resolution on Emergency Financial Legislation is attached as Exhibit B.

XIX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said the Board's Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee will be comprised of Marianne McGuire, Kathleen Straus, and Eileen Weiser. Mr. Austin said the Board's School Health Committee will include Kathleen Straus, Casandra Ulbrich, and Richard Zeile. There was Board consensus regarding the membership of both committees.

XX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

F. Human Resources Update

Grants

G. Report on Grant Awards

- 2010-2011 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Initial
- 2010-2011 Building State Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use & Violence Grant – Amendment
- 2010-2011 Special Projects Grants Under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Amendment
- 2010-2011 Safe and Supportive Schools Grant – Initial
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant (\$276,802) – Initial
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant (\$25,000) – Initial
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant (\$45,000) – Initial
- 2010-2011 Intermediate School District Collaboration Grant – Amendment and Continuation
- 2010-2011 Region 3 Intermediate School District Partnership Grant – Amendment and Continuation
- 2010-2011 Title III – English Language Acquisition Program – Amendment
- 2010-2011 McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance Grant – Amendment

XXI. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Matinga Ragatz, 2010-2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year, was absent; therefore, no report was provided.

XXII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus distributed information on the Enrichment Expo being offered by Oakland Schools on March 28, 2011, featuring in-school programs, field trips, and creative ways to pay for them.

Mrs. Weiser said she would like to share information on the National Assessment of Educational Progress science results for Michigan at a future meeting.

Mrs. Weiser said Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, spoke recently about what it takes to turn around failing schools. She said in 19 failing schools, he provided parents with great principal leaders and accurate data including test results and, and schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress.

Mrs. Weiser said she will send Board members a news article from *The Economist* about transforming manufacturing through three-dimensional printing from digital designs. She said printers are being used for manufacturing.

Mrs. McGuire asked if information gathered from students whose family members are serving in the military is voluntary. Mrs. MaryAlice Galloway, Deputy Superintendent/School Reform Officer, said the information is being provided by families on a voluntary basis, and it is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

XXIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Ms. Ulbrich, and Mrs. Danhof with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXIV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 12, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, May 24, 2011 (9:30 a.m. Retreat)
- D. Tuesday, June 14, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)

XXV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danhof  
Secretary