

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 10, 2012  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, Secretary  
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer  
Dr. Richard Zeile, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mr. Daniel Varner (via telephone)  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Mr. Greg Tedder, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 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

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

**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, Governor Snyder's representative, and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P.FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said that April is Month of the Young Child, and he showed a picture of his grandson, Will. He said the Office of Great Start focuses on the positive impact of coordinating and investing in early childhood experiences.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:44 a.m.

**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 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; and Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services; presented on the Status of Implementing the Standards for the Preparation of School Counselors.

Mr. Flanagan said counselors are charged with scheduling and academic advising, and provide professional support services to students in areas such as identity crisis, suicide awareness and prevention, bullying, physical and sexual abuse. He said the ratio of counselors to students is greater than 600 to one, and there may be a need to consider a tiered system where counselors are supported by technicians who could assist. He said the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) has agreements with school districts where Corps Members assist in college access, but counselors are not replaced.

Dr. Ulbrich said there is concern that school counselors are not getting enough training in college admission counseling. She distributed "Proposed Amendments to Certification and Licensure of School Counselors, State of Michigan" that was prepared and sent to the Board by Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling.

Dr. Vaughn said the State Board of Education approved the Standards for Preparation of School Counselors on June 15, 2010. She said educator preparation institutions have been working to update their programs, and the new content test will be available in 2013.

Dr. Jenkins provided information through a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Dr. Vaughn said Michigan is unable to leverage federal funding to support the activities of the Michigan College Access Network, due to the inability to produce state funding for maintenance of effort. Mr. Tedder said Governor Snyder included two million dollars in the Executive Budget to keep the Michigan College Access Network Grant Program in operation.

Based on discussion regarding the need for preparation of school counselors in the areas of career and college preparation and access, Dr. Jenkins said these areas could be included in program review of counseling certification programs.

There was discussion regarding the ratio of counselors to students, addressing the educational and emotional needs of students, and the need for accessible websites integrating counseling and career selection.

The following individuals offered comments on counseling programs:

- A. Dr. Shaun Bultsma, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Bultsma, President, Michigan School Counselor Association
- B. Ms. Patricia Renner, Senior Director for State Government Relations in Advocacy, Government Relations and Development, The College Board
- C. Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chair of Government Relations Advisory Committee, Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling, and College Counselor, The Roeper School.

There was discussion regarding whether school counselors should receive college counseling training in a separate course or as part of another course.

Mr. Varner said leaders in schools that are beating the odds may have insights regarding effective use of school counselors.

Dr. Ulbrich and Mrs. Danhof suggested that support for the Michigan College Access Network be included as an agenda topic of the Board's Legislative Committee.

#### VIII. DISCUSSION ON FINANCE/INNOVATION STUDY

Mr. Austin led the discussion on the Finance/Innovation Study, and he distributed "Discussion: Education Finance – Innovation Study."

Mr. Austin said the time is right for a more complete and fulsome review of the financial implications for delivery of a quality education, today and for the future given new learning demands, education reforms, and changes in education delivery methods.

Mr. Austin said the State Board of Education is charged under the State Constitution to 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.”

Mr. Austin said the State Board of Education proposes an Education Finance/Innovation Study informed by the Governor and key education stakeholders. Mr. Austin said he and a committee of the Board comprised of Mrs. Straus, Mr. Varner and Mrs. Weiser will meet with Mr. Flanagan and Department staff on April 19 to further define the scope and execution of the study.

Mr. Austin asked Board members to consider the discussion questions on the document he distributed.

Board member comments included:

1. Scope: K-12 or P-20; place K-12 in holistic context; early college credit is the P-20 bridge.
2. Timing of Study: 6 to 8 months; release in first three months of 2013 for new Legislature.
3. Look now and toward the future.
4. Look at what could be – not what is, how to get there, and how to fund it.
5. Focus on the measures that encourage the behavior we want to see.
6. Examine impact of new delivery methods – cyber, charter, blended.
7. Allocation of resources: Example: Different costs/issues around class size for primary and secondary school, what do teachers do especially well?
8. SWOT Analysis – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats of keeping or changing current funding system.
9. Examine impact of funding following the student.
10. Don't penalize people who use money wisely.

11. Provide ample opportunity for stakeholder participation.
12. Examine issues such as transportation, who does it? How do we pay?
13. State Board of Education members to help inform framework for study.
14. Student population declines are a factor.
15. Schools are looking at being adventurous; what are the issues that don't work for them?
16. Start with clean slate; what barriers do pockets of excellence see?
17. Define quality education, what is the goal/outcome?
18. High stakes accountability for teachers who deserve to have students come to them better prepared.
19. Tie to research such as brain and class size.
20. Currently districts spend one-quarter of their funding on retirement.
21. Governor is focused on funding outcomes, thoughtful investments and tangible results, understanding the results from various investments.
22. Need solid data foundation; make sense of data for everyone.
23. Be bold.
24. Include look at Pre-K and K-12 Education.
25. Perhaps focus postsecondary education piece on how to bridge secondary and postsecondary, accelerate learning.
26. What is quality education – define outcomes, how to fund and get the biggest bang for the buck, determine what it would take to deliver quality given new and future delivery modes.
27. Poverty issues.
28. Special education, rising costs, recent Citizens Research Council study.

Mr. Austin said the comments provided will inform the Board's committee when they meet on April 19, and they will communicate with the full Board following the meeting.

IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

Mrs. Danhof said the Board's Legislative Committee can be advocates for changes in federal funding formulas for grants, if staff has suggestions for improvement.

Mrs. Straus said it is helpful to know how federal funding is allocated, if it is a clear formula.

Dr. Zeile said there should be a distinction between statements of fact and assumptions.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- D. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of March 13, 2012

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of March 13, 2012.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- E. Approval of Minutes of Closed Session of March 13, 2012

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of Closed Session of March 13, 2012.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Dr. Shaun Bultsma, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Bultsma, President, Michigan School Counselor Association, provided verbal comments on preparation of school counselors in Michigan and the use of paraprofessionals.

- B. Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Birmingham, Michigan. Dr. O'Connor, representing the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling, shared verbal comments and written information on counselor standards and training.
- C. Ms. Lori Johnston, Hastings, Michigan. Ms. Johnston, representing the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling, provided verbal comments regarding counselor standards and training.
- D. Ms. R. Andrea Moss, Novi, Michigan. Ms. Moss presented verbal comments and written information on text book issues and the International Baccalaureate Program.

XIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said this is a time for reinforcing the most effective needed education agenda for Michigan. He said this means reinforcing support for the rigorous high school Michigan Merit Curriculum, the standards based Michigan Educational Assessment Program, Department budget, and college access. He said the State Board of Education and Governor Snyder have made recommendations on policy and budget, and there is a healthy overlap. He said the Board is interested in working with the Legislature to clarify issues as they arise.

XIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- F. Human Resources Report
- G. Report on the Department of Education Cosponsorship

Grants

- H. Report on Grant Awards
  - 2011-2012 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment
  - 2011-2012 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting – Amendment
  - 2011-2012 Safe and Supportive Schools Grant – Amendment
  - 2012-2013 CTE Perkins State Leadership Grant – Initial
  - 2011-2012 CTE Perkins Secondary Reserve Grant – Amendment

Mr. Flanagan said the National Association of State Boards of Education Policy Update on Online Learning noted that Michigan is one of three states requiring students to participate in at least one online learning experience in order to graduate from high school, and Michigan's Seat Time Waiver program also provides students more chances to explore non-traditional learning opportunities.

Mr. Flanagan said he visited Holland Schools last month. He said elementary students and teachers are successfully integrating I pads in pilot programs. He said *Education Connections* will highlight a veteran teacher of twenty years who volunteered to participate, and says she would not chose to go back to her former way of teaching.

Mrs. Straus said the Human Resources Report provides minimal information regarding new employees. Mr. Flanagan said staff will discuss a process for introducing new employees at Board meetings.

XV. REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year. He provided a verbal update to his written report including the Global Trade Mission – a three-day, hands-on virtual learning experience that simulates an international trade mission. He said Zilphia Martin IV, a Berkley High School senior, was on the gold medal winning Exportsmanship Award team. Mr. Galbenski also shared an update on the open house at the Oakland Schools Technical Campus that showcased technical training, postsecondary education and careers.

XVI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, State and Federal Legislative Director, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Ms. Hansknecht said the May 8 State Board of Education meeting will include a discussion between the Board and the House Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and Michigan Department of Education Budgets.

Ms. Hansknecht said the Board's Legislative Committee will discuss pending curriculum bills at its meeting on April 16. She said the Senate subcommittee removed \$500,000 from the Department line item for the State Board/ Superintendent's office funding, which would be a 36 percent cut.

Ms. Hansknecht said performance based funding has been a topic of discussion in the House and Senate. She said discussions have included investment in technology, and replacing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test with a computer adaptive test. She said if this were to occur, there are a number of implications for federal funding.

Ms. Hansknecht also gave an update on House Resolutions 111 and 112 and House Bill 5040 regarding higher education programs for counselors being prohibited from disciplining or discriminating against a student for refusing to serve a client whose behaviors conflict with the students' sincerely held religious belief.

Ms. Hansknecht gave an update on Senate Bills 315 and 316 and House Bills 4513 and 4514 regarding the kindergarten entry age.

Ms. Hansknecht said there is a possibility of a ten percent across the board cut at the federal level that would greatly affect education. She said this will be an agenda topic of the Board's Legislative Committee.

Mrs. Danhof distributed and read a draft resolution reaffirming previously approved State Board of Education positions.

Mr. Varner ended his telephone connection at 2:17 p.m.

Following discussion on the draft resolution, Mr. Austin made a motion.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education reaffirms its support of four essential education policy positions:**

- 1) The Michigan Department of Education's plan for an orderly transition from the "paper and pencil" Michigan Educational Assessment Program test to an online assessment linked to rigorous state learning standards (including the Smarter Balanced Assessment) in the 2014-2015 school year;**
- 2) Performance-based funding, focused on student progress;**
- 3) Maintenance of the rigor required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum; and**
- 4) Michigan Department of Education staffing as requested in the Executive Budget to support a strong Department that implements State Board of Education policies, and state and federal legislation.**

**The Board further tasks its Legislative Committee to draft a more detailed resolution stating same and transmit it to the Michigan State Legislature.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

Criteria

- J. Approval of Criteria for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, Part B, Section 619 Preschool Grants

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:**

- J. approve the Criteria for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, Part B, Section 619 Preschool Grants, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 26, 2012.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus said she and Dr. Ulbrich attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. She said there was discussion regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and she asked when it will be ready. Dr. Martineau said it is expected to be ready in Spring 2015, as projected.

Mrs. Straus said she has heard concerns about the teacher certification rules that are now at the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Mrs. Carol Easlick, Senior Policy Advisor to Deputy Superintendent Wolenberg, provided an update on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules process.

XIX. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

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

Mr. Flanagan said during the regularly scheduled meeting on May 8, 2012, there will be a discussion between the State Board of Education and the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and Michigan Department of Education Budgets.

XX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, May 8, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Thursday, May 24, 2012 (9:30 a.m.) State Board Retreat
- C. Tuesday, June 12, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, August 14, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danhof  
Secretary