

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

February 10, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser (via telephone)  
Dr. Richard Zeile

Also Present: Ms. Melody Arabo, 2014-2015 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

**Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, 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 and the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mr. Flanagan invited audience members to introduce themselves.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Kathleen Straus who was honored by Women and Leadership in the Workplace, Melody Arabo who was named at the top of Oakland County's Elite 40 Under 40, and Grand Valley State University as they celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college of education.

Mr. Flanagan shared a book authored by his granddaughter who is in kindergarten.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:46 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON TESTING

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, presented on testing.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation will provide clarification on the testing time for the spring 2015 assessments, including the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), as well as the college entrance and work skills exams. He said there are state and federal testing requirements.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included ACT as a norm referenced test, standards create the framework not the curriculum, free college entrance exam provided, SAT alignment with Michigan standards, goal to reduce testing, technology enhanced test items, sample tests, scheduling testing time, repeat testing for ACT and SAT college entrance exams, disruptions due to testing, random sampling, diagnostic testing, length of testing affects reliability, testing as one of many indicators, bipartisan agreement on amount of testing, and work skills testing.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) FLEXIBILITY RENEWAL

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Abbie Groff-Blaszak, Special Assistant to Education Services and Accountability Services; presented on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is an update on the ESEA renewal process, timelines, and implications. He said amendments to Michigan's current ESEA request are being considered, and renewal requests are due to United States Department of Education by March 31, 2015.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included differentiation between state and federal requirements; differentiating assistance; local determination of interventions; changing legislation to include flexibility; common goals of high standards, expectations, closing gaps; third grade literacy; viewpoint of schools related to seeking flexibility renewal; Title I set asides; letter grades for schools; wrap-around services in schools; fifth model in School Improvement Grants; stakeholder and public comment; reading proficiency legislation; focus on shared vision with legislators and Governor; and a broad mix of stakeholders at the local level.

IX. MID-YEAR REPORT ON 2013-2015 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRIORITIES

By consensus of the Board, this item was removed from the agenda due to time constraints.

X. REPORT ON STATE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Austin reported on the State Superintendent Search.

Mr. Austin said the deadline to apply for the Superintendent of Public Instruction is February 19, 2015. He said the application is available on the website of Ray and Associates and also the State Board of Education website. He said the Board is encouraging all interested parties to apply. He said the search firm is reporting that they are receiving a large number of applications including a broad representation of skill sets.

Mr. Austin said the Board will meet on March 3, 2015 to review applications, and those requesting confidentiality will be reviewed in closed session as provided by the Open Meetings Act. He said semi-finalists will be interviewed in open session on March 10 and 11, and finalists will be interviewed on March 18.

XI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said all State Board of Education committee members have agreed to continue serving, and Dr. Pugh Smith will begin serving on the School Health Committee. He said the School Health Committee members are Mrs. Straus, Dr. Zeile and Dr. Pugh Smith; the Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee members are Ms. Fecteau and Mrs. Straus; the Legislative Committee members are Dr. Ulbrich (Chair), Ms. Ramos-Montigny, Mrs. Straus and Mrs. Weiser. Mr. Austin said all members of the Board are welcome to participate in all Committee meetings.

Mr. Austin said State Board of Education members also serve on committees of the National Association of State Boards of Education. He said Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith is a member of the Career Education Study Group; Mrs. Kathleen Straus is a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee; and Dr. Richard Zeile is Central Area Director, serving on the NASBE Board of Directors.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at the Regular Meeting 1:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Mr. John Stewart of Plymouth, Michigan. Mr. Stewart provided verbal comments on funding, testing and the arts.

XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked Deputy Superintendents to introduce new employees.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start, introduced Heather Lucas, Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning; Danielle Johnson, Administrative and Fiscal Unit; and Mark Dillingham and Beth Dontje, Child Development and Care.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, introduced Najla Mamou, Systems Integration.

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Michelle Ribant, Education Improvement and Innovation.

XV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:16 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### **XVI. PRESENTATION ON INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Flanagan introduced a series of three presentations.

Mr. Rogelio Landin, President, PerformancED, presented Resource Equity. Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Mr. Bob Morris, Policy Advisor, and Ms. Naheed Huq, Education/Workforce Development Leader, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, presented The Technical Career Continuum. Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Mr. Austin left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Ms. Karen Twomey and Dr. Tom Pedroni, Michigan Pro-Public Educators, presented Constructing an Evidence-Based Pathway Forward for Detroit Public Schools. Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion followed.

### **XVII. RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION AWARD WINNER MICHELE ANDERSON**

Mr. Flanagan welcomed Ms. Michele Anderson who was recently selected as the 2014 National History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Ms. Anderson is a teacher at John Glenn High School in Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Mr. Flanagan said Ms. Anderson is an outstanding teacher, and has also done extensive curriculum work with the Michigan Department of Education. He said in 2013, Michele won a \$6,545 project grant from the Michigan Humanities Society for a John Glenn Oral History Project and Community WWII USO Dance. He said high school students did an oral history activity in which they interviewed and videotaped WWII veterans to be honored by the entire community. He said the oral histories were submitted to the Library of Congress. He said the WWII USO reenactment dance celebrated the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in Europe, and more than 600 community veterans and their families attended. Mr. Flanagan said Ms. Anderson received the Michigan Historical Commission's John B. Swainson Award for this project.

Mr. Flanagan said Ms. Anderson completed a Korean War oral history and USO Dance in 2014, and she is currently working on a Vietnam Era project.

Ms. Anderson introduced her guests: Dr. Michele Harmala, Superintendent, Wayne-Westland Community Schools; Mr. David Ingham, Principal, John Glenn High School; Mr. Tom Buckalew, Board President and former teacher; and Mr. John Stewart, former Michigan Representative.

Mr. Flanagan presented Ms. Anderson with a certificate of appreciation from the State Board of Education.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:31 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

G. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2015

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith, Straus, Ulbrich,  
Weiser, Zeile  
Absent: Austin**

**The motion carried.**

XX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

H. Human Resources Report

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2014-2015 State School Aid Act Section 61a (3) Integration of Michigan Merit Curriculum Content standards - Initial; \$1,000,000
2. 2014-2015 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools - Amendment; \$13,580,925
3. 2014-2015 Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grant - Amendment; \$2,062,400
4. 2013-2014 Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition Program - Amendment; \$8,222,352

5. 2013-2014 Title III, Part A, Immigrant Students Program – Amendment; \$1,460,915
6. 2014-2015 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment; \$486,522,747
7. 2014-2015 Title I, Part C Regular Year Migrant Program Allocations – Amendment; \$3,639,380

Mr. Flanagan shared his Valentine’s Day podcast celebrating teaching, and he shared a photo of Ms. Arabo’s family members reacting to the surprise announcement when she was named the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXI. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Melody Arabo reviewed her monthly activities as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year via a video presentation.

XXII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; and Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on pending legislation and the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Mr. Ackley said Governor Snyder will present the Executive budget on February 11, 2015. He said the Board’s Legislative Committee met on February 5, 2015 and discussed inviting legislators to join the Board for lunch during the March or April meeting.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Legislative Committee also discussed the Adequacy Study that is the responsibility of the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB). She said the Department of Education should be involved in the process, and staff was asked to reach out to DTMB regarding development of the Request for Proposal. Mr. Ackley said there is no appropriation for the study at this time.

Mrs. Straus said she participated in a February 9, 2015, conference call initiated by the National Association of State Boards of Education as part of the Governmental Affairs Committee. Mrs. Straus said she is representing Michigan on the Committee, and she provided an update.

Ms. Fecteau asked about the status of the Special Education rules that were awaiting approval by Joint Committee on Administrative Rules at the end of the 2014 legislative session. Mr. Flanagan said the Michigan Department of Education followed the rules process and he is reluctant to resubmit them. Discussion followed.

XXIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- K. Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorships

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- K. support the cosponsorships, as attached to the Superintendent's Memorandum dated January 27, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith, Straus, Ulbrich,  
Weiser, Zeile  
Absent: Austin**

**The motion carried.**

XXIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

There were no additional comments offered by Board members.

XXV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, March 3, 2015 (1:00 p.m.) Special Meeting
- B. Tuesday, March 10, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- C. Wednesday, March 11, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- D. Tuesday, March 17, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- E. Tuesday, March 18, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- F. Tuesday, April 14, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary