

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 13, 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
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

- A. Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support of the Early On Field Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Item C first bullet, and Item N) – removed from agenda

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

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. RECESS

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

V. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

VI. PRESENTATION ON SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSISTENTLY LOWEST ACHIEVING SCHOOLS

Ms. Deborah Clemmons, Director, State School Reform Office; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation; presented Support Services for Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is a brief overview of the redesign models, and the type of technical assistance, supports and professional learning available to schools.

Ms. Clemmons and Ms. Forward provided information through a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Manager, Evaluation Research and Accountability, came to the Board table to provide additional information regarding measurement of student achievement gains.

There was discussion regarding the evaluation of models and which produce the greatest achievement gains, what impacted the achievement gains, and whether funding was a factor.

Mrs. Weiser said the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/aboutus.aspx>, serves as a source of scientific evidence for what works in education. She said it would be helpful to have a similar Michigan website.

Mrs. Straus asked if all schools participate in the Principals Academy. Ms. Clemmons said they are invited to participate.

VII. PRESENTATION ON PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Mike Radke, Director, Office of Field Services; and Dr. Shereen Tabrizi, Manager, Special Populations, Office of Field Services; presented Parent Engagement and Involvement.

Mr. Flanagan said the Michigan Department of Education has updated guidance on parent engagement and involvement. He said the tools being presented give specific promising practices for schools to engage parents in more meaningful ways to accelerate student achievement.

Mr. Radke and Dr. Tabrizi provided information via a [PowerPoint presentation](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5233---,00.html) and a review of the resources available on the website <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5233---,00.html>.

Mrs. Weiser distributed written information from various school volunteer programs throughout the nation.

In response to Mr. Varner, Mr. Radke said parent engagement affects all Department work. He said state and federal programs require it, and the School Improvement Framework has a strand on school and community relations that includes parent and family involvement.

Mrs. McGuire said when a school closes, parent volunteers should be transitioned to the new school.

Mrs. Straus asked how parents receive the information. Mr. Radke said educators are encouraged to go to community meeting places rather than rely on parents coming to schools or accessing information through computers.

VIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There were no Board member comments regarding grant criteria.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:14 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 12:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

X. CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, 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.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:17 p.m. at which time the Board met in closed session until 2:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 2:05 p.m. in the Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Sandra York, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ms. York, Executive Director, Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers (Michigan PTA), provided verbal and written information on Michigan PTA initiatives and family engagement.
- B. Mr. Fred Wurtzel, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Wurtzel shared verbal comments on Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- C. Mr. Casey Dutmer, Wyoming, Michigan. Mr. Dutmer, Chairman, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, provided verbal comments regarding Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- D. Mr. Rick Garcia, Haslett, Michigan. Mr. Garcia, Executive Director, Eaton County United Way, and Michigan Alliance of Latinos Moving Toward Achievement, presented verbal comments regarding cultural barriers in academic achievement regarding parental engagement and underserved Hispanic and Latino populations in Michigan.

XIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan introduced his wife, Anna Flanagan, who was attending the Board meeting.

XIV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 14, 2012

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 14, 2012.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said as a follow up to previous Board meeting discussion, he has spoken with Dr. John Covington, Chancellor, Education Achievement Authority, and he is eager to present at a future State Board of Education Meeting. Mr. Austin distributed a draft letter of invitation to Mr. Covington that will be signed by Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Austin.

Mr. Austin said he visited Oakland University's Early College High School, and on February 28, and he and Mrs. Straus visited Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast on February 28. He said Mr. Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year, facilitated the visit and it was a fantastic learning experience that highlighted the power of great teachers and administrators working together. Mr. Austin said it is clear that career and technical education programs can be a vehicle for making learning come alive by teaching the high end academics and giving exposure to fascinating domains of work.

Mr. Austin said he visited Milan Area Schools at the request of Mr. Jim Ferrar, who previously addressed the Board on teaching diversity and the elimination of Native American mascots and logos in schools. Mr. Austin said that in 2003 the Board adopted a resolution recommending the elimination of these mascots, nicknames, and logos. He distributed a draft letter encouraging Milan Area Schools to move forward in eliminating symbols that are offensive. Mr. Austin said later in the meeting Board members will be asked to support the letter.

Mr. Austin said the Board will move forward with a study on financing needs for education. He said he, Mrs. Straus, Mr. Varner, and Mrs. Weiser will serve on a committee to determine the scope of the study. There was Board consensus. He said the next step will be to meet with Mr. Flanagan and Department staff. Mr. Austin said it is important that stakeholders and various perspectives are involved in the study.

Mr. Austin said the Board will discuss the communications policy at a later date.

Mr. Austin said Ms. Hyun-seung Kwak, Michigan State University student intern, has completed the report on policy recommendations for school safety and zero tolerance while working with Department staff in the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs Unit. He said the report will be shared with Board members and be included in a future Board meeting presentation.

XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- E. Human Resources Report
- F. Report on the Department of Education Cosponsorships
- G. Report on Property Transfer Decisions

Grants

- H. Report on Grant Awards
 - 2010-2011 ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant – Amendment
 - 2010-2011 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 4% Title I School Improvement – Amendment
 - 2011-2012 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) – Amendment
 - 2010-2011 Enhancing Education Through Technology, Title II, Part D, Competitive Program, Regional Data Initiatives Continuation Grant – Amendment
 - 2010-2011 Enhancing Education Through Technology, Title II, Part D, Competitive Program, Michigan Education Data Portal Grant – Amendment and Continuation
 - 2011-2012 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial
 - 2011-2012 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program – Amendment and Continuation

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on his visit to Ithaca Public Schools on February 22. He said he was impressed by the administration and staff and the way they have infused Ipads into learning in multiple ways.

XVII. 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 Digital Learning Day, the Michigan Career Education Conference, and the National Business Education Business Partnership Task Force and Marketing Standards Task Force.

XVIII. 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 annual Evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Eighth Addendum to the Agreement Between the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Austin said universally, the Board lauds Mr. Flanagan's leadership and effective management of the Department keeping employee morale up and so much effective work progressing given tight budgets. Mr. Austin said Mr. Flanagan's leadership and ability to shape Michigan's education agenda and be attentive to the needs of stakeholders is heralded.

Mr. Austin said the Board and Mr. Flanagan will continue to work together aggressively to advance and align policy and strategic priorities, as they interact with the Governor and Legislature. Mr. Austin said the meeting between Governor Snyder, Mr. Flanagan, and the Board's representatives, and Mr. Tedder's presence at the Board table are helpful.

Mr. Austin said the Board will continue to work together to gather more resources to better support the Department.

Mr. Austin said the Board looks forward to continuing a very powerful and fruitful partnership with Mr. Flanagan. He said the Eighth Addendum provides for a contract extension of one year until May 1, 2015, under the current terms of the contract.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the eighth addendum to the Agreement between the Board and Michael P. Flanagan which extends the agreement between the Superintendent and the Board to May 1, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Flanagan said he is appreciative that the Board shows confidence in the Department as a team, and he and staff will continue to work hard. He said he is looking forward to the Board's retreat and the opportunity to align where appropriate.

Mr. Austin said the Board appreciates the incredible effort put forth by the Department. He said when the Board credits Mr. Flanagan, he gives the credit to staff.

XIX. 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 autism legislation, seat-time waiver legislation, teacher certification and continuing education legislation, and Executive budget recommendations.

Ms. Hansknecht said she had a conversation with Representative Bill Rogers regarding a joint meeting between the Board and the House Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and Michigan Department of Education budgets.

Ms. Hansknecht said she and Mr. Flanagan had a discussion ensuring that Board members are made aware of opportunities to testify at legislative hearings. She said all Board Legislative Committee meetings will include discussion of pending legislation and opportunities for testimony by Board members.

Ms. Hansknecht said there is legislation proposed to move the kindergarten entry date from five years of age by December 1 to five years of age by September 1. She said the Senate Education Committee will hear testimony on Senate Bills 315 and 316 on March 14.

Mr. Varner said he had heard that the entry date would gradually move one month per year, and he does not see that in the current legislation. He said without a gradual phasing in of the entry date, the shift in numbers would be difficult from an administrative perspective.

Dr. Ulbrich said parents should decide if their child is ready to enter kindergarten, and she recommends opposing the legislation. Mrs. Straus agreed that the kindergarten entry date should remain as five years of age by December 1.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start; and Dr. Lindy Buch, Director, Early Childhood Education and Family Services; came to the Board table.

Ms. Broman said moving the kindergarten entry date to September 1 gives children the opportunity for an additional three months of quality early childhood experiences, and legitimizes policy that children benefit from these experiences that prepare them for school. Ms. Broman said additional resources may be required to provide capacity for quality early childhood experiences.

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education supports Senate Bills 315 and 316 regarding the kindergarten entry date.

Mrs. McGuire said she is concerned about four year old children whose birthdays are between September 1 and December 1 who would not be eligible for funding.

In response to Mrs. Danhof's question, Mr. Daniel Hanrahan, Director, State Aid and School Finance, said that currently kindergarten students must be five years of age by December 1 in order for the school district to receive state foundation funding.

Ms. Hansknect said the Common Core standards and assessments for elementary pupils are based on all children in kindergarten being 5 years old. She said the September 1 kindergarten entry age would bring Michigan in line with the rest of the nation. She said without the change, 25% of Michigan's children will be younger than those in other states and thus at a competitive disadvantage, because the content is designed for 5 year olds.

Mrs. Weiser said the Board has supported raising the cut scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, and more alignment with the Common Core.

Mr. Varner said families who do not have other options will need the early childhood experiences provided by the state.

Dr. Zeile said he has opposed universal preschool, but it makes sense to have an appropriate prekindergarten program for four year old children who need it.

There was Board consensus to add the following language to the motion, **"providing that:**

- 1. The change in entry date is phased in over the next three years; and**
- 2. There are sufficient resources available to provide quality early childhood experiences for the children affected by this legislation."**

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

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

The motion carried.

Ms. Hansknecht said House Bills 5451 and 5456 and Senate Bill 1013 propose changes to the high school graduation requirements. She distributed a chart summarizing the proposals which attempt to address issues related to Algebra II, World Language, and Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Vaughn, and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, came to the Board table.

Ms. Forward said the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Application allows funding to be used for an increase in the total number of school hours. She said that would increase the amount of learning time provided by the school, rather than outside providers.

Dr. Vaughn said the U.S. Department of Education has done a preliminary review of Michigan's ESEA Flexibility Application, and a peer review will be done on March 26.

Mrs. Danhof said the State Board of Education Legislative Committee met on February 27. She said the Committee is recommending Board action on House Bill 5335 – changes to the Open Meetings Act, and House Joint Resolution QQ – requiring the election of State Board of Education Members from single-member districts.

Mrs. Danhof said House Bill 5335 would amend the Open Meetings Act by requiring that a member of a public body must be physically present in order to cast his or her vote on a decision of the public body.

Mrs. Danhof said if passed, the proposed legislation will change the way the State Board of Education does its work. She said she believes the Board as a whole should not comment on this legislation, because it is not an issue of public education, but rather a protocol issue.

Mr. Austin said he believes the State Board of Education provides a good compromise in its By-laws by requiring that a quorum be physically present to convene a meeting, and allowing voting by telephone.

Mrs. Weiser said State Board of Education Members are statewide elected and not paid. She said this may be an effort to address other Boards who may conduct business with everyone on the telephone. She said she is fine with commenting or not commenting on the legislation.

Dr. Ulbrich said the proposal sends a message that if you cannot be at a meeting in person, then don't bother to participate. She said she is certain that it not the intended message.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education oppose House Bill 5335, and recommend the State Board of Education model of requiring that a quorum be physically present to convene a Regular or Committee of the Whole Meeting, and allowing voting by telephone or other live two-way electronic means of communication.

Dr. Zeile said he believes this issue is outside of the Board's purview.

Mrs. Straus said she believes the Board should take action.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

Mrs. Danhof said House Joint Resolution QQ recommends an amendment of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article VIII, Section 3, to state that beginning January 1, 2013, the State Board of Education would no longer be elected statewide but would instead be elected from single-member districts for terms of eight years.

Mrs. Danhof said the Legislative Committee recommends that the Board oppose this legislation. She said the intent and words of the State Constitution provide for advocacy for all public education, and election from single-member districts would limit advocacy to more narrowly defined geographic interests.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education oppose House Joint Resolution QQ.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Austin said when the Board met with Governor Snyder in January, during a discussion on charter and cyber school legislation, the Governor said that he expects quality schools. Mr. Tedder said the Governor has been sending the message that charter schools should be held to the same high, rigorous standards and expectations as all other schools. In response to Mrs. Danhof, Mr. Tedder said he will work toward facilitating a meeting with authorizers.

Mr. Austin said House Bill 4929 prohibits the deduction of union dues by public school employers. He said he and others have asked Governor Snyder to veto the legislation, because it does not help people work together. Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Straus, Dr. Ulbrich, and Mr. Varner said they agree with Mr. Austin. Mr. Flanagan said he has also communicated the same message to Governor Snyder. Mr. Tedder said he will take the message to the Governor.

Mr. Austin said on June 26, 2003, the State Board of Education approved a Resolution Regarding the Use of American Indian Mascots, Nicknames, and Logos. He asked if there was a motion to approve the draft letter to Milan Area Schools that he distributed earlier in the meeting. He said the letter respectfully requests that Milan Area Schools stop its use of any Native American/American Indian mascots, nicknames, logos, fight songs, insignia, antics and team descriptors.

Mr. Varner moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the letter to Milan Area Schools respectfully requesting that the district stop its use of any Native American/American Indian mascots, nicknames, logos, fight songs, insignia, antics and team descriptors.

Dr. Zeile said although the letter is in accord with the 2003 resolution, he does not support it. He said there are districts who may take pride in their Native American heritage, and he believes this is the sort of objection that should come from a Native American source.

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

XX. CONSENT AGENDA

Approvals

- K. Approval of the Standards for the Preparation of Teachers of Library Media (ND)
- L. Approval of Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Criteria

- M. Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support of the Early On Field Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- N. Approval of Criteria for Expansion Grants for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes

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

- K. approve the Standards for the Preparation of Teachers of Library Media (ND), as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 27, 2012;**
- L. approve the four At-Large nominees to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the terms specified, as listed in Attachment B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 27, 2012;**
- M. (this item was removed from the agenda); and**
- N. approve the Criteria for Expansion Grants for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 27, 2012.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXI. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus said the visit to Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast, where Mr. Galbenski teaches, was a wonderful experience, and she distributed written information. She said the students and teachers were brimming with enthusiasm, and Mr. Galbenski is the quintessential teacher.

Mrs. Danhof said there is a very good article on career and technical education programs in the March 13 edition of the *Lansing State Journal*.

Mr. Austin said he notes with sorrow, Marianne McGuire's decision to not seek reelection when her term ends at the end of 2012.

XXII. 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.

XXIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 10, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 8, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Thursday, May 24, 2012 (9:30 a.m.) State Board Retreat
- D. Tuesday, June 12, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danhof
Secretary