

## MINUTES

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

November 12, 2008  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President (via telephone)  
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President  
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary  
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer (via telephone)  
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer  
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich  
Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,  
ex officio

Absent: Mr. Reginald M. Turner

Also Present: Mrs. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

#### II. AGENDA FOLDER ITEMS

- A. 2008-2009 Title II, Part D (Models of Demonstrated Proficiency)  
Enhancing Education Through Technology Competitive Grants –  
Initial
- B. 2008-2009 Cultural Access Grant – Initial
- C. 2008-2009 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial

#### III. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Information on Special Education Advisory Committee Brief Notes  
and Reporting Formats – Memorandum dated October 27, 2008

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Mrs. Straus and Mr. Austin on their reelection to the State Board of Education for eight year terms, as determined by the November 4, 2008 election results.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. 2008-2009 Title II, Part D (Models of Demonstrated Proficiency) Enhancing Education Through Technology Competitive Grants – Initial – added to agenda
- B. 2008-2009 Cultural Access Grant – Initial – added to agenda
- C. 2008-2009 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial – added to agenda
- D. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Michigan Inclusive Schools Week – added to agenda

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

VI. 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. Straus joined the meeting via telephone at 9:55 a.m.

VII. POINT OF THE DAY

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Communications, presented the Point of the Day that focused on the effectiveness of Positive Behavior Support.

Mrs. Bauer arrived at 10:00 a.m.

VIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. ELIZABETH BAUER AND MS. NIYA HARDIN

Mrs. Bauer said prior to the Board meeting, she and Ms. Hardin spoke at the Capitol during the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Student Technology Showcase sponsored by AT&T and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL). She said student technology projects were presented to Legislators, business leaders, and the general public.

IX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 14, 2008

**Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 14, 2008.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Straus said she will postpone her report including the National Association of State Boards of Education report on the Middle School Study Group, until a future Board meeting.

XI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- E. Human Resources Update

Grants

- F. 2008-2009 State School Aid Act Section 99(6) – Continuation
- G. 2008-2009 Expansion Grants for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes – Initial
- N. 2008-2009 Title II, Part D (Models of Demonstrated Proficiency) Enhancing Education Through Technology Competitive Grants – Initial

- O. 2008-2009 Cultural Access Grant – Initial
- P. 2008-2009 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on:

A. Detroit Public Schools Update

Mr. Flanagan provided an update on the Public Act 72 Review Team for Detroit Public Schools. He said he received the report on November 6, and he has 30 days to send his determination to the Governor either agreeing with the Review Team's report or concluding that a financial emergency does exist and that the consent agreement will not lead to an elimination of that financial emergency.

Mr. Flanagan said the Michigan Department of Education has also been meeting with Detroit Public Schools to resolve the issues related to the federal high risk status. He said progress is being made.

B. Budget Issues

Mr. Flanagan said the Department is facing several very significant budget issues related to state funds. He said he appointed an internal Budget Review Team, and he appreciates the understanding nature of Department staff during these difficult budget times.

XII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year, provided a verbal report as an update to her written report.

Mrs. Haberling said Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) testing is completed, and she is interested in hearing what other teachers do when students are seated three hours for testing. She said it is a struggle after approximately three hours of testing to move on to normal class time. She said the test is important, because of the data that are gained.

Mrs. Haberling said she met with 80 to 85 percent of the parents during parent teacher conferences. She said in her classroom, the eighth grade students are studying Romeo and Juliet and the seventh grade students are doing research in the media center. She said she continues to work with Frederick Meijer Gardens and the Network of Michigan Educators. She said she has submitted her application for the National Teacher of the Year, and done presentations at Grand Valley

State University for pre-English teachers and Central Michigan University for the student Michigan Education Association conference.

In response to Mrs. Haberling, Dr. Joseph Martineau, Interim Director, Educational Assessment and Accountability, said an online survey will be sent soon requesting input on MEAP testing, including the schedule. He said district coordinators, principals, and superintendents are asked to obtain teacher input.

Mrs. Bauer asked if the survey includes a question on the time of arrival of the testing materials. Dr. Martineau said that is included on the survey, and he is meeting with the contractor regarding the timeliness of the shipment. Mrs. Bauer said in some instances the testing materials may have been in the school district, but not at the building.

Mrs. Haberling asked if there is a way to brainstorm innovative ways for students to use time when they finish testing earlier than other students. Dr. Martineau said that has been done with social studies, and it can be done again.

Mrs. Curtin said she knows the data are valuable, and she is encouraged that there is a willingness to obtain input and discuss better ways to test. She said it is also helpful to have a teacher commenting at the Board table.

Dr. Martineau said approximately four million tests were administered. Mrs. Bauer said she appreciates the timely, factual responses that are provided by Dr. Martineau and the staff when questions arise.

### XIII. APPROVAL OF LANGUAGE POLICY FOR THE MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services; and Mr. David Sanderson, State Administrative Manager; presented Approval of Language Policy for the Michigan School for the Deaf.

Mr. Flanagan said the policy impacts student achievement by ensuring students have full access to communication and linguistic information as well as providing students with greater opportunities to increase academic skills, improve literacy, and achieve their potential.

Dr. Thompson said Ms. Carie Sarver is interpreting, and she is the interpreter at the Michigan School for the Deaf.

Dr. Thompson said in 2006 the Total Communication Policy at the School for the Deaf was challenged. She said a Language Planning Referent

Group was convened to examine the issues and make recommendations. She said the group met over a period of eight months, and it was comprised of parents, administrators, national experts, alumni of the School for the Deaf, and various professionals. She said participants were from the deaf and hearing community.

Dr. Thompson said the group made several recommendations, and many of them have been incorporated into the Michigan School for the Deaf Strategic Plan. She said over the past one and one-half years Mr. David Sanderson has been working with Gallaudet University on a professional development model using a competent bilingual approach in American Sign Language and English for staff and students.

Mr. Sanderson said the goal is for the Michigan School for the Deaf to be a model for bilingual education, and students to be fluent in both American Sign Language and English. He said there are 28 schools in the nation that practice bilingual education, and it is an effective method that has been used by many states since the early 1990's.

Mrs. Bauer asked if all stakeholders have been involved. She said she would like to avoid protests by people who do not agree with the bilingual method of instruction. Dr. Thompson said there were a variety of perspectives. She said this policy is specifically for the Michigan School for the Deaf, and the goal is for the Michigan School for the Deaf to be a top-notch bilingual school. She said there are other programs available in Michigan and there are choices including oral programs.

Mr. Austin said this appears to be a way to help deaf students learn most effectively so they are prepared to participate in postsecondary learning opportunities and be full participants in society. He asked if there is an urgency to approve the Language Policy at the November State Board meeting. After discussion, there was consensus that the Board will take action at its December meeting.

Mrs. Danhof asked if there are inclusive programs to prepare teachers. Mr. Sanderson said they have a close relationship with two professors from Michigan State University, Dr. Harold Johnson and Dr. Claudia Pagliaro. He said they also have a collaborative relationship with Eastern Michigan University that teaches the oral approach. He said these are factors considered by people pursuing teaching when they select the college they will attend. He said the needs of the deaf student also need to be taken into account when selecting a program.

Mrs. McGuire ended her telephone connection at 10:55 a.m.

XIV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Straus called attention to the Resolution Honoring Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, a former member of the State Board of Education who served from January 1, 1997 to January 1, 2005. She said Dr. Moyer passed away on October 15, 2008, and he was a valued colleague who will be deeply missed.

Reports

- J. Approval of State Board of Education Expense Report

Resolutions

- K. Adoption of Resolution Regarding National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week
- L. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Herbert Moyer
- M. Adoption Resolution Regarding Michigan Inclusive Schools Week

**Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda, as follows:**

- J. approve the July 1-September 30, 2008 report of State Board of Education expenses, dated October 27, 2008;**
- K. adopt the resolution regarding the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week, March 15-21, 2009, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 27, 2008;**
- L. adopt the resolution honoring Herbert S. Moyer, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 27, 2008; and**
- M. adopt the resolution regarding Michigan Inclusive Schools Week, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 3, 2008.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

The resolution regarding National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week (CACFP) Week is attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution honoring Herbert S. Moyer is attached as Exhibit B.

The resolution regarding Michigan Inclusive Schools Week is attached as Exhibit C.

XV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan thanked Ms. Elaine Madigan, Executive Director, School Finance and School Law, for representing the Michigan Department of Education on the Review Team for the Detroit Public Schools. Mr. Flanagan said because the Review Team will report to him, he named Ms. Madigan as his designee, and she has done excellent work with the Review Team.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:04 a.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XVII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole to order at 11:05 a.m.

XVIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report by State Board of Education Members Regarding NASBE Annual Conference

The following individuals presented:

- Mrs. Kathleen Straus
- Mrs. Nancy Danhof
- Mrs. Carolyn Curtin
- Ms. Casandra Ulbrich

Mrs. Straus said she was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Conference on October 17, and she thanked her colleagues for attending the awards banquet. She said she will report on the NASBE Middle School Study Group at the next Board meeting, as she stated earlier in the meeting.

Mrs. Danhof said the NASBE Conference was held in Washington, D.C. on October 15-18, 2008. She said the conference was very informative, and many policy leaders were available. She said the presentation by the U.S. Department of Education on the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was valuable, because discussion has moved from eliminating NCLB to an understanding that there

are educational problems and concerns that need to be addressed. She said it is a learning process of accountability, flexibility, and how to reach the original goal of leaving no child behind.

Mrs. Danhof said the new NASBE President-Elect is Ken Willard from Kansas. She said she is a member of an assessment study group examining the continuum of assessment.

Ms. Ulbrich said she and Mrs. Curtin attended the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting. She said one of the issues raised was the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which has been signed by eleven states and is in effect. Ms. Ulbrich said Michigan was one of the first ten states to sign the agreement addressing perceived inequities facing school children of military parents when they are required to relocate across state lines. She distributed written information on the Compact.

Mrs. Curtin asked who Michigan's representative will be on the Board. Dr. Vaughn said the Governor will make the appointment.

Mrs. Curtin said Pedro Noguera presented at one of the general sessions. She said he is a bright energetic person who spoke of the need for an excellent public school system. She said two of his quotes were, "we need to have standards for learning," and "schools are the social safety net for youth." She said the Legislative Session was very valuable, and it was an honor to be at the conference and share ideas.

Mrs. Danhof said there was discussion about the need for State Boards of Education to communicate educational issues to the federal level. She and Mr. Austin said it is important to have conversations at the Board table so that Board members can help form the federal Legislative agenda. Mr. Flanagan said including this in the Legislative Update could be a topic at the Agenda Planning meeting.

Mrs. Bauer said it is important that policymakers visit schools, so they are able to make decisions based on current educational scenarios.

Mrs. Danhof said a discussion at the March State Board of Education meeting would be timely, because it is just prior to the NASBE Legislative Conference.

XIX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 11:23 a.m. and reconvened at 12:38 p.m.

Mrs. Danhof and Ms. Ulbrich left the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mrs. Straus ended her telephone connection at 12:30 p.m.

XX. DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

B. Presentation on Response-to-Intervention

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services
- Ms. Beth Steenwyk, Director of Special Education Projects
- Dr. A. Celeste Shelton-Harris, Principal, Portage North Middle School
- Dr. Margie McGlinchey, Co-Director, Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative

Response-to-Intervention is the practice of providing high quality instruction and/or intervention matched to student needs, using learning rate over time and level of performance, to make educational decisions. The presentation on Response-to-Intervention provided information on initiatives impacting student achievement.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member questions and *clarifications* included:

1. if Universal Education Vision and Principles and Positive Behavior Support are used across the student body, respect is fostered and issues such as bullying and other social problems dramatically decrease;
2. this aids student achievement; is it something that can be self-sustaining or does it require additional funding – *there will need to be some funding; a drop in special education referrals can offset some of the cost and resources can be reallocated; the goal is to increase capacity in intermediate school districts so that new schools can receive training and support;*

3. this new approach would be life-changing for students, staff, and administrators; and
4. recently approved professional standards include these principles that are reinforced among people preparing to join the teaching profession.

XXI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mrs. Mary T. Wood, Warren, Michigan. Mrs. Wood provided verbal comments on public school academies.

XXII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

- C. Presentation on Michigan Merit Curriculum Personal Curriculum

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services
- Ms. Betty Underwood, Director, Office of School Improvement
- Ms. Deborah Clemmons, Supervisor, Curriculum and Literacy
- Mr. Matt Korolden, Co-Director, Secondary Redesign and Transition

The Michigan Merit Curriculum provides the option for a parent or emancipated student to request a personal curriculum to modify certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and receive a diploma based on that modified curriculum.

The use of a personal curriculum modification is allowed by state statute for only four reasons:

1. to go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world languages credits
2. to modify the mathematics requirement
3. to modify the credit requirements based on the disability of a student with an IEP
4. to modify credit requirements for a student who transfers from out of state or from a nonpublic school and is unable to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member questions and *clarifications* included:

1. if a student wants to take the full credit of Algebra II in a career and technical education program, can they do it – *yes; sign offs would be necessary if they wanted to reduce the full credit to one-half credit;*
2. are students with disabilities taking the Michigan Merit Exam – *yes; there is some flexibility under the No Child Left Behind Act allowing districts to count a certain percentage of students taking MI-Access toward the Adequate Yearly Progress score; 98 or 99 percent of students will be taking the state assessment; district staff should be ensuring that students have access to instruction that will prepare them to perform well on the Michigan Merit Exam; passing the Michigan Merit Exam is not a requirement for receiving a diploma;*
3. is there a concern that more students will be labeled as special education students to obtain a Personal Curriculum – *there is no indication of that at this time; if a student has an IEP it is not automatic that they will receive a Personal Curriculum; districts seem to be moving slowly on Personal Curriculum;*
4. if a student has an IEP, any modification in the curriculum that occurs would be to make it more accessible for the student – *yes, and including as much of the high school content as practicable;*
5. can students with an IEP get a modification in areas other than math, such as English language arts – *yes, students with IEPs can get a modification in areas other than math;*
6. the fundamental understanding is that all students can and will master a set of competencies that will give them the foundation to take the next steps in life;
7. our responsibility is to organize our systems and supports for access, knowledge, and skills so that all students can pursue them;
8. there is a misconception that students who have a Personal Curriculum or an IEP will not receive a diploma – *it is the state's intent that if a student meets the criteria of the*

*Personal Curriculum that has been authorized by the local school district, the student should receive a diploma;*

9. local education agencies decide the criteria for granting a diploma; the legislation has established a new minimum in the high school graduation requirements; local districts can choose to add to the minimum requirements – *there should be a frequently asked question clarifying the fact that districts have their own autonomy in granting diplomas, because there may be additional local requirements;*
10. are all students going to receive a diploma – *not necessarily, if students don't meet the graduation requirements, they will not receive a diploma; don't start with negative, say every student in Michigan can earn a high school diploma if they meet the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum or a Personal Curriculum; and*
11. clarify the word "wishes" as used in the reasons a Personal Curriculum is allowed by state statute.

#### XXIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Andrea Post, Administrative Aide, presented the Legislative Update. Ms. Post said she was presenting an update to the written report because Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, Legislative Director, is at a Legislative Committee Meeting.

Ms. Post said it is hoped that House Bill 6412 and 6413 will pass in the lame duck session. She said these are the bills that make the statutory changes reflecting the School Aid and Michigan Department of Education budget bills. She said they allow the retake of the college entrance portion of the Michigan Merit Exam as well as allow for the work force readiness credential.

Ms. Post said that House Bills 6365 and 6366, the Farm to School Bills, are scheduled to move through Committee on November 13, and there is also a strong push on the anti-bullying bills, House Bills 4162 and 4091. She said Board member support would be appreciated.

#### XXIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- A. Re-election of Kathleen Straus and John Austin – Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer

Mrs. Bauer congratulated Mrs. Straus and Mr. Austin on their successful re-election campaigns for the State Board of Education.

- B. Adult and Community Education and Alternative Education – Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said she spoke at the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education Annual Conference held on October 22-24, 2008. She said Roberta Stanley received a leadership award. Mrs. Bauer said there are great programs that keep people in school or allow them to return to school.

- C. Superintendent of the Year Selection Committee – Mrs. Carolyn Curtin

Mrs. Curtin said she served on the Michigan Association of School Administrators Selection Committee that met on November 4, 2008, to select the Michigan Superintendent of the Year who will be announced later.

XXV. 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.

XXVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. December 9, 2008
- B. January 13, 2009
- C. February 10, 2009
- D. March 17, 2009

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin  
Secretary