

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

September 9, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
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
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone)
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich

Absent: Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Robert Stephenson, 2009-2010 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mrs. Straus requested that Approval of Policy for Teacher Preparation Institution Corrective Action, Self-Improvement, and Plan of Improvement (Item J) be removed from the consent agenda and placed under discussion.

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

III. 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. Hamilton welcomed Jessica McKinney, Education Program Specialist in the Teacher Quality Group of the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Division of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, United States Department of Education; and Susan Benbow, Management Program Analyst, Risk Management Service, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Education; who joined the meeting via telephone.

Mrs. McGuire joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:25 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

V. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole to order at 9:26 a.m.

VI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – NEW BOARD MEETING FORMAT –
MRS. KATHLEEN N. STRAUS

Mrs. Straus said that this is a new format for State Board of Education meetings. She said every other month the Board will facilitate a discussion focusing on major policy issues and invite stakeholders to present and share information and comments. She said the goal is to increase knowledge, focus attention, accelerate action, and promote informed decision making.

Mr. Austin said the Board is privileged to serve and appreciative of the opportunity to contribute. He said progress is being made toward improving educational outcomes through bipartisan efforts of the Legislature, the Governor, the Board, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Department. Mr. Austin said there is an opportunity in the immediate future to secure Race to the Top funding from the federal government to support educational outcomes. He said Michigan's proposal needs to be ambitious and effective resulting in improved educational outcomes.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING MICHIGAN'S STRATEGY FOR TURNING AROUND LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS

A. Discussion with Senator Wayne Kuipers

Mrs. Straus welcomed Senator Wayne Kuipers.

Senator Wayne Kuipers, Chair of the Senate Education Committee presented information on his package of bills, Senate Bills 636, 637, 638, and 639 regarding neighborhood public schools.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting via telephone at 9:30 a.m.

Board member comments and *clarifications from Senator Kuipers* included:

- how do neighborhood public schools differ from charter schools; does site-based management preclude management companies from managing neighborhood public schools – *the goal is to meet students where they are and move them forward; teachers have said that most of the blame for a failing school is placed on teachers; neighborhood public schools give teachers and parents the opportunity to create a school outside the normal bureaucracy with the staff of their choosing and be measured based on the student performance; there is no preclusion of management companies;*
- merit pay for individual teachers based on teacher performance is currently in the proposed legislation; is there also consideration of collective merit pay rewarding the staff of an entire building for improved student outcomes – *in a site based model a school would be given a certain amount of funding, and they would make the determination of pay based on school performance;*
- is there collective bargaining in neighborhood public schools – *teachers would give up their right to organize for the time that they are in the neighborhood public school; in a conversion school within a traditional public school, teachers are free to organize under a different contract if they choose; a teacher could decide to leave the neighborhood public school and return to the public school;*

- preschool to work is a good connection; how would early childhood learning centers be funded since they cannot be tuition based – *through partners such as foundations and businesses;*
- neighborhood public schools are charter schools by another name; there is concern that the public school system is being dismantled; for-profit management companies can become involved; there is concern that public schools will be left with the most difficult children to educate and fewer resources – *the federal government has made it clear that there cannot be a law that hinders the increase of charter schools if a state wishes to receive Race to the Top funding; Michigan has to develop something that allows for more alternatives for parents and students when a traditional public school is not working; competition in education and school choice makes everyone better; this model is being used effectively in Minnesota and other states;*
- what is the definition of not making Adequate Yearly Progress for two years; is it in the same subgroup or two different subgroups – *the focus is student performance; for example, a student may be absent from school but effectively making progress through online learning;*
- many charter schools come from public schools – *it is expected that many large urban districts would do site-based management and welcome it as an opportunity to become more innovative;*
- could a school choose to use the proposed model or does the school have to fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress for two years – *preference will be given to schools that are not making Adequate Yearly Progress;*
- is there basic criteria to establish that a school is not performing – *a majority of the teachers in the building and parents whose children attend school in the building would have to vote to take control of the school and operate it as a conversion school with site based management;*
- is it the majority of people present at the time of the vote or a majority of the school's parents and teachers – *it is not likely that a small number of people would be present during the vote, since it would be the culmination of a*

period of great public frustration over the lack of student performance in the school building;

- there is much potential with the proposed model and it could be used within the school effectively, as other states have demonstrated – *that is the hope;*
- regarding the voting to authorize a new school, procedures should be put in place such as the Open Meetings Act to make sure the public is aware;
- transportation would be important; and
- the definition of who is allowed to vote needs to be determined.

Mrs. Straus thanked Senator Kuipers.

B. Discussion with Representative Tim Melton

Mrs. Straus welcomed Representative Tim Melton.

Representative Tim Melton, Chair of the House Education Committee presented information on his package of bills, House Bills 4787 and 4789 which identify ways to turn around low performing schools.

Mrs. McGuire left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Board member comments and *clarifications from Representative Melton* included:

- good leaders are key to the success of students; how do we ensure that we have the necessary key personnel – *successful leaders create a farm team, venues for training, vet well and place people strategically for specific reasons; there are enough people in Michigan who have the passion, but the environment to succeed must be created; Michigan must be willing to reform;*
- would these successful leaders come into the existing public school to make changes – *yes;*
- how can the Senate and House versions of the legislation be combined, and how are criticisms of the model addressed – *the legislation is a start, it is not perfect, and does not guarantee 100 percent student success; the Senate and House are working to reach a compromise;*

- professional development through mentoring is a key component including coaching teams in the building and working long term with faculty regarding different ways to teach subjects – *professional development will be key to success, and although it will not be a cookie cutter approach, many of the problems will be similar;*
- research indicates that if turn around experts leave a school, within two years progress slips; the culture needs to change within the school, so that if key personnel leave the success remains because it was internal – *outside experts could be from Michigan or another state; there are some excellent models of successful schools in Michigan, but there is no pilot replication system;*
- working with teachers unions as the plan is being developed is important – *there have been repeated meetings and both sides have compromised; teachers can choose to stay or leave a school that is undergoing reform; and*
- community involvement and a systems approach are key to success – *schools cannot succeed without community involvement.*

Mrs. Straus thanked Representative Melton.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

IX. PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING MICHIGAN'S STRATEGY FOR TURNING AROUND LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS (continued)

- C. Presentation on Michigan Department of Education's Efforts to Assist Low Performing Schools

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Chief Academic Officer, and Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation, presented Michigan Department of Education's Efforts to Assist Low Performing Schools.

This was an overview of the Statewide System of Support for Title I Schools and the Department's efforts to assist low performing schools.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

D. Comments from United States Department of Education

Jessica McKinney, Education Program Specialist in the Teacher Quality Group of the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Division of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, United States Department of Education, was present via telephone. She said the period of public comment for Race to the Top funding is closed and currently comments are being reviewed. She said she cannot provide any information beyond what is in the Federal Register Notice or on the website since it is a competitive discretionary grant.

Mr. Turner left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

E. Comments from Education Alliance Representatives and other Stakeholders

Discussion followed with members of the Education Alliance and other stakeholders regarding turning around low performing schools:

- Dave Stafford, representing the Michigan Education Association, offered verbal comments and written information.
- Don Wotruba, representing the Michigan Association of School Boards, offered verbal comments.
- Dan Quisenberry, representing the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, offered verbal comments.
- Lois Lofton-Doniver, representing the American Federation of Teachers – Michigan, offered verbal comments.
- Brian Broderick, representing Michigan Association of Non-public Schools, offered verbal comments.
- Barbara Markle, Michigan State University, Office of K-12 Outreach, offered verbal comments and written information.
- Karen Ruple, Kent Intermediate School District, offered verbal comments.
- Maggie Randolph, representing Governor Granholm's Washington, D.C. Office, offered verbal comments via telephone.

- Jim Goenner, representing the Michigan Charter School Authorizers and National Charter School Authorizers Association, presented verbal comments.

Mrs. McGuire rejoined the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 12:52 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Roxanna Hopkins, Jackson, Michigan. Ms. Hopkins, representing Jackson Learning Lab, provided verbal comments on the charter school cap.
- B. Ms. Constance Harvey and Ms. Patricia Scott, Wayne, Michigan. Ms. Harvey and Ms. Scott, representing Rosewood Academy of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, presented verbal comments on opening a quality charter school.
- C. Dr. Edward Blews, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan; Dr. David Fike, President, Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan; Dr. Karen Selby, Chair, Department of Education, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Blews, Dr. Fike, and Dr. Selby provided verbal comments on Approval of Policy for Teacher Preparation Institution Corrective Action, Self-Improvement, and Plan of Improvement (Item J).
- D. Ms. Mary Wood, Warren, Michigan. Ms. Wood provided verbal comments on charter schools.
- E. Ms. Lois Lofton-Doniver representing the American Federation of Teachers Michigan, presented verbal comments on House Bills 4787 and 4789.

Mr. Turner rejoined the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:40 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING ACTIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR IMPROVING UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS INCLUDING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS

Mr. Austin said the Board needs to continue to develop policy and be involved in putting the pieces in place to assure that Michigan is eligible to compete for the Race to the Top funding.

Mrs. Danhof said the Board needs to discuss the time frame for meeting the requirements for the application for Race to the Top funds. Mr. Flanagan said he anticipates the application for the Race to the Top being complete by December 1, 2009. Ms. Danhof said the Board should participate, when appropriate, in meeting with associations and members of the Legislature.

Mr. Flanagan said there are several committees including the Oversight Committee, Operations Steering, Operations Assurances, and Stakeholder Committee.

Mr. Flanagan said he is encouraged to hear Senator Kuipers and Representative Melton say that they will work toward a compromise.

Mrs. Danhof said it was unfortunate that Senator Kuipers and Representative Melton had to leave the meeting for Legislative meetings, and were not able to hear the presentation on the Statewide System of Support which highlighted successful strategies for improving high priority schools.

Mr. Austin said the Board will remain in communication regarding issues the work groups are discussing, and ways the Board can participate in furthering Michigan's proposal for Race to the Top funds.

Ms. Bauer said Maggie Randolph reported that the National Governors Association surveyed states, and 14 states responded that they intend to apply for Race to the Top funding. She asked if Michigan is one of the states that replied, and Mr. Flanagan said Michigan did respond. Mrs. Bauer asked if a copy of the survey is available. Mr. Flanagan asked staff to identify the list of 14 states.

Mr. Stephenson said that the presentations from Senator Kuipers and Representative Melton were fascinating. There was consensus that the format used at the Board meeting worked well.

Ms. Bauer asked if Representative Melton and Senator Kuipers could receive a video of the presentation on the Statewide System of Support and the many effective strategies the Michigan Department of Education

is currently using to assist low performing schools. Mr. Flanagan said staff will send the videos. Ms. Hansknecht said there have been one on one meetings with Senator Kuipers and Representative Melton, and staff have also made presentations to the House and Senate Education Committees.

Mrs. Straus said she wants to use the best approach for Michigan regardless of the Race to the Top funding.

Mr. Austin said the alternative routes to teacher certification proposal is not yet in place and it needs to be in order to apply for the Race to the Top funding. He said the committee is working on the proposal. Mr. Flanagan said the proposal needs to be approved by the Board at its November meeting.

No action was taken.

XIV. APPROVAL OF POLICY FOR TEACHER PREPARATION INSTITUTION CORRECTIVE ACTION, SELF-IMPROVEMENT, AND PLAN OF IMPROVEMENT

Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services, presented Approval of Policy for Teacher Preparation Institution Corrective Action, Self-Improvement, and Plan of Improvement.

Dr. Jenkins said in June 2006, the State Board of Education approved criteria for assigning teacher preparation institutions into categories of performance, using a range of indicators. She said after three years of reporting, some institutions have been identified as "At-Risk" and "Low-Performing."

Dr. Jenkins said staff of the institution can validate the names of persons taking the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) to assure that they are associated with the institution.

Dr. Jenkins said the completion rate is based on a six-year cohort that begins when the person enters the teacher preparation program in the college of education which is in their junior year of college.

Dr. Jenkins said no points would be awarded for any institution that has less than an 80 percent three year average based on MTTC Performance Scores. Mrs. Bauer said the Board worked hard to raise the percentage to 80.

Dr. Jenkins said appeals regarding performance scores go through the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers, but there is no appeals process for Corrective Action.

Dr. Jenkins said Michigan Department of Education staff members have worked with institutions regarding strategies for improvement, and progress has been made.

Ms. Ulbrich asked what would cause an institution to begin at Level 2 Corrective Action. Dr. Jenkins said the distribution of points determines the level.

Mrs. McGuire said during the Public Participation portion of the meeting, a representative of one of the teacher preparation institutions asked for more time, and the intent was unclear. There was discussion regarding whether more time meant additional time to improve or more time before the Board approves the policy.

Mr. Austin said he is open to taking another month to take action.

Ms. Danhof said it was initially passed four years ago, which seems to be a sufficient amount of time to make changes. She said she has compassion for students who graduate from institutions believing they are equally prepared to teach as their peers, and then find out they are not.

Mr. Stephenson said he has been supervising and mentoring students from five different teacher preparation institutions. He said there are different strengths coming from different programs. He said he is a firm believer in high expectations and the 80 percent cut off. He said it is owed to the students to give them the very best.

In response to Mrs. Straus, Dr. Jenkins said as new data becomes available the oldest year of data is dropped from the three-year cumulative report calculation.

Mrs. Straus asked if student notification is required in the Higher Education Act when the institution's teacher preparation program reaches Level 3 Corrective Action. Dr. Jenkins said student notification is included in the Higher Education Act as it relates to students who are receiving financial aid under Title IV. Mrs. Straus said she has been told by representatives of Marygrove College and University of Detroit Mercy that sending notification would cause their programs to close. Mrs. Straus said she does not want to eliminate the programs, but rather make them better. Dr. Jenkins said institutions should work with the teacher candidates to make sure the institutions understand that students should not be taking the test until they complete 90 percent of their coursework.

In response to Mrs. McGuire, Dr. Jenkins said candidates cannot be recommended for certification unless they have passed the test. She said students that do not pass the test are part of the program retention

rate. Mrs. McGuire said substandard teachers would not be teaching in the classroom. Dr. Jenkins said that is correct, but it is an indicator of program quality.

Mrs. McGuire said she is hesitant about affording more time, when there has already been a sufficient length of time allowed.

Mr. Stephenson said he believes many students are taking the test as a diagnostic tool. He said if staff of the institution can validate the teacher candidates, then the institution has oversight to make sure candidates have done 90 percent of the coursework.

Mr. Austin said the Board wants high expectations, but there may be issues that require further consideration. He said he trusts staff to determine what the issues are and if further consideration is necessary.

Mr. Flanagan asked Dr. Edward Blews, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan, for an example of an issue that deserves further consideration in the next month. Dr. Blews was joined at the Board table by Dr. David Fike, President, Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Blews said the corrective action proposal was not known until July and there are anomalies in the data. Dr. Blews said the dates of the data could be aligned with the dates of the corrective stages.

Dr. Jenkins said performance scores have been issued for three years, and institutions have been informed that a corrective action plan was being developed.

Dr. Fike said Marygrove College has made changes and has an 87 percent pass rate on the test in the past year.

Dr. Jenkins said Dr. Catherine Smith from the Office of Professional Preparation Services worked with the Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) and they believed a three-year average was a better option for small institutions.

Dr. Fike said sanctions will lead to closure of the program.

Dr. Blews said decisions are made on data that are not current.

Dr. Jenkins said the State Board of Education would have discretion over whether or not an institution's approval status for recommending teacher candidates is continued or rescinded.

Mrs. McGuire said she is suggesting two years, but keep it open ended with a possible 3rd year.

Mrs. Bauer said high standards are needed to ensure the best teachers possible. She said if language clarification is needed then she would agree with a delay in approval.

Ms. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Teacher Preparation Institution Corrective Action, Self-Improvement, and Plan of Improvement, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 24, 2009, including additional language to clarify Level 3 Corrective Action.

Mrs. McGuire said she wants to be clear that additional time is not being suggested. By consensus, the Board was in agreement.

In response to Mrs. Straus, Dr. Jenkins said as a new year of data is added, the oldest year of data is no longer included in the calculation.

Mr. Austin said the clarifying language should amplify the Board's discretion to continue or rescind a program.

Dr. Jenkins said when staff met with Marygrove College and University of Detroit Mercy, it was agreed that current data would be presented to the State Board of Education as an addendum to the performance score.

Mr. Flanagan said the clarifying language will be shared with the Board at its next meeting.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. McGuire ended her telephone connection at 4:15 p.m.

XV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Legislative Committee

Mrs. Straus said the Legislative Committee met on September 1 and many members of the Education Alliance attended. She said the Committee will bring a recommendation to the October State Board of Education meeting that recommends a minimum of 180 days of student instruction and that schools be allowed to start school before Labor Day.

Mrs. Straus said representatives from Senator Debbie Stabenow's southeast Michigan and Washington, D.C. offices attended the meeting to begin a discussion regarding the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. She said they also provided information on legislation Senator Stabenow introduced regarding school dropouts.

B. Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee

Mrs. Straus said the Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee met on September 2 to hear a presentation from a representative of JP Morgan regarding the status of the trust funds. She said the Board will be asked to approve a recommendation regarding the investment and the 2010 spending plan at its October meeting. She said the Committee is also working with staff on a Request for Proposals for the future use of Camp Tuhsemeheta.

C. Race to the Top

Mrs. Straus said appointments will be made to several committees related to federal funding for Race to the Top. She said the Committees include Oversight, Operations Steering, Stakeholder, and Operations Assurances. Mrs. Straus said Mr. Austin, Mrs. Bauer, and Mrs. Curtin and she have indicated an interest in serving on the committees. Mr. Austin suggested that committee representation and charges be reviewed to determine which Board members are appointed to specific committees.

XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

B. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Calhoun Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

C. Report on a Modification to the Previously Approved Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

D. Report on the Kent Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

E. Human Resources Report

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

- F. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 11, 2009
- G. Approval of Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member Replacement
- H. Approval of Accommodations Summary Table for Assessment of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners
- I. Approval of the Assessment Integrity Guide
- J. Approval of Policy for Teacher Preparation Institution Corrective Action, Self-Improvement, and Plan of Improvement

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:

- F. approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of August 11, 2009;**
- G. approve the nomination of Ms. Dianne Brown as specified in Attachment A of the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 24, 2009, and appoint her to serve as a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee for a one year term ending June 30, 2010;**
- H. approve the revised Assessment Accommodation Summary Table as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 24, 2009;**
- I. approve the Assessment Integrity Guide as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 24, 2009;**
- J. (this item was removed from the consent agenda and placed under discussion).**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. President Obama's Speech to Students – Ms. Casandra Ulbrich

Ms. Ulbrich said she watched President Obama's speech to school children on September 8. She said it was a great message and very inspirational. She said it was a tremendous lost opportunity for the students in schools that chose to not watch it.

Several Board members agreed that it was a great opportunity for school children to hear such a positive message from the President of the United States of America.

XIX. 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.

XX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, October 13, 2009
- B. Tuesday, November 10, 2009
- C. Tuesday, December 8, 2009
- D. Tuesday, January 12, 2010

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary