

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 15, 2001
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Arthur E. Ellis, Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President
Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., Secretary
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. John C. Austin
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer
Mrs. Sharon A. Wise
Mr. Scott Jenkins, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Report from State Board of Education Subcommittee to Review By-Laws - removed from agenda
- B. Approval of Contract of Superintendent of Public Instruction - removed from agenda

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

The motion carried unanimously.

III. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Revised Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of February 21-22, 2001
- B. Revised Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Special Meeting of February 23, 2001
- C. Revised Report on Consent Agenda - Memorandum dated March 15, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board

IV. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated March 15, 2001, from Mr. Alexander G. Davlantes, Executive Director, to the State Board of Education regarding Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T
- B. Memorandum dated March 15, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board regarding Information on Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee
- C. Memorandum dated March 15, 2001, from Dr. Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Director, Special Education and Early Intervention Services, to the Board regarding Announcement of Public Hearings and a Period of Public Comment - Administrative Rules for Special Education, and Proposed Complaint Procedures

V. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of February 21-22, 2001

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the meeting of February 21-22, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Special Meeting of February 23, 2001

Concern was raised regarding the proposed changes to Item III. of the minutes titled, "Appointment of Superintendent of Public Instruction." Suggestion

was made prior to the meeting to eliminate the sentence in which Board members indicated their first, second, and/or third choices. Some Board members felt that it was appropriate to leave that information in the minutes if the wording reflected what was said at the meeting.

There was consensus to postpone approval of the State Board of Education minutes of the special meeting of February 23, 2001, until the April 12, 2001, meeting so that staff could review the audio tape and adjust the minutes for accuracy.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting.

VII. INFORMATION AND DATA ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Dr. Michael Williamson, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, provided information and a slide presentation, and responded to questions from the Board regarding school performance. He said the data presented is intended to give a historical context of the efforts made to improve student achievement, and the challenges that remain.

There was extensive discussion regarding the role of the Office of Field Services, and Office of School Excellence staff, and the impact they have on helping to improve school performance. Ms. Dot VanLooy, Director, Office of Field Services, explained the role of her office, the availability of Technical Assistance Grants (TAGS), and provided information on the organizations awarded the grants, including the Achievement Group.

Ms. Sue Carnell, Director, Office of School Excellence, said the Department has requested the TAG grantees to provide certain data regarding visits made to a school building including who is the primary person going into the school, what type of service is being provided, and demographics of the school building. She said additional funding would help allow the TAG grantees to spend more time in the schools. She said the three primary TAG grantees were asked to focus mainly on schools low in three content areas. In addition, people are volunteering for the Partnerships for Success program which will allow for direct onsite sustained mentoring and coaching, as well as attaching the trained person to outside resources for continued development.

No action was taken on this item.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Ms. Karen Masarc-Mundt, 5930 East Montevista, Fort Gratiot, Michigan 48059. Ms. Masarc-Mundt offered comments regarding the revised special education rules.
- B. Ms. Mary Wood, 27533 Santa Ana, Warren, Michigan 48093. Ms. Wood offered comments regarding State Aid supporting illegal charter schools, and the State Board of Education's responsibility.
- C. Ms. Celeste Johnson, 4761 Countryside, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525. Ms. Johnson offered comments regarding the Operational Procedures for the Michigan School for the Deaf.
- D. Ms. Amy VanDalen, 2019 Cumberland Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006. Ms. VanDalen offered comments regarding the Report on the Operational Procedures for the Michigan School for the Deaf.
- E. Ms. Yvette Holloway, 245 Red Fox Court, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Holloway offered comments regarding the Michigan School for the Deaf Operational Procedures.

Board members expressed concern regarding the impact of the Operational Procedures relative to the residential program at the Michigan School for the Deaf, and requested that staff provide a report at the April 12, 2001 meeting.

- F. Ms. Kathy Brown, Principal, Michigan School for Blind, Flint, Michigan. Ms. Brown offered comments regarding the display of artwork set up outside the Board Room created by visually impaired students at the Art Education Camp. She said many different mediums were explored by students over a four-day period and she encouraged the Board to visit the display.

X. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC GOAL

The memorandum dated March 15, 2001, titled, "Discussion and Adoption of State Board of Education Strategic Goal and Objectives," from Mrs. Kathleen Straus, Mrs. Sharon Gire, and Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., was distributed to the Board.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education adopt as its Strategic Goal for 2001-2002 substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools.

Mrs. Straus said the Board has had extensive discussion over the past four years regarding closing the gap and raising the achievement level of all students. She said that is still a priority, but the Board would like to concentrate on affecting the quality of education in the chronically underperforming schools over the next two years.

There was extensive discussion regarding the connection of the proposed Strategic Goal for 2001-2002 to the "Information and Data on School Performance" presented to the Board earlier in the meeting, and importance of receiving both expert and public testimony on how to improve underachieving schools.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

After much discussion, there was consensus to invite experts from Michigan and around the country to testify and provide input in their areas of expertise.

In order to begin the process and to continue the discussion relative to development of objectives to meet the goal, the Board identified the following as possible meeting dates: April 2, 2001, April 3, 2001, April 4, 2001, and April 30, 2001.

XI. APPROVAL OF CRITERIA FOR 2000-2001 STATE AID SECTION 32h RESOURCES TO COORDINATE COUNSELING SERVICES

Mrs. Gire said she asked that this item be removed from the consent agenda because the criteria and the purpose of the grant were not clear to her.

Dr. Michael Williamson, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services, said a counseling program has been developed through a number of entities including the Comprehensive School Guidance Program, the State Board of Education, and staff in the Departments of Education and Career Development. He said this grant was created as an incentive for school districts to refashion their guidance program from the "counselor down at the end of the hall" type to a contemporary comprehensive school guidance program which would address issues including adjustment to school, and career planning.

Mr. Warren said he requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda because he believes the School Safety Policies adopted by the Board could be utilized as additional criteria for this grant program. He suggested that the Board modify the criteria to ensure

guidance programs are working with and following the School Safety Policies adopted by the Board. He said the policies are a critical component of counseling and may have a direct effect.

There was consensus that the document would be modified under the heading "Purpose of the Grant" as follows:...These grants will initiate or expand counseling services using the Michigan Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program or other developmental standards-based programs, AND INCORPORATE OR INTEGRATE INTO THAT PROGRAM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S POLICIES ON SAFE SCHOOLS ADOPTED ON MAY 18, 2000, for the provision of universally accessible school counseling services.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the modified criteria for the 2000-2001 State Aid Coordinating Counseling Services Grant Program, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- E. Approval of Criteria for 2000-2001 State Aid Section 32h Resources to Coordinate Counseling Services - removed from consent agenda and placed under discussion items
- F. Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the *Early On* Michigan Personnel Development System for FY 2001-2002 under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- G. Approval of Proposal from Andrews University for a Revised Social Studies Program as a Group Major and a Group Minor at the Elementary Level and as a Group Major at the Secondary Level
- H. Approval of Proposal from the University of Michigan-Flint for a Revised Social Studies Program as a Group Major and as a Group Minor at the Elementary and Secondary Level
- I. Approval of Proposal from Eastern Michigan University for a Revised Social Studies Program as a Group Major and as a Group Minor at the Elementary Level and as a Group Major at the Secondary Level
- J. Approval of Proposal from Marygrove College for a Revised Social Studies

Program as a Group Major and as a Group Minor at the Elementary and Secondary Level

- K. Approval of Proposal from Alma College for a Revised Social Studies Program as a Group Minor at the Elementary and Secondary Level
- L. Approval of Proposal from Cornerstone University for a Revised Social Studies Program as a Group Major and as a Group Minor at the Elementary Level and as a Group Major at the Secondary Level

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- E. (removed from consent agenda and placed under discussion items);**
- F. approve the criteria for the *Early On* Michigan Personnel Development Competitive Grant for FY 2001-2002 under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 12, 2001;**
- G. approve Andrews University's proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group major and a group minor at the elementary level and as a group major at the secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001;**
- H. approve the University of Michigan-Flint's proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group major and as a group minor at the elementary and secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001;**
- I. approve Eastern Michigan University's proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group major and as a group minor at the elementary level and as a group major at the secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001;**
- J. approve Marygrove College's proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group major and as a group minor at the elementary and secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001;**
- K. approve Alma College's proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group minor at the elementary and secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 28, 2001; and**

- L. approve Cornerstone University’s proposal for a revised Social Studies program as a group major and as a group minor at the elementary level and as a group major at the secondary level, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated February 28, 2001.**

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- M. Human Resources Report
- N. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers
- O. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorship
- P. Report on 2001-2004 Intermediate School District Plans for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- Q. Report on Modification to the Previously Approved Berrien Intermediate School District Special Education Plan
- R. Report on Operational Procedures for the Michigan School for the Deaf
- S. Personnel Development Grant for Serving Students with Autism - removed from agenda
- T. State Improvement Grant (SIG)

Mr. Ellis provided an oral report on the following:

- A. Oasis Academy

Mr. Ellis said staff at Oasis Academy have been in contact through the mail and phone many times with both the Board and him regarding transferring their charter from Central Michigan University to Lake Superior State University. He said he has had a conversation with Mr. Thomas Watkins regarding this request and they have agreed that Mr. Watkins will deal with the issue after he is officially on board as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

- B. School Safety Update

Mr. Ellis said several pieces of legislation have been introduced regarding school violence, and a report will be provided to the Board at the April 12, 2001, Board meeting.

Mr. Warren asked that the report include a description of information related to the status of the Board's Policies on School Safety as implemented by local school districts.

C. Special Education Rules

Mr. Ellis said the legislative and departmental process for changing the special education rules was changed by Executive Order some time ago. He said the Board has limited ability regarding these rules, but will be kept updated as changes occur. He said the proposed changes were widely distributed throughout the state to school districts and professional organizations, and public input has been solicited.

XIV. REPORT FROM STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW BY-LAWS

This item was removed from the agenda.

XV. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

This item was removed from the agenda.

XVI. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Community Colleges - Mrs. Kathleen Straus

Mrs. Straus said she received a call from the Bay City School District regarding Bay Mills College and their intention to establish a charter school in the Bay City area. She asked if the charter school law applies to a federally funded community college. In response, Dr. Michael Williamson, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services, said that legislation was revised to clarify the issue of whether or not Bay Mills Community College executives were considered state officials. The legislation stipulates that they are state officials for the purposes of running a community college.

B. Poet Laureate - Dr. Herbert S. Moyer

Dr. Moyer asked if the Legislature had determined a poet laureate for the State of Michigan. In response, Mr. Ellis said legislation was introduced creating a poet laureate which the Governor vetoed. He said the Board does not have role in the issue.

C. Department of Education Logo - Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire

Mrs. McGuire said she has noticed a different logo on some of the letterhead recently, and expressed concern in that the state seal was not being utilized. She said Board items are considered official documents and she feels it is important that the state seal be used.

Mr. Ellis said the Department of Management and Budget requires that the Coat of Arms be on the letterhead, and so that issue is currently being resolved by Department staff.

D. 41st Annual Michigan School Testing Conference - Mrs. Kathleen Straus

Mrs. Straus said she received a communication from Mrs. Dorothy Beardmore, former Board member, regarding the 41st Annual Michigan School Testing Conference in Ann Arbor. She said Mrs. Beardmore indicated that presenters from High Scope and the staff in the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services provided information at a workshop which explained the Classroom Quality Scale and how to use it. She said she was pleased to learn that the standards set by the State Board of Education were being utilized, and felt that the document might be of some interest to the Board.

XVII. TENTATIVE AGENDA

Board members were asked to submit agenda items for the April meeting to the Administrative Secretary. Mr. Ellis said the Board President, Vice President, and Secretary, as well as Department staff would be meeting within the next couple of weeks to develop and finalize the agenda.

XVIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. April 12, 2001
- B. May 17, 2001
- C. June 12, 2001
- D. July 19, 2001/

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.
Secretary