

MINUTES/ACTIONS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Also Meeting as
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

May 19-20, 1999

Wednesday, May 19, 1999, 7:30 p.m.

Saginaw City School District
Board Room, Administration Building
550 Millard
Saginaw, Michigan

Present: Mr. Arthur E. Ellis, Chairman
Mrs. Dorothy Beardmore, President
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, Vice President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Secretary
Mrs. Sharon A. Wise, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire
Mrs. Eileen L. Weiser
Mr. Tim Kelly, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

Absent: Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. Clark Durant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. State Board of Education Minutes/Actions of Meeting of April 15, 1999
- B. Revised Report of Consent Agenda - Memorandum dated May 18, 1999, from Superintendent to the Board
- C. Approval of the Application of the Michigan Project for Children and Young Adults Who are Deaf-Blind (84.326C) - Revised Memorandum dated May 18, 1999, from Superintendent to the Board
- D. Report on Camp Tuhsmeheeta - Memorandum dated May 20, 1999, from Superintendent to the Board

- E. Update on Education Legislation - Memorandum dated May 20, 1999, from Superintendent to the Board

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO BOARD

- A. Statement of Support for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) by Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan
- B. Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB), the MSB Lansing Campus - Memorandum dated May 20, 1999, from Alexander G. Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Approval of Federal Grant Application for 1999-2003 Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) - added to agenda
- B. Approval of the Application of the Michigan Project for Children and Young Adults Who are Deaf-Blind (84.326C) - added to agenda
- C. Approval of Application for a State Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant - added to agenda
- D. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Samuel L. Davis - added to agenda
- E. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Richard Claflin - added to agenda
- F. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Marilyn Western - added to agenda
- G. Approval of Revised Policy on the Use of Student Teachers as Substitute Teachers - removed from agenda
- H. Approval of Criteria for the 1999-2000 Goals 2000 Grant Program - Cycle 9 - removed from agenda
- I. Report on *Early On*® Michigan Competitive, Continuation, and Interagency Collaboration Grant Awards for FY 1999-2000 Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - removed from agenda

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Beardmore, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant, Gire

The motion carried.

V. WELCOME AND COMMENTS FROM MR. MICHAEL MANLEY, DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SERVICES AND PUBLICATIONS, SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On behalf of the Saginaw Board of Education, teachers, and administrative and support staff, Mr. Michael Manley, Director, Information Services and Publications, Saginaw City School District, welcomed the State Board of Education to Saginaw City School District. He said it was a pleasure to provide a tour of the school district for several of the Board members and staff, and to have the opportunity to present many of the programs available to students. He thanked Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, for her assistance in coordinating the Board's visit to the Saginaw City School District.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, said the Board's visit to Saginaw City School District would not have happened without Mr. Manley's assistance, and she greatly appreciated his cooperation. She introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting.

VII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - MRS. DOROTHY BEARDMORE

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mrs. Beardmore thanked Saginaw City School District staff for their time and efforts, and said the tour was enjoyed by all who participated and included a wonderful sample of programs offered by Saginaw Schools including Houghton Elementary, the Ruben Daniels Lifelong Learning Center, and the Center for the Arts and Sciences.

The following Saginaw Board members introduced themselves at Mrs. Beardmore's request.

- Mr. Ronald Spess, President
- Ms. Jean Burk, Secretary
- Ms. Minerva Rosales, Treasurer
- Ms. Beverly Yanca, Trustee

Mrs. Beardmore said that many years ago she was asked to define the Board's expectations of teachers to an audience of teacher preparation institutions faculty during her first year on the State Board of Education. She said at the time she did not feel qualified to discuss the topic, but proceeded to tell them her expectations if she were "queen for the day." She said she then pointed out that she knew that Longstreet Elementary, Saginaw City School District was providing the services outlined in her presentation because the Board had just received information from them a month or two before. She said this was a school that had been struggling, and the principal and staff decided they were not going to remain at the bottom any longer. She said many changes were made which resulted in a complete reversal in the quality of education offered, and she has been extremely impressed with Saginaw Schools since. She said the State Superintendent at that time, Dr. Phil Runkel was so enthusiastic that he offered the building principal a job, which she refused, who now is retiring.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Ellis said public participation in the State Board of Education meeting is open to any person who wishes their comments to become part of the official record. He said the topic for discussion is entirely up to the individual, and it is the policy of the Board that members do not respond during the presentation. He said further conversations may occur after all participants have had an opportunity to express themselves, however, those discussions will not be part of the official minutes.

- A. Mr. Ramiro Gonzalez, 604 Oak Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Mr. Gonzalez offered comments regarding educational solutions for Hispanic students in greater Saginaw.
- B. Mr. James A. Mitchell, 3237 Quick Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. Mr. Mitchell offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- C. Ms. Cynthia M. Raslich, 5213 West Ray Road, Linden, Michigan 48451. Ms. Raslich offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- D. Ms. Pam Korb, 4351 Maplewood Meadows Avenue, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Korb offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- E. Ms. Lynn Ovington, 2154 East Whittemore Avenue, Burton, Michigan 48529. Ms. Ovington offered comments regarding concerns with Warwick Pointe Academy.
- F. Ms. Kelly M. Friday, 1010 North Road, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Ms. Friday offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.

- G. Ms. Helen Hollis, 5375 Sturbridge Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Hollis offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- H. Mr. Don Rositano, 11471 Balfour Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Mr. Rositano offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- I. Ms. Mary Delaney, Director, Warwick Point Academy, 9127 South Saginaw, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Delaney offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- J. Ms. Gretchen Stelter, Deputy Director, Warwick Pointe Academy, 9127 South Saginaw, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Stelter offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- K. Mr. Bill Delaney, 5100 Territorial Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Mr. Delaney offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- L. Ms. Missy Doyan, 13183 Fagan, Holly, Michigan 48442. Ms. Doyan offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- M. Ms. Angie Snell, 15216 Goutz Road, Monroe, Michigan 48161. Ms. Snell offered comments regarding special education, and administrative rule waivers.
- N. Ms. Rose Marie Martinez, 1825 North Carolina, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Ms. Martinez offered comments regarding education for Hispanic elementary students and drop out rates.

Mr. Ellis said a single student record database is being developed by staff that will provide a more accurate method of tracking students and collecting data. He said this system will afford a greater opportunity to compare information received on Hispanic students with that of other racial/ethnic groups.

Mrs. Beardmore said the word “insignificant” in the “1997 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey” is simply a statistical term indicating that there was not enough data for a valid assessment. She said she believes Hispanic children only make up approximately 2% of the student population in Michigan. She said it by no means indicates that Hispanic children are not important.

- O. Ms. Leigh Fitzpatrick, 1220 Thayer, Ortonville, Michigan 48462. Ms. Fitzpatrick offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.
- P. Ms. Jane Lambert, 5113 Candlewood Drive, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Ms. Lambert offered comments regarding charter school educational opportunities and Warwick Pointe Academy.

Q. Ms. Stephanie Stair, 2814 Golfside Lane, Flint, Michigan 48504. Ms. Stair offered comments regarding Warwick Pointe Academy.

R. Mr. Frank Borja, 2845 Wellesley Drive, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Mr. Borja offered comments regarding core curriculum, music, and the performing arts.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed for the evening at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 20, 1999, 9:30 a.m.

Job Market Connection Facility
Saginaw Career Complex
2102 Weiss
Saginaw, Michigan

Present: Mr. Arthur E. Ellis, Chairman
Mrs. Dorothy Beardmore, President
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, Vice President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Secretary
Mrs. Sharon A. Wise, Treasurer
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire
Mrs. Eileen L. Weiser
Mr. Tim Kelly, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

Absent: Mr. Clark Durant

X. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

XI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

There was consensus to add an item to the agenda at Mrs. Straus' request regarding School Safety.

XII. WELCOME AND COMMENTS FROM DR. FOSTER GIBBS,
SUPERINTENDENT, SAGINAW CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On behalf of Saginaw County, Dr. Foster Gibbs, Superintendent, Saginaw City School District, welcomed the State Board of Education. He said it has been a valuable learning experience to witness the Board in action, and it is clear that the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board are striving to make Michigan

schools the best in the world. He said Saginaw supports a heavy industrial-based economy, which has prompted several unique programs within the schools, and the selections made for the Board's tour have been indicative of that.

Dr. Gibbs said in 1978 he began his career as superintendent with Saginaw City School District and immediately began developing the Successful Schools Project which improved the existing educational system. He said gains in assessment test scores began leveling off in 1998, and therefore, it was realized that a different type of strategic plan was necessary to literally change the system, and the culture. He said the course has been charted for a new strategic plan to direct a new vision, mission, and standards. He said some years ago, the Saginaw Board of Education directed that high school juniors and seniors must choose a career major. He said that requirement has been upscaled recently to require students to complete their chosen career pathway according to experiences associated with that career major.

Dr. Gibbs said the graduate standards for Saginaw City School District students was developed by a group of approximately 3,000 people from business and industry, higher education, staff, parents, community-based organizations, and the public. He said the standards include the academic requirements for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, and the work based learning standards. He said these are the skills to make people life long learners, self-directed complex thinkers, effective communicators, independent and team workers, strong interpersonal relators, creative quality producers, and contributors to their employer. He said this is what drives Saginaw Schools.

Dr. Gibbs said the career development process begins with career awareness in elementary school and advances to career exploration in middle school so that students may begin to think about the classes needed to complete their career choices and begin to project themselves into a life role that will add value to skills and interests. He said 9th and 10th grade students are exposed to the following six career majors: arts and communication; business services technology; environmental technology education; human services; health services; and technical and engineering systems. He said each of the career majors has a component in the Saginaw Career Complex and the Academy for Technology and Enterprise, and are an outcomes based measured system that demands quality, national skills standards, and college standards of academics for all students.

Dr. Gibbs said Saginaw does not have a sterling record with collective bargaining units and teacher employee groups. He said as a teacher many years ago, he became somewhat disenchanted with the structure and ran for the office of president of the teachers union. He said he then instigated the first of seven teacher strikes for the district thus far. He said last year it was decided that a new direction was necessary. He said the old contract was discarded and a compact was developed which outlines ideas, philosophies, goals, and standards.

XIII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES/ACTIONS

- A. Approval of Record of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 14, 1999

Mrs. Beardmore moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 14, 1999.

**Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant**

The motion carried.

- B. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes/Actions of Meeting of April 15, 1999

Mrs. Wise moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Minutes/Actions of meeting of April 15, 1999.

**Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant**

The motion carried.

XIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Grant Awards and Reports

Mr. Ellis said that on April 27, 1999, the Michigan Supreme Court upheld Governor Engler's Executive Orders which restructured the Department of Education. He said as mentioned in previous correspondence, Mrs. Beardmore, staff, and he have been working together to allow for a smooth transition. He said the following items have been approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- A. Report on Grant Award for Phase II of the Development and Training for the Office of Field Services
- B. Report on 1999-2000 Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program Grants
- C. Report on Negotiated Grant for the Educator-On-Loan Program: Integrating Technology into the Curriculum

- D. Report on Additional Awards for the 1998-1999 Federally-Funded Child Care and Development Fund Competitive Grant Program for School Age Child Care
- E. Report on 1999-2000 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Candidate Subsidy Grants
- F. Report on Personnel Status
- G. Report on Proprietary Schools
- H. Report on 1998-2001 Intermediate School District Plans for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- I. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships

In response to Mrs. Gire, Mr. Ellis said he did not believe that placing the Report on Personnel Vacancies in the Report of the Superintendent will interfere with filling the Director of Communications vacancy.

Mr. Ellis introduced Mr. Bradley Wurfel, Public Information Officer, who was hired to perform routine communications for the Department. Mr. Ellis clarified that Mr. Wurfel will not have the responsibilities of the overall communications officer.

In response to Mrs. Straus regarding the Report on Grant Award for Phase II of the Development and Training for the Office of Field Services, Dr. Diane Smolen, Director, Office of Standards, Assessment, and Accreditation Services, said Learning Designs, Inc. presented an outstanding proposal, fit all the criteria, and has worked with staff from the Office of Field Services in the past.

B. Detroit Reform Board

Mr. Ellis said the action taken by the Legislature to change the governance of the Detroit Public Schools created a new reform board, which he is a member of by statute. He said the other six members are appointed by the Mayor of Detroit. He said the first meeting was held approximately one month ago, and there was a 30-day requirement to select a chief executive officer (CEO). He said the Legislature extended that deadline, and Dr. David Adamany, former president of Wayne State University, has been selected for the position. He said Dr. Adamany will assume complete control of Detroit Public Schools, and the Board's only legal influence is to remove him.

He said some opposition has been received, but he believes Dr. Adamany is the best person for the job. He said as a former university president himself, he has admired Dr. Adamany from afar for many years and feels confident that, despite all of the problems he may encounter, he is the person to provide the framework and platform for real change in the Detroit school system.

Mr. Ellis said because Detroit is unique, he does not think other schools should anticipate that the Legislature will pass any further legislation regarding take-overs.

Mr. Ellis said because he has been placed on the Board by statute, he has the option of appointing a representative on the Reform Board, which he is seriously considering. He said now that the CEO has been chosen, he will be able to once again focus attention on his duties as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

No action was taken on this item.

XV. CONSENT AGENDA

- J. Approval of 1999 Team Nutrition (TN) Demonstration Project Grant Application
- K. Approval of Program Year 1999-2000 Job Training Partnership Act 8% State Education Coordination and Grants Program Plan
- L. Approval of Application for Federal Reading Excellence Act
- M. Approval of Grant Application for U.S. Department of Education Advanced Placement Incentive Program
- N. Approval of Federal Grant Application for 1999-2003 Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- O. Approval of the Application of the Michigan Project for Children and Young Adults Who are Deaf-Blind (84.326C)
- P. Approval of Proposal from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor to Amend its K-12 Library Media Program to Comply with Revised Standards for Teacher Preparation
- Q. Approval of Proposal from Central Michigan University to Amend its Graduate Middle-Level Education Program as an Additional Endorsement at the Elementary and Secondary Levels to Comply with New Standards for Teacher Preparation

- R. Approval of Proposal from Central Michigan University to Amend its Undergraduate Middle Level Education Program as a Minor at the Elementary Level and as an Additional Minor at the Secondary Level to Comply with New Standards for Teacher Preparation
- S. Approval of Proposal from Saginaw Valley State University to Amend its Graduate Middle Level Education Program as an Additional Endorsement at the Elementary and Secondary Levels to Comply with New Standards for Teacher Preparation
- T. Approval of Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio to Offer a Bachelor Degree by Means of Electronic Communication in Cooperation with Michigan Community Colleges - this item was removed from the agenda
- U. Approval of January-March 1999 Report of State Board of Education Expenses
- V. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Samuel L. Davis
- W. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Richard Claflin
- GG. Approval of Application for a State Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant
- HH. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Marilyn Western

Mrs. Wise moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the items listed on the consent agenda as follows:

- J. approve the 1999 Team Nutrition Demonstration Project Grant Application proposal, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- K. approve the Program Year 1999-2000 Job Training Partnership Act 8% State Education Coordination and Grants Program Plan, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- L. approve the application for the federal Reading Excellence Act, as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 7, 1999;**
- M. approve Michigan's application for the Advanced Placement Incentive Program, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum of May 5, 1999;**

- N. approve the 1999-2003 Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) application requesting funding for a five-year total of \$3,366,882, including \$1,664,477 in federal funds and \$1,702,405 in matching, non-federal funds;**
- O. (1) approve the proposal titled, “Michigan Project for Children and Young Adults Who are Deaf-Blind (84.326C)” as described in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 12, 1999; and (2) authorize the Superintendent to notify the United States Department of Education of this approval;**
- P. approve the proposal to amend the K-12 Library Media program to comply with revised standards for teacher preparation as submitted by the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- Q. approve the proposal to amend the graduate Middle-Level Education program as an additional endorsement at the elementary and secondary levels to comply with new standards for teacher preparation as submitted by Central Michigan University, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- R. approve the proposal to amend the undergraduate Middle-Level Education program as a minor at the elementary level and as an additional minor at the secondary level to comply with new standards for teacher preparation as submitted by Central Michigan University, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- S. approve the proposal to amend the graduate Middle-Level Education program as an additional endorsement at the elementary and secondary levels to comply with new standards for teacher preparation as submitted by Saginaw Valley State University, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 5, 1999;**
- T. (this item was removed from the agenda);**
- U. (1) approve the January 1 - March 31, 1999, report of State Board of Education expenses, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 14, 1999; and (2) authorize the Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education to transmit the report to the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies and the Department of Management and Budget, as required by the Department of Education Appropriations Act;**

- V. adopt the resolution honoring Samuel L. Davis, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 14, 1999;**
- X. adopt the resolution honoring Richard E. Claffin, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 14, 1999;**
- GG. approve the application of a State Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, as discussed in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 12, 1999; and**
- HH. adopt the resolution honoring Marilyn Western, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 14, 1999.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant

The motion carried.

The resolutions are attached as Exhibits, A, B, and C respectively.

XVI. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Lucian Parshall, Director, Office of Data and Technology Services, said it was his pleasure to introduce Ms. Marilyn Western, who has been the 1998-99 Educator on Loan. He said it is very difficult to put into words the impact she has had on Michigan. He said she has made more than 134 presentations in 80 different school districts and 15 different regional and statewide conferences, and traveled approximately 15,500 miles. He said some of her topics included “Treasure Hunt Internet Projects”; “Integrating Technology into a One Computer Classroom”; and “Weaving Technology into Lessons.” He said Ms. Western has done an outstanding job, and he knows the Board joins him in congratulating her on the successful year she has had and on the impact she has made on thousands of teachers in the state of Michigan.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mrs. Beardmore, presented a resolution to Ms. Western, and said the Board appreciates the services she has provided, for her outstanding commitment to education, and the integration of technology into the school curriculum. She said the Board expresses its sincere wishes to Ms. Western as she continues her service to the children of Michigan as a leader and a role model in educational technology use and that she enjoy many years of good health and happiness with husband Ron and two daughters, Jessica and Laura.

Ms. Western said there have been many exceptional moments during her tenure as the Educator on Loan, and it was very difficult to choose just one to describe. She said there was an instance while giving a three hour workshop to teachers who were so enthusiastic that they did not even want to take breaks. She said she thinks that is a compliment to technology as a whole. She said another moment was discovering all the opportunities, methods, and changes occurring in the state that as a teacher she did not know. She said it is imperative to find methods to disseminate that information to the teachers in the classroom because it is quite exciting, and the Board deserves credit for supporting educational technology.

Mrs. Beardmore said she agrees with Ms. Western in that many changes and opportunities are available, and many people do not know that they exist. She said Mr. Brad Wurfel, the Department's new Public Information Officer will be a great asset in distributing information to the public and to the schools.

XVII. RECESS

The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

XVIII. APPROVAL OF FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERFORMANCE BASED ACCREDITATION

Mr. Ellis said a rigorous, performance based accreditation model that incorporates three accountability measures is proposed. He said the accreditation model proposed is consistent with the Board's commitment to improve student achievement, address the achievement gap between majority and minority students, and invest in early childhood programs.

Dr. Diane Smolen, Director, Office of Standards, Assessment, and Accreditation Services; Dr. Lindy Buch, Supervisor, School Development Unit; and Ms. Sue Peterman, Department Analyst, Office of Standards, Assessment, and Accreditation Services, provided information, a slide presentation, and responded to questions from the Board pertaining to the framework for Performance-Based Accreditation.

Dr. Buch said staff reviewed educational reform in Michigan beginning with Public Act 25 of 1990 and its four aspects, (1) the model core curriculum, (2) the standards and benchmarks, (3) Annual Education Report, and (4) accreditation. She said much progress has been made in the model core curriculum and the standards and benchmarks, and it is anticipated that they will continue to evolve as times change. She said there are new federal requirements that focus on ensuring children are learning, and it was felt that the accreditation process needed to be strengthened in Michigan.

Dr. Buch said the proposed changes are consistent with the State Board of Education's commitment to improve student achievement by investing in early childhood programs, improve teacher quality, develop effective resources and materials for teachers, and connect schools and families. She said accreditation will support the progress that the education community has made in defining curriculum by establishing expectations in what all students should know and be able to do, hold school districts and buildings accountable for high levels of student achievement and work place readiness, and other school improvement accountability factors. She said the Board and the Department have a mutual responsibility in this area. She said there must be a single coordinated and aligned system.

Dr. Buch said it is imperative to implement accreditation factors that document student achievement, and to increase the technical assistance support to schools which are not making progress. She said those schools should be the Board's highest priority. She said staff need to develop and implement plans for professional development focused on teaching and learning, and identify resources that provide a quality improvement process which may include incentives, awards, and if absolutely necessary, sanctions.

Dr. Buch said student attendance, graduation rates, preparedness of students entering kindergarten, the quality of K-3 school programs, and the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom are known factors which impact and reflect student achievement. She said the proposed accreditation plan includes school accountability which will allow the Department to (1) measure academic achievement on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, (2) that 95% of the enrolled students are tested, and provide data regarding achievement gaps between minority and majority students; and (3) present evidence of yearly improvement.

Dr. Buch said the proposed plan includes four categories with accountability measures for each: (1) Summary Accreditation; (2) Accreditation with Recognition; (3) Accreditation with Moderate Performance; and (4) Unaccredited but Improving. She said there is also a fifth category of Unaccredited but not Improving.

Dr. Buch said a Summary Accredited school would reflect that 75% or more of the students score in the top performance category on MEAP tests, disaggregation of results reveals no evidence of an achievement gap, 95% of enrolled students are tested, and evidence of improvement is shown from year to year.

Dr. Buch said at least 50% of the students would score in the top performance on all of the MEAP tests in schools receiving Accredited with Recognition status. She said a disaggregation of data would show no evidence of an achievement gap, 95% of enrolled students would be tested, and evidence of improvement would be shown from year to year.

Dr. Buch said staff realizes that there will be criticism of a system which utilizes standardized tests. She said many people will claim that school funding is really the issue, and point to the correlation between higher income and higher scores on tests. She said a quick review of schools throughout the state reveal that some schools succeed in spite of poverty.

Dr. Buch said according to preliminary data, five schools where 70% or more of the students were eligible for free or reduced lunch, would be placed in the Summary Accredited category. She said those five schools consist of four elementary and one middle school and all are within the Detroit Public School system. She said one school in Benton Harbor, and ten elementary and middle schools in Detroit considered to be low income would be in the Accredited with Recognition category.

Dr. Buch said accreditation status and any attached reward would be withheld from a school which scored on the MEAP tests in one of the top two categories, but did not meet the accountability factors. She said the accountability factors indicate that there is an achievement gap, that fewer than 95% of the students are tested, or that there was no annual improvement, and therefore, if a school has a high level of achievement, it would be expected that they would review their data and become involved in a quality focused approach to school improvement which would involve peer review to correct those concerns. She said for many schools it is reward enough to simply receive the Summary Accredited status.

Dr. Buch said schools receiving the Accredited with Moderate Performance category would have at least 25% of their students scoring in the top performance category on the MEAP tests, disaggregated data would reveal no achievement gap, 95% of the enrolled students must take the MEAP tests, and there is evidence of improvement from year to year. She said if a school is moderate in terms of its MEAP scores but does not meet the accountability criteria, staff would ask that the school request help from the local and/or intermediate school district, and that the school improvement plan be adjusted. She said if the school is an elementary school, Department staff would ensure that the requirements of all students are being met by first reviewing the needs of low achieving groups for school readiness, and the preparedness of children entering kindergarten. She said staff would evaluate the kindergarten through third grade program quality, the early literacy programs, and student attendance. She said status would be withheld until the school could demonstrate that it was meeting the needs of all students.

Dr. Buch said schools receiving the Unaccredited but Improving category would have fewer than 25% of the students score in the top performance category on one or more of the MEAP tests, and the disaggregated data would not indicate an achievement gap. She said it would be expected that 95% of the enrolled students are tested and there is evidence of improvement from year to year. She said an adjustment of their school improvement plan would be required to focus on student achievement.

Dr. Buch said the last label given to schools would be Unaccredited and Not Improving which would be a situation where fewer than 25% of the students were reaching the highest level on any of the MEAP tests. She said if the school is not making progress, then technical assistance would be provided through the Department. She said it would be expected that the school improvement plan would reflect efforts to change based on data that would be consistent in working with the technical assistance provider and the district. The school would not be eligible for student teacher assignments. She said training of new teachers in schools that are failing with practices that are not working should not be allowed. She said failure to improve would result in a discussion for sanctions and what the plan should be for that school.

In response to Dr. Moyer, Dr. Buch said schools which receive the Unaccredited and Not Improving category would be required to accept technical assistance from the Department. She said she thinks the technical assistance grant is very specific and it may not be possible to offer a wide array of assistance to all schools, and therefore, the field has been narrowed to this category. She said assistance is available through very specific programs in the Office of Field Services, but hopefully, focus can be placed on low achieving schools.

Mrs. Gire said she appreciates the time and effort made by staff in addressing the concerns of the Board, and for integrating the accreditation process with some new dynamics as opposed to trying to do something that is totally separate. She asked for a clarification of what is meant by disaggregating to reveal no evidence of an achievement gap.

Dr. Buch said staff may review MEAP data and other standardized courses to determine subgroups of students, gender, students from lower income families versus higher income families, racial/ethnic data, and compare students who have been at a particular school since kindergarten with those who have not. She said when a majority of the students are doing very well at a school, it is possible to mask a small group who may be experiencing difficulties. She said a commitment must be made to all students, and therefore subgroups should be included in the averages or numbers as well. She said she thinks the gap between a majority and a minority of students would need to be determined on a case by case basis. She said it is important to be able to attach more than just numbers or percentages to a small group so they will become more statistically meaningful.

Dr. Smolen said the information presented to the Board is intended to address concerns expressed for many years regarding ethnic groups. She said it also addresses the issue of teaching to and testing for all students, and is not just directed at affluent districts. She said staff are not looking at the disaggregated data just for performance levels, but also for data on large proportions of poor students in the low category.

Mrs. Gire expressed concern that the Board is putting itself in a position of making a stipulation to school districts that if they are failing, technical assistance will not be forthcoming unless improvement is shown. She said the Board hoped that it would be possible to target more schools in terms of technical assistance, though she understands that a larger number of schools may fall into the Unaccredited and Not Improving category because of an achievement gap.

Dr. Smolen said she thinks many schools will fall into that category, not because they have an achievement gap, but because they do not have students performing well on tests.

Dr. Smolen said she understands the concern regarding seeming to penalize more schools, however, if 75% of the students in an elementary and middle school are not currently performing at a satisfactory level on the MEAP tests, that is cause for alarm. She said it is not a matter of putting schools in that position, nor is it trying to make them fail or appear to be failing. She said they are simply not succeeding.

Dr. Moyer said one of the major criticisms expressed by educators is that as soon as school districts become orientated to a program, the ground rules are changed and more adjustments are necessary. He expressed concern that this was going to be the case for the Accreditation process.

Dr. Smolen said the proposed changes are the result of a request from the United States Department of Education which stated that federal funds may be at risk if Michigan's accreditation/accountability program is not improved. She said it is imperative to have an accreditation program that meets Title I guidelines.

Mrs. Beardmore said many requirements for information such as graduation and drop out rates have been made more stringent since Public Act 25 was enacted, and it has been a challenge to communicate to various superintendents and boards of education that they simply cannot withhold bad news any longer. She said they must be honest in where their districts stand and then be able to show that they are improving. She said one lesson that has been learned is that good schools became lost in the averages of a basically not so great school district, and vice versa, the averages of strong district could mask a weak school. She said there were 10 summary accredited schools in the Detroit Public School District the first of year that the accreditation program was in operation, three of which were magnet schools. She said the remaining seven suffered the same poverty and problems that all other schools in that area had to contend with. She said the difference was that they had a strong principal and staff with a vision that children could learn and succeed. She said the Board has heard what the Saginaw Public School District is achieving because they have decided that is their job and excuses will not be accepted. She said as the saying goes, "Parents have sent you the best kids they've got and you try to educate them and you don't quit until they are educated."

In response to Mrs. Straus, Dr. Smolen said accreditation is an annual event, so if a school's status is withheld, they would have one year to improve.

In response to Mrs. Beardmore, Dr. Smolen said a definition will need to be established on what constitutes enough progress made to obtain the status that was being withheld.

Dr. Smolen said the proposed plan provides a better opportunity for a school to move out of the unaccredited status by simply having more than 25% of their students performing in the top category of all subjects of the MEAP tests. She said the old system required that 50% of the students had to score better in at least one subject, so some of the rules have been made easier, and some harder.

Dr. Buch said by using data from the 1998 MEAP test scores, 88 elementary and middle schools and 32 high schools would receive the Summary Accredited status; 477 elementary and middle schools and 307 high schools would receive the Accredited with Recognition status; 1,020 elementary and middle schools and 213 high schools would receive the Accredited with Moderate Performance status; and 511 elementary and middle schools and 85 high schools would receive the Unaccredited but Improving status. She said all of the high schools are in the improving categories because three years of data is not available, but 388 elementary and middle schools would receive the Unaccredited and Not Improving.

In response to Mrs. Beardmore, Dr. Buch said the old system provided very little information regarding a majority of the schools. She said the proposed system gives the accreditation status so if it is being withheld, it would indicate that revisions are necessary and the school improvement plan needs to address those specific issues.

Mrs. Straus said the proposed plan obligates schools to get students to take the MEAP tests, because every one of the categories state that 95% of the children must take the tests.

Dr. Smolen said schools will no longer be able to receive Summary Accredited status by testing the higher end students.

XIX. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

XX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Mr. Gary Analco, Michigan School for the Deaf Supporters Organization, 11150 Riverview, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Mr. Analco offered comments regarding parent observations, concerns, and requests of the Michigan School for the Deaf, and distributed a copy of his comments to the Board.

- B. Ms. Beverly Yanca, Saginaw Board of Education, 550 Millard, Saginaw, Michigan 48607. Ms. Yanca offered comments regarding the State Board of Education.

XXI. APPROVAL OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERFORMANCE BASED ACCREDITATION (continued)

Dr. Buch said by utilizing the MEAP scores, and understanding that the new categories are different from the old, a comparison may be made. She said it should be noted that because the old system requires three years of data, high school scores are not included. She reiterated that status will be withheld if schools cannot meet the accountability standards.

In response to Mrs. Wise, Dr. Buch said there are 388 elementary and middle schools which will fall into the category of Unaccredited and Not Improving.

Dr. Buch said because downward movement has not been allowed in the current system, there are currently only 8 unaccredited schools in Michigan. She said a review of past data reveals 93 unaccredited schools in 1994-95, and 39 unaccredited schools in 1995-96. She said 15 of the interim category schools in 1994-95 would have been unaccredited in 1995-96, if downward movement had been allowed. She said that type of activity continues for subsequent years. She said changes are needed to make a meaningful difference to students, because fewer than a quarter of children are passing tests in the lowest category. She said that means some schools are not doing well.

Mrs. McGuire asked if there are enough people to go into the field and assist schools which fall into the Unaccredited and Not Improving category. In response, Dr. Smolen said approximately 285 schools received technical assistance in 1998-99. She said even though there were only 8 unaccredited schools, funding was allocated for additional schools because it was known that several schools were in trouble.

Mrs. Straus asked if any of the 285 schools which received technical assistance have shown improvement, and if are they moving in the right direction. In response, Dr. Smolen said it has been noted that many schools are teaching story or narrative reading only, especially to children who are very close to receiving a satisfactory on the MEAP tests. She said that is fine, however, the model core curriculum outcomes, and the assessments which measure them do not differentiate between narrative and informational reading. She said the initial message schools received was to do what they could to become accredited, and therefore, teaching narrative reading is the solution they came up with. She said the Board must be very careful with the new system to ensure that the message sent is consistent with the curriculum and assessment guidelines.

In response to Mrs. Straus, Dr. Smolen said this system will enable the collection of data to demonstrate improvement of the Accredited with Recognition and Moderate Performance schools. She said she hesitates in answering because she is worried about pulling out pieces of data which generate numbers that are not evident of additional secondary measures of increased student achievement. She said if technical assistance providers were asked to monitor school improvement plans which are academically oriented, as well as look at school readiness, large gains in student achievement will be noted.

Mrs. Straus asked if the educational organizations in Michigan have been polled for their reaction to the proposed program? In response, Dr. Smolen said she believes that they watch the Board carefully, and therefore, are quite aware of the new system. She said they have not been formally canvassed for a response or reaction.

In response to Mrs. Gire, Dr. Smolen said it is not believed in any way, shape, or form that simply redefining where schools are within accreditation will provide the answers to the problems experienced by districts struggling with poverty and social problems. She said that in August 1999, Dr. Michael Williamson, Assistant Superintendent will present to the Board a plan which responds to the report received by Achieve, Inc. at the March 1999 State Board meeting. She said this plan includes a framework for assessing the tools and services the Department provides in curriculum support, and a recommendation for addressing the necessary measures to fill in the gaps that have been pointed out by Achieve, Inc.

Mrs. Beardmore said it has been assumed in the past that schools in the lowest category would improve if they had better resources available. She said it has been found, however, that it is really a shortage of focusing on how moneys are utilized. She said change occurred once they understood that their primary focus should be student improvement. She said proof of that is Saginaw Public Schools. She said Dr. Gibbs mentioned earlier in the meeting some of the changes made which have made a dramatic difference in student achievement and attitudes. She said each building has accomplished what the Board recommends in using proven research based success programs, such as Success for All, or utilizing a number of well documented and validated school improvement efforts which have a long track record of success.

Mrs. Beardmore said page 4 of the item presented to the State Board of Education states that Accreditation status will be withheld until the school begins to effectively address the needs of all students. She said she wondered if staff could include access to assistance and offer services that are provided by other agencies as part of the school improvement plan which could act as a coordination point for families as place for solving some of the problems that may be leading to the lack of success on the part of students. She said this would be the ideal place to insert the idea of an interagency collaboration.

In response to Mrs. Straus, Dr. Smolen said the proposed plan stipulates that the school improvement plan must include district level support.

Mrs. Straus said the fact is that a well run district would help and encourage schools, but some districts seem to impede as well as offer assistance.

Dr. Smolen said she has been involved with assessment and the MEAP tests for many years, and does not understand how a school district can see poor test scores received at a particular building in their district, and yet refuse to take action.

Mrs. Gire expressed concern that the proposed changes in the accreditation process will allow for a takeover of the school district as an ultimate sanction.

Mr. Ellis said no conversations have been held regarding sanctions, nor has a takeover process been considered. He said continuous legislative changes in the MEAP have prohibited the collection of three years of consecutive data and standards.

Dr. Buch said if sanctions become necessary, staff will present suggestions to the Board for discussion and consideration.

Mrs. Beardmore said she would like more focus placed on what is meant by achievement gap. She said it is important to address the issue before the new process is to take effect.

Mrs. Wise moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the framework for performance-based accreditation as outlined in the Superintendent's memorandum of May 12, 1999.

The following individual offered comments on this item.

- Ms. Olga Moir, Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1001 Centennial Way, Suite 300, Lansing, Michigan 48917.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant

The motion carried.

XXII. REPORT ON CAMP TUHSMEHETA

Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Executive Director, Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB), offered comments on Camp Tuhsmebeta and responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Davlantes distributed a packet of information pertaining to the Camp which outlined the dates, times, costs, and program specifics for each session of camp. He said the packet also includes information on scholarships offered to those who may not be able to afford the camping fees; the application form, and various permission slips.

Mr. Davlantes said meals at the camp will be provided by the same vendor which services the MSDB Flint Campus. He said a nurse from the Flint Campus will work at the camp this summer, and a gentleman who has been an employee of MSDB for many years, and is a graduate of Michigan State University, has been appointed camp director. He said Ms. Kathy Brown, Principal, Michigan School for the Blind, will also provide extensive programming guidance this summer.

Mr. Davlantes extended appreciation to the Camp Advisory Committee for the help they have offered in pulling together the camping season for 1999, and Ms. Brown is to be commended for her leadership in many of those activities. He said the next meeting will be held on June 9, 1999 at the camp which will provide an opportunity for some of the members who have not seen the camp to take a tour. He said some of the topics of discussion will be to develop an evaluation plan for the summer program, and the direction of the camp for the future.

Mr. Davlantes said waterfront activities will be provided by the YWCA, and Ms. Brown is currently recruiting camp counselors. He said many previous volunteers have contacted MSDB, and expressed their desire to return for another season.

Mr. Davlantes said the scheduled repairs for Tamarack Cabin have been completed, and reconstruction of the kitchen and dining areas of White Pine Lodge has begun. He said the project is slightly behind schedule because of a problem encountered which involved septic tanks and water lines. He said construction was not expected to be completed during the 1999 camping season, so a delay is not a concern. He said the final bid for the Maple and Birch Cabins has been awarded to Carpenter Construction, but renovations have yet to begin.

Mr. Davlantes said in return for help with some of the preparation and clean up duties, Naval Reservists have been allowed to use the camp as a training facility. He said this is an agreement that has existed for many years and benefits both parties.

Mr. Davlantes invited the State Board of Education to attend the graduation ceremonies at the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind on Friday, June 4, 1999.

No action was taken on this item.

XXIII. REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Ms. Kate McAuliffe, Director, Government Services and Customer Satisfaction, reviewed the following bills:

| <u>Bill Number</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| HB 4240 | Physical Assault: Amends the <i>Revised School Code</i> to require a school board to adopt a disciplinary policy that regulates assault committed by or against pupils in school and requires a reporting protocol under a “memorandum of understanding.” |
| SB 183 | Teacher Suspension: Amends the <i>Revised School Code</i> to allow a teacher to automatically suspend a student up to one day from the classroom. |
| SB 206 | Physical Assault: Amends the <i>Revised School Code</i> to require the expulsion of a pupil that commits an assault at school against an employee or volunteer. |
| SB 211 | School Uniforms: Amends the <i>Revised School Code</i> to encourage schools to require student uniforms and to provide education in ethics, citizenship, and anti-violence education. |
| HB 4088 | Summer Reading Program: Appropriates state funds to support summer reading programs operated by Michigan public libraries. |
| HB 4178 | Community Service: Amends the <i>Revised School Code</i> to prohibit requiring community service as a graduation requirement. |

Mrs. Straus said the Michigan House of Representatives has recently passed legislation regarding the purchase of concealed weapons. She said she feels this legislation makes it easier for any person to buy a gun and changes the entire procedure. She said it is important for the State Board of Education to speak out regarding this issue.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education (1) oppose any legislation that would make it easier for more people to purchase guns, especially in light of the recent shootings in schools in other states; and (2) support legislation that prohibits concealed weapons on school premises without it being necessary for the school to post notice.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Nay: Wise
Absent: Durant**

The motion carried.

Mrs. Beardmore said that on May 19, 1999, the Board visited the 0-3 program for Saginaw Public Schools at the Ruben Daniels Center. She said discussion has been held in the past regarding the importance of providing assistance to families and children at the earliest opportunity.

Mrs. Beardmore moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education support state funding for four-year-old children at-risk, Section 36 of the Revised School Code, and eligibility be expanded to support early intervention programs for children aged 0-4 years old.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Beardmore, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser, Wise
Absent: Durant**

The motion carried.

XXIV. UPDATE ON FEDERAL ISSUES

There was no update on Federal Issues.

XXV. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE RULE WAIVERS/
DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPERTY TRANSFER DECISIONS

Mr. Ellis said the Administrative Rule Waivers and the Property Transfers are two areas of Executive Orders 1996-11 and 1996-12 which the State Board of Education may want to develop policy for Board approval at the June 24, 1999 meeting.

Mrs. Beardmore said meetings have been held regarding Paragraph 1 of the Executive Order 1996-12. She said she and staff are in the process of categorizing those items, however, some questions of policy vis-a-vis administration and rule waivers have been raised. She said the Executive Orders state that the Board retains its policy making authority, and therefore, it is necessary to determine the guidelines and policies on which decisions and approvals for the administrative rule waivers and property transfers shall be based. She said there is a practice within the Department to determine which waiver requests will come before the Board for approval, and she feels it would be most helpful to understand the process. She said even though staff occasionally modify the requests reducing them to a one or two year period pending a progress report or evaluation of the program, the law stipulates that waivers may be a maximum of three years. She said she believes this is a blend of policy and administration, and warrants further discussion.

Mr. Ellis said that in June 1996, the Board approved the process for administrative rule waivers which includes: (1) the ability to file an independent or joint application with responsibility of oversight at each participating local board of education; (2) the necessity to complete a separate application for each waiver being requested; (3) a description of how the district will address the intent of the rule/statute in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner, or how the waiver will be implemented to stimulate improved pupil performance; (4) a description of whom and how interested parties were notified and involved in the application process, e.g. teacher, parents, community, others; and (5) a plan for addressing issues of local accountability and how the applicant will document that the waiver continues to meet the criteria in the application, does not compromise equal opportunities for learning, and is not detrimental to the educational interests of any pupils, as required by the Act.

Mr. Ellis said there is no intent to change the actual process, but the matter of who approves the recommendations which is in question. He said Mrs. Beardmore should continue to work with staff to determine if modifications are necessary. He said much of the current practice has been in place for many years, and he feels it is important to streamline the process.

Mrs. Beardmore said Paragraph 3 of Executive Order 1996-12 pertains to items remaining with the Board. She said as stated in her memorandum dated May 14, 1999 to the State Board of Education regarding Board Issues Following Supreme Court Decision, she has asked the subcommittee assigned to work on revising the Board By-Laws whether they would assume the responsibility of setting priorities for the Board. She said Mr. Ellis is absolutely correct in that the Board must be more formal in making decisions because typically they become policy until a new recommendation or opinion is approved or adopted. She said that practice is no longer acceptable. She said one concern that has been expressed is that the public must not be omitted from the procedure.

Mrs. Straus said that even though staff review administrative rule waivers according to established policies, the Board still occasionally does not approve the recommendations. She said a new policy should include a definition to clarify why some waivers do not receive approval.

Mr. Ellis suggested that hiring an individual to review the Executive Orders and the responsibilities of the Superintendent and the Board would expedite the entire process. He said the person he has in mind is an attorney working in the private sector and is the primary author of the Executive Orders.

Mrs. Straus said the Board has expressed reservations pertaining to the gentleman Mr. Ellis is recommending.

Mrs. Gire said administrative rule waivers and property transfer cases both impact school districts, teachers, students, and parents, and she feels that it is difficult to retain their part in the process when the elected body is not making the decision directly.

Dr. Moyer said the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) provides a service to local and intermediate school districts which assists them in establishing and revising policies. He said they may be willing to assist the Board and the Department on this issue.

Mr. Ellis said because of the volume of potential administrative rule waivers for special education rules alone, the Board must set clear policies and procedures. He said the Board needs the thinkers in the Department to devote the time and energy to this project, however, he is reluctant to pull that staff from their assigned duties. He said he encourages to Board to seek help outside of the Department to review the Policies and Procedures Manual so that the vital work of the Department will not suffer.

No action was taken on this item.

XXVI. APPROVAL OF CRITERIA FOR THE 1999-2000 GOALS 2000 GRANT PROGRAM - CYCLE 9

This item was removed from the agenda.

XXVII REPORT ON *EARLY ON*® MICHIGAN COMPETITIVE, CONTINUATION, AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION GRANT AWARDS FOR FY 1999-2000 UNDER PART C OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

This item was removed from the agenda.

XXVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. School Safety - Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus

Mrs. Straus expressed concern regarding the recent events taking place in schools in Littleton, Colorado, Michigan, and around the United States involving bombs, threats, and shootings. She said many people have asked her what the State Board of Education is doing to help deal with these issues and to provide leadership. She said she feels teachers and administrators are seeking guidance and it may be beneficial to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss what can be done to assist students, districts and teacher preparation institutions in recognizing potentially violent students, and counseling them to help reduce the number of incidents.

Mrs. Beardmore said the evening session scheduled for June 23, 1999 has been designated for that purpose, and it may be possible to expand the meeting time to include the afternoon of that day as well. She said Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent for Administrative and Support Services, has been actively working on setting up speakers and guests to address Full Day/Full Service Schools, and early childhood. She said it would be no trouble to frame the conversation in violence prevention because it is a well known fact that most problems involving children occur between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. She said the Board continually seeks ways to prevent tragedies in schools, and realizes that children need to feel connected and not be allowed to become isolated or ignored. She said schools, families, and the community know this to be true, however, people tend to think it is not their responsibility and that someone else will provide that service.

Mrs. Beardmore said it is the misbehaving or difficult child that is in the most need of care and kindness, but some children do not make it easy for people to reach out to them.

Mr. Ellis said the June 23, 1999 Committee of the Whole meeting will focus on interagency activities including comments from Mr. James Haveman, Director, Michigan Department of Community Health; Mr. Douglas E. Howard, Director, Family Independence Agency, and other guests to make presentations on Full Day/Full Service Schools Programs and multi- purpose collaborative bodies, as well as school violence.

Dr. Moyer said the Board is in a position to exercise some initiatives and promote a forum in collaboration with concerned citizens and educational organizations to plot out a program to address the issue of youth violence. He said he is confident that the Board would receive support and cooperation in funding and/or encouragement for programs that address this issue.

B. Ameritech's Parent Tech Program - Dr. Herbert S. Moyer

Dr. Moyer said he attended Ameritech's Parent Tech Program which relates to parenting in a digital age, and utilized schools from Illinois and Kentucky via satellite, as well as Senators Spence Abraham, and Carl Levin. He said the program touched on two of the Board's focus goals of parental involvement and technology. He said in light of the tragedy at Littleton, Colorado, it is more important than ever that parents become aware of their children's activities on the internet, and provide some element of supervision for their students. He said a kit was developed by Ameritech which addresses this issue and is available in the Office of the State Board of Education upon request.

C. Public School Academies - Dr. Herbert S. Moyer

Dr. Moyer said he understands that the Saginaw Area Career Center is a charter school which provides an opportunity for students in the Saginaw area to experience different career options. He said he believes proponents of public school academies had this type of program in mind when charter schools were conceived.

Dr. Moyer said the reports presented by Western Michigan University and Public Sector Consultants, Inc. at the February 18, 1999, Board meeting indicated that some incidences have occurred which are outside the parameters of the vision of what charter schools would be able to do in providing a more comprehensive option and choice for parents and students. He said comments received during public participation last night indicate that there is much more involved in operating a charter school than some people expect. He said it is necessary to offer clarification of the differences between public and private schools, because obviously practices that may be acceptable in a private school are not permitted in public schools. He said red flags have been raised regarding Warwick Pointe Academy, and he questioned what steps the Department and Central Michigan University are taking toward investigation of the allegations.

Mr. Ellis said Warwick Pointe Academy has contracted with an outside conflict resolution agency to assist in prioritizing the 31 grievances which have been brought against them, and Mr. Don Weatherspoon has been involved in an investigation on behalf of the Department. He said it should be noted that the allegation regarding a student who received help on the MEAP test was a blind child, and it must now be determined if it was improper assistance or typical of what other children with special needs receive throughout the state.

D. Saginaw Public Schools - Mrs. Dorothy Beardmore

Mrs. Beardmore said Dr. Foster Gibbs, Superintendent, Saginaw Public Schools, mentioned a new labor agreement earlier in the meeting, and she wished to note that copies have been distributed and are available in the Office of the State Board of Education.

E. Service Learning Programs - Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus

Mrs. Straus said she recently visited a service learning program at Romulus High School, Romulus, Michigan, which was very interesting. She said students involved in the program worked with many nonprofit organizations in their community including Helping Hands. She said students who have volunteered there indicated that they had never before heard of the 30 year old program. She said the founder was in the audience and expressed pleasure upon hearing their comments. She said the students encouraged their fellow classmates to participate and volunteer.

Mrs. Straus said another group presented a playlet regarding why smoking is not good for you. She said it was very well done. She said they had figured out how much money a person could save if cigarettes were not purchased, and offered some suggestions on more constructive uses for the funds. She said it was a very positive experience.

Mrs. Straus said Ms. Mary Belknap, teacher and 1998 Christa McAuliffe Award winner, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Michigan, invited her to observe her cross age tutoring program. She said the program consists of two sections of a class where high school juniors and seniors may enter an elementary school and tutor young children in reading or math. She said some of the high school students have been identified as at risk and were on the verge of dropping out of school. She said the program has been very good for them in that it has raised their self esteem to the point where they actually enjoy their classes and make an extra effort to attend the tutoring program if they must miss school for any reason.

Mrs. Straus said Jackson High School offers two classes in American Sign Language. She said some deaf and hard of hearing students attend the school, and the two classes offer an opportunity for hearing students to become exposed to deaf culture and communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing students. She said several of the students who have taken the classes have expressed interest in going into the field of teaching the hearing impaired. She said she was also pleased to learn that Jackson Public Schools has the largest foreign language program in the Midwest.

XXIX. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Board members were asked to submit agenda items for the June meeting to the Administrative Secretary. Mr. Ellis said Department staff, the Board President and Vice President would be meeting in the next week to develop and finalize the agenda.

XXX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. June 23-24, 1999
- B. July 15, 1999
- C. August 26, 1999
- D. September 15-16, 1999

XXXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert S. Moyer
Secretary