

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
Big Ten B
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

September 20, 2001
2:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., 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 Wise
Mr. Scott Jenkins, representing Governor John Engler

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of August 23, 2001
- B. Revised - Report on Consent Agenda
- C. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Elizabeth W. Bauer
- D. Adoption of Resolution Commending School Personnel and Students and Supporting American Values in the Aftermath of September 11, 2001

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated September 20, 2001, from Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board regarding Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T
- B. Memorandum dated September 20, 2001, from Superintendent to the Board regarding Information on *The Role of Michigan Schools in Promoting Healthy Weight*

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 Federally-Funded Child Care and Development Fund Grants for School-Age Child Care - Amendment - added to agenda
- B. Report of the Superintendent - 2000-01 Special Projects Grants Under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Building Parent Support for Effective Sexuality and HIV/STD Prevention Programs - added to agenda
- C. Report of the Superintendent - 1999-2000 Goals 2000 Cycle 9/Category Three - Amendment - added to agenda
- D. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Elizabeth W. Bauer - added to agenda
- E. Adoption of Resolution Commending School Personnel and Students, and Supporting American Values in the Aftermath of September 11, 2001 - added to agenda
- F. Approval of the Criteria for Section 388.1694 (Section 94) Funding for Technical Assistance to Low-Performing Schools - removed from agenda

Mr. Watkins requested that the following item be added to the agenda:

- G. Update on Educational Legislation

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

The motion carried unanimously.

V. MOMENT OF SILENCE

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mr. Watkins asked for a moment of silence honoring those who died or lost loved ones during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Resolution Commending School Personnel and Students, and Supporting American Values in the Aftermath of September 11, 2001

Mrs. Straus said America is currently trying to recover to some semblance of normalcy after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. She presented a resolution for Board adoption commending school personnel and students, and supporting American values.

Mrs. Straus read the resolution to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution commending school personnel and students, and supporting American values in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

The resolution is attached as Exhibit A.

B. State Board of Education Task Forces

Mrs. Straus said three of the State Board of Education Task Forces met earlier in the day, and she and Mr. Watkins had the privilege of visiting each meeting throughout the morning. She said she found them engaging and interesting, and felt that the conversation was dynamic and productive.

Mrs. Straus asked each of the chairs and/or co-chairs to provide comments to the Board:

1) Integrating Schools and Communities

Mrs. Gire said she felt the Integrating Schools and Communities Task Force was a very dynamic group which identified many issues in need of further discussion. She said they plan to meet again in November so that staff will have an opportunity to organize the Task Force's notes, and members can attend a meeting of the Multi-Purpose Collaborative Bodies which is addressing the issue of integrating agencies and schools.

Dr. Moyer said he felt the Integrating Schools and Communities Task Force was insightful and developed many points that were on target with what the Task Force is all about.

2) Enhancing Educator Quality

Mr. Austin said the Enhancing Educator Quality Task Force had a good first meeting, and everything that was stated underscored the significance of teacher quality to improving achievement. He said that is particularly true for schools and students who are struggling. He said he hopes that the task force is starting a teacher quality offensive in Michigan, and will help ensure that Michigan has the best support and nurturing system for teachers in the nation.

Mrs. Weiser said she agreed with Mr. Austin, and supported his

comments.

3) Embracing the Information Age

Mr. Warren said this was the second meeting for the Embracing the Information Age Task Force which hopes to have its report finalized in November. Mr. Warren stated that the discussion was very engaging and productive.

Mrs. Straus said the Educational Leadership Task Force was scheduled to meet on September 12, but was postponed because of the attacks. She said the Early Childhood Literacy Task Force will meet at a later date.

Mrs. Straus said she is sure the Task Forces will provide helpful recommendations to the Board, and she was inspired to see a broad cross section of people present.

Mr. Austin said the Enhancing Educator Quality Task Force also met the night before with a group of Teachers of the Year, and Milken Educator Award winners. He said it was a great opportunity to interact with that group and receive their input on this topic. He said Mrs. Weiser and he are interested in insinuating those ideas into the discussions that take place during the Task Force meetings.

VII. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of August 23, 2001

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Dr. Moyer, that the State Board of Education approve the minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no awards and recognitions presented.

IX. REPORT ON STAR INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY AND UNIVERSAL ACADEMY AND THE STATE'S ROLE IN THE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES

Mr. Watkins introduced Dr. Michael Addonizio, Wayne State University, and said Dr. Addonizio was contracted to review two charter schools in which recent allegations of impropriety had been made. Dr. Addonizio stated that after an extensive investigation that he found no clear evidence of illegalities or unethical conduct at the schools.

Dr. Addonizio provided information and responded to questions from the Board regarding Star International Academy and Universal Academy, and the Board's role in the oversight of public school academies.

Dr. Addonizio said the Board is empowered by the Revised School Code of 1976 to suspend an authorizing body from issuing new charters if the authorizing body is not engaging in appropriate continuing oversight. He said the authority of the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction is substantial, and he raised the issue in the report titled, "An Inquiry into Star International and Universal Academies and Public School Academy Oversight in Michigan," that in general the role of the Superintendent and the Board would be to ensure a more uniform and high level of oversight on the part of the authorizer. In response to a question, Dr. Addonizio recognized that much of the Board's and the Superintendent's authority over charter schools applied to all public schools.

Dr. Addonizio said he developed a list of ideas from discussions with Department staff and people who work for the authorizing bodies as follows:

- 1) Standardize the responsibilities for authorizers through either the adoption of rules or guidelines to address a number of issues including specifying the responsibilities of public school academy trustees and the method of selection.
- 2) The Board and the Superintendent should develop an administrative mechanism to monitor the operations of the authorizing bodies through the possible establishment of an Authorizers Advisory Board. He said he views this as a permanent group which would convene on a regular basis in the Department to address issues that occur in matters of interpretation of law.
- 3) Establish the Department of Education as the primary repository of data and information regarding public school academies.

Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer, said as a result of many discussions with public school academies throughout the State of Michigan since he joined the Department, he has become aware of several issues including how: (1) schools interact with their respective authorizers; (2) authorizers operate with the Department; and (3) authorizers react to one another. He said he has experienced some sense of frustration in that it seems the Department is brought into issues at the 11th hour. He said he has, based on conversations with Dr. Addonizio and Mr. David Winters, Director, Office of Education Options, Charter, and Choices, made recommendations to create within the Department a Superintendent's Advisory Committee as a way to create some clarity for everyone involved.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) that Dr. Addonizio's investigation did not find wrong doing or illegal activity at the schools; (2) that the schools served high poverty rate and minority populations, received high parental approval, and outperformed their peers in many areas; (3) the State Board's authority over public schools granted in the Revised School Code, specifically MCL 380.1281; (4) that

there had only rarely been (if any) instances of withholding state aid payments to traditional school districts as well as public school academies; (5) revoking of charters by either the State Board of Education or the authorizing body; (6) the selection of charter school trustees and the Board's authority in the selection or removal of those individuals; (7) if there is a need for additional oversight by the

Board and/or the Department; (8) who would be identified for the Superintendent's Advisory Committee; and (9) the effect the new accreditation process will have on charter schools.

Dr. Addonizio said he thinks one potential problem with the charter school statute is the amount of latitude allowed the appointment of public school academy trustees. He said the director of a public school academy may have a pivotal role in the selection of those trustees, and then have that selection approved by the authorizing body which could form a disconnect as a public entity. He said a case like that would not be effective oversight of the public school academy.

No action was taken on this item.

X. UPDATE ON EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Ms. Kate McAuliffe, Assistant Superintendent, provided information and responded to questions from the Board regarding current educational legislation.

A copy of the "Section-by-Section Analysis House Bill 14371, and School Aid Supplemental, FY's 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03," was provided to the Board. Ms. McAuliffe said the Conference Committee report passed the House of Representatives by a 62/44 vote earlier in the day. She said the Senate is also expected to consider and take action on the bill as soon as next week. She said the "Section-by-Section Analysis House Bill 4371, and School Aid Supplemental, FY's 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03," illustrates the changes that were made, and what school districts will be operating under throughout the next couple of years. She said many of the categoricals will see significant reductions or eliminations in 2003, and overall, the bill will reduce the total state aid funding at about 2% from the budget which was passed last year. She said the basic per pupil foundation levels have not been reduced.

Ms. McAuliffe said the issue of charter schools has been removed from this bill, and the provision that would have prevented the Bay Mills Community College from not being able to charter schools has been removed as well.

Ms. McAuliffe said the amendment which required the Department of Management and Budget to review any type of grant that the Department of Education submitted to the United States Department of Education has been removed from the bill.

No action was taken on this item.

XI. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING ELIZABETH W. BAUER

Mr. Watkins said Ms. Elizabeth W. Bauer, Executive Director of the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Office is retiring. He said he has known Ms. Bauer for many years and feels she is one of the most outstanding, personal, and professional advocates for individuals with disabilities.

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 20, 2001, honoring Elizabeth W. Bauer.

The motion carried unanimously.

The resolution is attached as Exhibit B.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Ms. Mary Bridget Monaghan, 3603 Sawgrass Circle, Lansing, Michigan 48911. Ms. Monaghan offered comments regarding the Governor's remarks made at the Governor's Education Summit in September, 2001.

Ms. Monaghan provided a copy of her written comments to the Board.

- B. Mr. Dan Quisenberry, Michigan Association of Public School Academies, 215 South Washington Square, Suite 210, Lansing, Michigan 48933. Mr. Quisenberry offered comments regarding Star International Academy and Universal Academy, and the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction's timely reaction to the allegations.

Mr. Quisenberry said Dr. Michael Addonizio, Wayne State University, recommended earlier in the meeting that a Superintendent's Advisory Committee be created to assist in issues occurring in charter schools. He said a group of authorizers, universities and others has existed for a number of years which offers a wealth of expertise and experience. He said that group would be willing to assist the Board in that capacity if requested.

XIII. REPORT ON CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Approval of Criteria for the 2001-2002 School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grants
- C. Approval of the Criteria for Section 388.1694 (Section 94) Funding for Technical Assistance to Low-Performing Schools (this item was removed from the agenda)
- D. Approval of the Criteria for the 2001-2002 Charter Schools (Public School Academy) Grant Program

- E. Preliminary Approval of Baker College as a Teacher Preparation Institution
- F. Appointment of a Committee of Scholars to Review the Finlandia University Application to Become a Teacher Preparation Institution

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

- B. approve the Criteria for the 2001-2002 School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grants as described in Attachment A of the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 5, 2001;**
- C. this item was removed from the agenda;**
- D. approve the Criteria for the 2001-2002 Charter Schools (Public School Academy) Grant Program as described in Attachment A of the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 5, 2001;**
- E. grant preliminary approval to Baker College for the purpose of developing initial elementary and secondary teacher preparation programs, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 5, 2001; and**
- F. approve the appointment of Delinda Crane, Cheryl Lake, Kirk Nigro, Ray Ostrander, and Ervin Sparapani as the Committee of Scholars for the review of the Finlandia University application for approval as a teacher preparation institution as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 5, 2001.**

The motion carried unanimously.

XIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- G. Human Resources Report
- H. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers
- I. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Federally-Funded Child Care and Development Fund Grants for School-Age Child Care

- J. 2001-2002 Federally-Funded Child Care and Development Fund Grants for School-Age Child Care - Amendment
- K. 2000-01 Special Projects Grants Under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Building Parent Support for Effective Sexuality and HIV/STD Prevention Programs
- L. 1999-2000 Goals 2000 Cycle 9/Category Three - Amendment

The Superintendent provided an oral report on the following:

- A. State Board of Education Task Forces

Mr. Watkins commended the Board on their progress with the task forces, and said he believes that the task forces are comprised of a good representation of educational constituents from throughout Michigan. He said he feels that the school districts and educational organizations support what the Board is trying to accomplish with the task forces.

- B. Child 2 Child - From Sea to Shining Sea

Mr. Watkins said in trying to help schools and children deal with the recent attacks on the United States, he has directed staff to establish an addition to the Department's website titled, "Child 2 Child - From Sea to Shining Sea." He said this site will offer students, teachers, school administrators, parents, and community members from across the country an opportunity to support one another during this very difficult time in our country.

- C. Special Education Hearings.

Mr. Watkins said the two additional special education hearings which go above and beyond the court order either have or will occur soon. He said even though the hearings are regarding the rules revisions, the main focus has been on the children they will impact.

- D. Accreditation

Mr. Watkins said Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer, continues to develop the new accreditation process and hopes to complete that task in early 2002. He said much input has been received from the field and Dr. Bushaw is doing an exceptional job.

XV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Public School Academies - Mr. John Austin

Mr. Austin said he hopes that not only will the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction work with the charter school authorizers, advocates, and Legislature, but that those entities will work with the Board and the Superintendent on this issue as well.

Dr. Moyer said he appreciated the report on Star International Academy and Universal Academy presented to the Board earlier in the meeting, but there appeared to be some questionable administrative decisions made at the two schools. He said the Board should consider this situation in the future in order to protect its reputation.

Mr. Warren said he agreed with Dr. Moyer, but pointed out that these issues could also arise in a traditional public school as well. He said management issues between staff and administration could occur in any institutional setting.

Mr. Watkins said he feels that high quality public education is the main focus of the Board and educational professionals throughout the State of Michigan, and charter schools are part of that fabric. He said the main thrust behind Dr. Addonizio's report was to bring forward issues that needed to be addressed.

XVI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Watkins said the Board President, Vice President, Secretary, and staff will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to develop the agenda for the next meeting, and he encouraged Board members to submit items they wish to have added to the agenda prior to that time.

There was extensive discussion regarding where to hold the next meeting with possible sites being the Grand Rapids Big Rapids area, and Upper Michigan. Mrs. Gire suggested that Mr. Mike Boulus, Executive Director, Michigan Merit Award Program, Department of Treasury, be invited to a meeting in the near future.

Dr. Moyer said he would like the Board to invite the Lion's Club to a meeting for a short presentation, however, he felt it could wait until the November meeting.

Mr. Watkins said he has asked staff to draft a resolution for Board approval at the next meeting regarding the Lion's Club's efforts in helping children.

Mrs. Wise said that although she feels it is important for the Board to travel throughout the state periodically, she feels that with the current budgetary cutbacks and restrictions, it may be better if the Board marshals its resources and give the extra money to the school districts. She urged caution in spending extra dollars.

XVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. October 18, 2001
- B. November 15, 2001
- C. December 13, 2001

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.
Secretary