

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

DR. SEYMOUR GRETCHKO

WHEREAS, Dr. Seymour Gretchko graduated with a bachelors degree in education in 1952 from Wayne State University and began working as a teacher in the Detroit Public Schools, where he taught at Douglass Houghton Elementary, Tappan Junior High School, and Pershing High School; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining his masters degree in administration from Wayne State University in 1957, Dr. Seymour Gretchko began working in the Detroit Public Schools in many administrative capacities, first as a counselor at Winship Junior High School, assistant principal at Bow Elementary School and Cerveny Junior High School, and principal at Longfellow Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Dr. Seymour Gretchko began his career as a superintendent, first as an assistant superintendent in Detroit Public Schools Region Six, a job he held when he obtained his doctorate in curriculum development from Wayne State University in 1968; and

WHEREAS, after serving as assistant superintendent in Region Six for nine years, Dr. Seymour Gretchko was appointed as Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Region Six, a position he held until he accepted the superintendent's position in the West Bloomfield School District in 1983; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Seymour Gretchko's leadership, the West Bloomfield School District has emerged as one of the top school districts in the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, as a few examples of excellence during Dr. Seymour Gretchko's tenure, every school in the West Bloomfield School District was named a State Exemplary School, six were named National Blue Ribbon Schools, three educators received Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards in 1990, 1991, and 1999, and his district was the first in Michigan to adopt "American Values for American Schools"; and

WHEREAS, as a lasting testament to his profession, Dr. Seymour Gretchko was named as Michigan Superintendent of the Year in 2000, a true recognition by his peers of the laudable work he has undertaken during his 50 years in the field of education in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education were saddened by the untimely death of Dr. Seymour Gretchko on March 18, 2002; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education extend to the family of Dr. Seymour Gretchko its deepest sympathies, its highest regard, and heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and expertise this outstanding, highly respected, and beloved educator brought to the children of the Detroit Public Schools, the West Bloomfield Public Schools, and the state of Michigan; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education urges other superintendents and school administrators to follow the example of Dr. Seymour Gretchko, a true pillar of Michigan's education community and clear beacon for Michigan's educational leaders of the future.



Adopted April 11, 2002

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman