



# December 2020 Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

*December 11, 2020*

## Committee Members

☒ Owen Bondono, ☒ Zeinab Chami, ☒ Eva Coleman, ☒ ☒ Anthony Greenburg, ☒ Gigi Lincoln, ☒ Cathy Longstreet (9:08am), ☒ Angela Pérez, ☒ Ben Pineda, ☒ Lisa Rivard, ☒ Ramont Roberts, ☒ Ruth Lahti, ☒ Mandy Stewart, ☒ Greg Talberg, ☒ Marcus Walton, ☒ Jeff Whittle,

Time	Item																																																																
9:00am	Welcome 9:02																																																																
9:03	Public Comment																																																																
9:07	<p>Review and Approval of November Minutes:</p> <p>Motion by: Jeff Whittle            Seconded by: Zeinab Chami            Discussion:</p> <p>Motion carries unanimously.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Yay</th> <th>Nay</th> <th>Abstain</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mr. Owen Bondono</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Zeinab Chami</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Eva Coleman</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Anthony M. Greenburg</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. Margaret Lincoln</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. Cathy Longstreet</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. Angela J. Pérez</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Benedict L. Pineda</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. Lisa R. Rivard</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. Ramont M. Roberts</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Ruth Lahti</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. Mandy R. Stewart</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Gregory Talberg</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Marcus A. Walton</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Jeffrey C. Whittle</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Mr. Owen Bondono	x			Ms. Zeinab Chami	x			Ms. Eva Coleman	x			Mr. Anthony M. Greenburg	x			Dr. Margaret Lincoln	x			Mrs. Cathy Longstreet				Mrs. Angela J. Pérez	x			Mr. Benedict L. Pineda	x			Dr. Lisa R. Rivard	x			Dr. Ramont M. Roberts	x			Ms. Ruth Lahti	x			Dr. Mandy R. Stewart	x			Mr. Gregory Talberg	x			Mr. Marcus A. Walton	x			Mr. Jeffrey C. Whittle	x		
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9:08	Moment of silence to acknowledge of COVID losses in our community.																																																																
9:09	<p>Library Program GEAC Recommendation and Voting</p> <p>Discussion about history of budget cuts, staffing changes, credentialed librarians, and access to physical school libraries across the state.</p> <p>Wayne State has a preparation program. Others have eliminated their programming.</p> <p>Zeinab suggests working with Governor's school librarian council.</p>																																																																

Gigi will share additional information about the cuts that have been made to libraries. \*  
 Next step is to send the final version over to the Governor's office.

Motion by: Bondono  
 Seconded by: Lahti  
 Discussion:

Motion carries unanimously.

Name	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Owen Bondono	x		
Ms. Zeinab Chami	x		
Ms. Eva Coleman	x		
Mr. Anthony M. Greenburg	x		
Dr. Margaret Lincoln	x		
Mrs. Cathy Longstreet	x		
Mrs. Angela J. Pérez	x		
Mr. Benedict L. Pineda	x		
Dr. Lisa R. Rivard	x		
Dr. Ramont M. Roberts	x		
Ms. Ruth Lahti	x		
Dr. Mandy R. Stewart	x		
Mr. Gregory Talberg	x		
Mr. Marcus A. Walton	x		
Mr. Jeffrey C. Whittle	x		

\* Please see [Michigan School Data Staffing](#) and [School Librarian Staffing Update](#) document shared by Gigi

9:36

Update on Teacher of the Year from Owen Bondono

- Introduction: Pronouns (he/him, they/them), Education, Certification, Career
- Areas of professional interest:
  - Inclusive schooling
    - LGBTQ + safe spaces
    - Anti-racist pedagogy and abolitionist teaching
  - Gradeless or mastery-based education
  - Mastery learning
  - Develop caring classroom communities
- Teacher of the year Mission
  - Evaluate the effects of the pandemic on education and help rethink best practices
  - Help create classrooms and schools that uplift students from all communities and backgrounds, with practices rooted in queer-affirming, anti-racist, abolitionist teaching
  - Advocate for new and future teachers with the goal of recruiting and retaining teachers who align with the diversity of our student population
  - Be a "possible model" (in the words of Laverne Cox) for other trans and queer people in education and beyond
- Between the Lines Inclusive Instruction Magazine Cover!! [August 20, 2020](#)
- Students first mind-set for teachers, even during a pandemic
- Safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students:
  - Comprehensive anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies
  - Gender and sexuality alliances
  - Teachers and school staff who are supportive of LGBTQ students
  - An LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum
- Building schools that attract and retain LGBTQ+ Educators

- o Authentic, top-level support
- o Strong anti-discrimination policies for staff
- o Formation fo Resource Groups or Affinity Groups
- o Competency training for all staff
- o Inclusion in recruitment efforts focused on diversifying staff

- Some things are working in virtual learning and those will be carried forward
- Get to be a "bridge" this year

Several requests for Owen to speak. Owen suggests that all requests are emailed.  
 Discussion about importance of diversifying the teacher workforce and providing training and materials for appropriate teaching.  
 Important to also talk about diversity in administration.

10:22 Break  
 Motion by: Greg Talberg  
 Seconded by: Ben Pineda  
 Motion is approved unanimously

10:33 Council Updates and Thoughts

- COVID impact - self, family, interacting with students in their homes, grades plummet, using technology in ways it wasn't meant to be used
- Helping and reaching out to one-another.
- The landscape has changed; we, and our students, have to recalibrate to immediate bad news in ways we haven't had to before; it's touching all of us differently at different times; help each other process
- Opportunity for lasting change
- Angela Johnson has passed due to COVID complications; she will be greatly missed and has touched many lives in the education communities
- Remember the impact on this pandemic on our support staff.

10:45 Timeline for Work Completion  
 June is confirmed.  
 Discussion on inclusion of student presentations in the meetings for the future.

11:15 Vote on 2021 GEAC Dates:  
 Jan 22 – Virtual – Jeff student and research collaborative  
 Feb 19 - Virtual  
 March 12 - Virtual  
 April 23 - Lansing  
 May 21 – Saginaw  
 June 25 – Dearborn  
 July 23 - Lansing  
 August 13 - UP  
 September 17 – Macomb ISD  
 October 22 - Lansing  
 November 19 – Traverse City  
 December 17 – Flint

Motion by: Marcus Walton  
 Seconded by: Gigi Lincoln  
 Discussion:  
 Motion carries unanimously.

Name	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Owen Bondono	x		
Ms. Zeinab Chami	x		
Ms. Eva Coleman	x		

	Mr. Anthony M. Greenburg	x			
	Dr. Margaret Lincoln	x			
	Mrs. Cathy Longstreet	x			
	Mrs. Angela J. Pérez	x			
	Mr. Benedict L. Pineda	x			
	Dr. Lisa R. Rivard	x			
	Dr. Ramont M. Roberts	x			
	Ms. Ruth Lahti	x			
	Dr. Mandy R. Stewart	x			
	Mr. Gregory Talberg	x			
	Mr. Marcus A. Walton	x			
	Mr. Jeffrey C. Whittle	x			
11:27	<p>Wrap-Up and Adjourn Committee of the Whole for Workgroup Time, break into subcommittee groups if called by chair</p> <p>Motion by: Greg Talberg  Seconded by: Jeff Whittle  Motion carries unanimously.</p>				

Upcoming Meeting: January 22, 2020, Virtual