

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 14, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Dr. Richard Zeile  
Mrs. Karen McPhee, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Ms. Melody Arabo 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEM

Information on 2013-2014 Carl D. Perkins Consolidated Annual Report

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

Mr. Austin requested that a presentation by the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren be added to the agenda.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith,  
Straus, Ulbrich, Zeile  
Absent: Weiser**

**The motion carried.**

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan welcomed Mr. Brian Whiston, Superintendent, Dearborn Public Schools, who was attending the meeting. Mr. Flanagan said the Board has made an excellent choice in its selection of Mr. Whiston as the next Superintendent of Public Instruction effective July 1, 2015.

Mr. Flanagan presented Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, with the State of Michigan Symbol of Excellence coin. He said Department Directors award Good Government coins to symbolize leadership, teamwork and excellence.

V. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

VI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan acknowledged April as Month of the Young Child. Mr. Flanagan also commended Mr. Austin on his work regarding Michigan's Blue Economy, as documented in a report recently released by the Michigan Economic Center at Prima Civitas.

VII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:39 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VIII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

IX. PRESENTATION ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE PROGRAM – AN OVERVIEW AND LOOK AT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start; Ms. Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Director, Child Development and Care; and Ms. Renee DeMars-Johnson, Director, Early Childhood Development and Family Education; presented on the Child Development and Care Program – An Overview and Look at Upcoming Opportunities.

Mr. Flanagan said The Child Development and Care Program in Michigan provides low-income families with access to high-quality child care opportunities. He said there are significant opportunities in Michigan to revisit current policies and supports through recent appropriations and

the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Mr. Flanagan said The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant also provides opportunities to improve the quality of early care and education in Michigan.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Mrs. Weiser arrived at 9:55 a.m.

Board member discussion included the decreased number of child care cases, use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding and other funding streams, investment in early childhood education and legislative policy changes, the high rate of eligible children that are unserved, misconceptions regarding eligibility, child care for special needs children, collaboration with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Wayne State University training regarding autism.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

XI. PRESENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS – TEACHER PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; presented on the Implementation of Social Studies Standards – Teacher Preparation and Professional Learning.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is a continuation of the series focusing on implications for rewriting social studies standards. He said the presentation focuses on changes to the preparation and support of teachers and general support for implementation of instruction to support a revision of the social studies standards and the Career, College and Civic Life (C3) Framework.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included guidance and instructional materials provided by partners, communications with legislators, teacher supports, and providing information to the public for greater transparency and common knowledge.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:33 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

## REGULAR MEETING

### XIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin welcomed Mr. Brian Whiston, who was in attendance at the Board meeting. Mr. Austin said Mr. Whiston and the Board have signed a contract and Mr. Whiston will be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction beginning July 1, 2015. Mr. Austin said Mr. Whiston will be a wonderful leader to advance ideas for school improvement, student achievement, and strategic investment in schools.

### XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened at 1:23 p.m. During the recess the board had an informal luncheon with legislative leaders.

Mrs. McPhee left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

### XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A. Amy Colton, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Ms. Nancy Fawner, Lansing, Michigan. Ms. Colton, representing Learning Forward Michigan; and Ms. Fawner, representing Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; presented verbal comments and written information on collaborative work on the professional learning standards.

### XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### Reports

- C. Human Resources Report
- D. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Gratiot-Isabella RESD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- E. Report on the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- F. Report on Teacher Certification Revocation Decision

#### Grants

- G. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2013-2014 Safe and Supportive Schools Grant - Amendment; \$1,892,678

2. 2014-2015 Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education - Initial; \$239,201
3. 2014-2015 Promoting Adolescent Health in MI through School-Based HIV/STD Prev. and School-Based Surveillance - Amendment; \$63,288
4. 2013-2014 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality - Amendment; \$2,549,751
5. 2014-2015 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality - Initial; \$1,140,000
6. 2013-2014 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) - Amendment; \$4,429,639
7. 2014-2015 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) - Initial; \$3,302,903
8. 2014-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program - Amendment; \$4,025,050
9. 2014-2015 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools - Amendment; \$13,586,613
10. 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant - Amendment; \$14,672,195
11. 2014-2015 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant - Amendment; \$23,150,000
12. 2014-2015 Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants - Amendment; \$2,065,700
13. 2014-2015 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects - Amendment; \$14,421,830
14. 2013-2014 Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition Program - Amendment; \$8,221,853
15. 2013-2014 Title X, McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance Grant - Amendment; \$1,100,000
16. 2014-2015 Section 41, Bilingual Education Grant - Initial; \$1,200,000
17. 2014-2015 Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs - Amendment; \$486,872,264
18. 2014-2015 Title I, Part C Summer Migrant Program - Initial; \$5,079,358

19. 2014-2015 Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting - Amendment; \$90,684,972

Mr. Flanagan provided an update on M-STEP assessment testing, and he shared tweets from the past month highlighting his activities as the State Superintendent.

XVII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked that new employees be introduced.

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Muhammed Sadek, Leann Reyes, and Mary Stephenson from the Office of Career and Technical Education; and Alexandra Hollmeyer from the Office of Field Services.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, introduced Scott Koenig from the Office of Standards and Assessment.

XVIII. PRESENTATION BY THE COALITION FOR THE FUTURE OF DETROIT SCHOOLCHILDREN

This presentation was added to the agenda.

Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren Co-Chairs Ms. Tonya Allen, President and CEO, Skillman Foundation and Mr. David Hecker, President, AFT Michigan/AFL-CIO; and Mr. Heaster Wheeler, Chief Innovation Officer, Black Family Development, Inc. presented information on the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren.

Ms. Fecteau introduced members of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren. She said the Coalition is a diverse group of people who have been meeting in Detroit to improve the education and future for Detroit schoolchildren. She said the recommendations will be shared during the presentation. Ms. Fecteau said she is a member of the Policy Subcommittee.

Coalition members distributed copies of the Coalition's report, *The Choice is Ours*.

The Coalition recommends:

- Return to governance of Detroit Public Schools to an elected school board.
- Charter authorizers and charter school boards should improve transparency, focus more on quality, and better coordinate all charter schools.
- The state should assume the Detroit Public Schools debt.
- Create a new nonpartisan entity, the Detroit Education Commission, to coordinate and rationalize citywide education functions in partnership with Regional Councils to incorporate neighborhood-level input.

- Establish Advisory School Leadership Teams.
- Empower and fund the State School Reform Office and State School Reform District.
- Create shared systems of data, enrollment and neighborhood transportation.

Board discussion followed.

XIX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 2:46 p.m. and reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

XX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING (CONTINUED)

- B. Bethany Bratney, Plymouth, Michigan. Ms. Bratney, representing the Network of Michigan Educators, presented verbal comments and written information on educational success in a school library.

XXI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 2:57 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XXII. INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Ms. Melody Arabo, the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year, introduced the 2014 National Board Certified Teachers.

The teachers who were introduced are:

- Jennifer Boring-Kata, Port Huron Area School District, certification in Generalist/Early Childhood
- Therese Geist, Southfield Public School District, certification in Mathematics/Early Adolescence
- Angela Taylor-Gloster, Southfield Public School District, certification in Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood
- Sally Hamama-Nalu, Southfield Public School District, certification in English as a New Language/Early and Middle Childhood
- Vanessa Parnell, Detroit Public School District, certification in Generalist/Early Childhood
- Kimberly Wesner, Novi School District, certification in Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- Gina Wilson, Early College Alliance, Eastern Michigan University, certification in Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Mr. Austin presented each teacher with a certificate of recognition from the Board. He said it is important to have pathways for teachers to continue teaching and improve their skills. He congratulated the teachers on their commitment to teaching and achieving the goal of National Board Certification.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 3:01 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XXIV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- I. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 3, 2015
- J. Approval of Minutes of Closed Session of March 3, 2015
- K. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 10, 2015
- L. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 11, 2015
- M. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 17, 2015
- N. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of March 18, 2015

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the State Board of Education meetings of March 3, March 10, March 11, March 17, and March 18, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXV. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Melody Arabo shared a slide presentation highlighting her monthly activities as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXVI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; and Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on pending legislation regarding educator evaluations, allowing ½ credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for the Michigan Merit Curriculum, and student fundraising during school hours.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on April 6, 2015, and the Committee discussed two statements which are being presented to the full Board today.

Dr. Ulbrich asked Mrs. Straus to review the first statement.

Statement on Proposal 15-1

Mrs. Straus said the first statement is related to the May 5, 2015 ballot proposal regarding funding for roads, which also replaces funding for public education. She said she believes it is incumbent on the State Board of Education to take action supporting the proposal.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education support Proposal 15-1. It would protect Michigan schools from severe cuts in revenue and provide needed stability for education. It also would help safeguard our families and children, who depend on safe roads for transit to school. We believe passage of this proposal would provide significant benefit to our state.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith,  
Straus, Weiser  
Nays: Ulbrich, Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

Statement on the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the following statement: The State Board of Education applauds the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren for their hard work and dedication. The Board acknowledges the report and its recommendations and urges the Governor and Legislature to give these recommendations full consideration.**

Ms. Ramos-Montigny made a friendly amendment to replace "applauds" with "commends" and there was Board consensus.

Ms. Fecteau said the statement, as proposed, does not say anything and she would like the Board to encourage the Governor and Legislature to adopt the recommendations.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said the statement was discussed during the Board's Legislative Committee meeting, and it was determined that the Coalition's recommendations will undergo further discussion. She said the proposed statement is a unified statement by the Board's Legislative Committee.

Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus said they would support a stronger statement.

Following discussion, Mr. Austin made a friendly amendment to replace "acknowledges" with "embraces."

Mrs. Weiser suggested the deletion of "and its recommendations," and the replacement of "these" with "its."

Dr. Ulbrich and Mr. Austin accepted all friendly amendments.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith,  
Straus, Ulbrich, Weiser  
Abstain: Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

The Statement on the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, as adopted reads:

The State Board of Education commends the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren for their hard work and dedication. The Board embraces the report and urges the Governor and Legislature to give its recommendations full consideration.

XXVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

There was Board member discussion regarding home schooling.

Dr. Zeile said he attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Committee meeting March 22-24, 2015, and he found the presentations to be helpful. He said he and Pamela Pugh Smith visited the offices of Congresswoman Dingell and Senator Stabenow. He said Ben Williams also attended the Council of Chief State School Officers Legislative Conference held in conjunction with the NASBE Conference.

Mrs. Straus, who is a member of the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee, said the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions is hearing testimony on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, on April 14, 2015.

XXVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 24, 2015 Special Meeting (2:00 p.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Wednesday, May 13, 2015 Special Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- D. Tuesday, May 19, 2015 State Board Retreat (9:30 a.m.)
- E. Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary