

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
Fourth Floor, John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48909

May 7, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, President
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Vice President
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary
Mr. Tom McMillin, Treasurer
Ms. Tiffany Tilley, NASBE Delegate
Dr. Judith Pritchett
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny
Ms. Nikki Snyder

Absent: Ms. Sheila A. Alles, Chairperson
Mr. Josh Neyhart, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Mike Collins, Regional Search Associate, Ray & Associates, Inc.
Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, Michigan Department
of Education

Special Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Ulbrich called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. The meeting was convened for the purpose of interviewing finalists for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Mr. McMillin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Schneider introduced the members of the State Board of Education.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – DR. CASANDRA ULBRICH

Dr. Ulbrich reviewed the interview process. She said candidates received the predetermined interview questions prior to the interview. She said Board members will have the option to propose additional questions at the end of each interview. She said Board members are asked to write their questions on notecards, which will be collected and posed in random order as time permits. She said Mr. Mike Collins, representing Ray & Associates will be present after the interviews have concluded, and he will lead the selection process including discussion and a matrix process which has been shared with the Board.

Dr. Ulbrich acknowledged the work of former State Superintendent Brian Whiston, who passed away on May 7, 2018 – exactly one year ago.

V. INTERVIEW OF DR. MICHAEL RICE

Dr. Ulbrich introduced Dr. Michael Rice, Superintendent, Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Dr. Ulbrich outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Dr. Rice began at 9:48 a.m. and ended at 11:18 a.m.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:18 a.m. and reconvened at 11:37 a.m.

VII. INTERVIEW OF DR. RANDY LIEPA

Dr. Ulbrich introduced Dr. Randy Liepa, Superintendent, Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).

Dr. Ulbrich outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Dr. Liepa began at 11:37 a.m. and ended at 1:13 p.m.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed at 1:13 p.m. and reconvened at 1:49 p.m.

IX. INTERVIEW OF DR. JEANICE SWIFT

Dr. Ulbrich introduced Dr. Jeanice Swift, Superintendent, Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Dr. Ulbrich outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Dr. Swift began at 1:49 p.m. and ended at 3:16 p.m.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There were no members of the public who wished to offer comments.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 3:16 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

XII. DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dr. Ulbrich expressed thanks to all of the applicants, semi-finalists and finalists who applied to be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dr. Ulbrich introduced Mike Collins, Regional Search Associate, Ray & Associates, who reviewed the process for selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Board members individually ranked the candidates. Mr. Collins tabulated the results, and discussion followed.

Following discussion, there was board consensus to eliminate Dr. Swift from consideration.

Dr. Ulbrich asked each board member to share their preference, as well as reflections on Dr. Rice's and Dr. Liepa's strengths and weaknesses.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Ulbrich asked if anyone had changed their mind about their top candidate. Board members were asked to name their top candidate. Dr. Rice was named as the top candidate by Dr. Pugh, Ms. Fecteau, Ms. Tilley, Dr. Pritchett and Dr. Ulbrich. Dr. Liepa was named as the top candidate by Ms. Snyder, Ms. Ramos-Montigny and Mr. McMillin.

Dr. Pugh moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education (1) offer the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction to Dr. Michael Rice, and (2) authorize the Board President to work toward successful negotiation of a final contract.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Fecteau – Aye
McMillin - Nay
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh - Aye
Ramos-Montigny – Nay
Snyder – Nay
Tilley - Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried.

Mr. McMillin said he voted no, because his top candidate was Dr. Liepa.
Ms. Snyder said she agreed, but will work with Dr. Rice.

Mr. McMillin said Dr. Ulbrich did an excellent job leading the Board in the selection process.

Dr. Ulbrich thanked all of the candidates.

Mr. Collins complimented the Board, candidates and staff.

XIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, May 14, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- B. Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Board Retreat
- C. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau
Secretary