

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

June 9, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

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

Absent: Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President

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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

Mr. Austin requested that discussion on the Governor's Third Grade Reading Workgroup Report be added to the agenda in the afternoon.

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

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

**The motion carried.**

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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

Mr. Flanagan welcomed Mr. Brian Whiston, Superintendent of Dearborn Public Schools, who will be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction effective July 1, 2015.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said he thought it fitting to begin his last State Board of Education meeting the same way he began the first meeting, by listening to the song Teach Your Children Well.

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny who received the Ledy Award for Community Engagement from the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Michael P. Flanagan, State Superintendent
- B. Adoption of Resolution Honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year
- C. Adoption of Resolution Honoring the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:**

- A. adopt the resolution honoring Michael P. Flanagan, State Superintendent, as attached to the President's memorandum dated June 2, 2015;**
- B. adopt the resolution honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 26, 2015; and**
- C. adopt the resolution honoring the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 26, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Austin presented Mr. Flanagan with the resolution honoring him as State Superintendent. Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Flanagan stating that he served for the past ten years as the State Superintendent and had a distinguished career of educational leadership and dedicated service. Mr. Flanagan thanked the Board and the team that served with him.

The resolution honoring Michael P. Flanagan, State Superintendent, is attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year, Melody Arabo, is attached as Exhibit B.

The resolution honoring the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year, Rick Joseph, is attached as Exhibit C.

VI. PRESENTATION ON MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Mr. Flanagan said Ms. Arabo has provided valuable input at the Board table during the past year. He said her passion for children and teaching is obvious, and through her book she has done much to further the discussion on bullying prevention.

Ms. Melody Arabo, presented her final report as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year. She shared a video presentation "What Did I Do This Year?" highlighting her activities during the past year while serving as the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Weiser arrived at 10:10 a.m.

VII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS – 2015-2016 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND STATE-LEVEL FINALISTS

Mr. Flanagan said on May 14, 2015, he made a surprise announcement at Birmingham Covington School in Birmingham Public Schools, naming Mr. Rick Joseph as the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year. He said Dr. Zeile and Ms. Ramos-Montigny were present at the announcement, and Ms. Ramos-Montigny was a member of the selection committee. Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Joseph is a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher known for his passion, which lies in ensuring that his students develop skills that allow them to function in a global world through a social justice lens.

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, and Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, thanked Ms. Arabo stating that she made a tremendous impact through the use of social media. Ms. Forward presented the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year and State Level Finalists. Ms. Forward showed a video of the surprise announcement and she introduced Mr. Joseph and his guests.

Mr. Joseph said he is honored and humbled to be at the State Board table. He thanked the state finalists and past Teachers of the Year for their support. He said he looks forward to the chance to build bridges and create linkages across the state, and transcend challenges to do what is right and best for the students of Michigan.

Ms. Forward introduced the state finalists and their guests. She said Mr. Michael Craig is a special education and agriculture teacher at Charles R. Drew Transition Center, Detroit Public Schools; Mrs. Emily Pohlonski is a science teacher at Novi High School, Novi Community Schools; Mr. David Stuart is a history and English teacher at Cedar Springs High School, Cedar Springs Public Schools; and Mr. Luke Wilcox is a math teacher at East Kentwood High School, Kentwood Public Schools.

Ms. Forward introduced Ms. Pam Harlin, representative of Meemic Insurance that has been a generous sponsor of the Michigan Teacher of the Year Program for several years. She said Meemic is making a generous contribution to the Michigan Teacher of the Year's expenses of up to \$10,000 a year for the next five years, and also presenting the schools with monetary donations in the fall.

Mr. Austin presented Mr. Joseph with a resolution honoring him as the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year; Ms. Fecteau presented him with a lapel pin; and Dr. Pugh presented him with a sculpture.

Mr. Flanagan presented Mr. Mark Morawski, Principal, Birmingham Covington School, with a plaque to display in the school commemorating Rick Joseph as the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Michael Craig received a certificate and pin presented by Mrs. Straus. Ms. Emily Pohlonski received a certificate and pin presented by Mrs. Weiser. Mr. David Stuart received a certificate and pin presented by Dr. Zeile. Mr. Luke Wilcox received a certificate and pin presented by Ms. Ramos-Montigny.

Mr. Austin presented Ms. Arabo with the resolution honoring her as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

#### VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:23 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### IX. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

### X. PRESENTATION BY MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ON REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

The Presentation by the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) on the Request for Suspension of Career and Technical Education Certification was delivered by Mr. Bill Miller, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators; Mr. Gene Pierce, Superintendent, Tuscola Intermediate School District; Dr. John VanWagoner, Associate Superintendent, Shiawassee Regional Education Service District; Mr. Mike Hill, Superintendent, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District; and Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent, Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District.

Mr. Miller said the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators is requesting a temporary modification of the career and Technical Education Standards for an Annual Occupational Authorization. He said the request is being made to increase the available pool of Career and Technical Education teachers. The group said a Michigan Department of Education (MDE) workgroup is currently meeting, and MAISA's request for a suspension would be temporary until MDE staff complete the review of the standards.

Following discussion, Mr. Austin and Mr. Flanagan said there would be further discussion with Michigan Department of Education staff members and stakeholders.

### XI. PRESENTATION ON SCHOOL BREAKFAST CHALLENGE AND SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services; Ms. Marla Moss, Director, School Support Services; and Ms. Diane Golzynski, Assistant Director, Child Nutrition Programs; presented on the School Breakfast Challenge and Summer Food Service Program Updates.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is an update on recent increases in participation in the School Breakfast program and the Summer Food Service Program.

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

XII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There was no board member discussion regarding grant criteria.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 11:46 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

H. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 12, 2015

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 12, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

I. Approval of Record of Special Meeting of May 13, 2015

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of Special meeting of May 13, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

J. Approval of Record of State Board of Education Retreat of May 19, 2015

**Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Dr. Pugh, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of State Board of Education Retreat of May 19, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

XV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said State Superintendent Mike Flanagan is retiring, after ten years of service, and he will be honored with a celebration on June 25, 2015. Mr. Austin thanked everyone involved with the transitioning of State Superintendents.

Mr. Austin said the Board held a successful retreat on May 19, 2015, to review the past and plan for the future. He said the Board needs to do its best to encourage the Legislature and help the Governor get the best possible outcomes as education policy is developed.

Mr. Austin said the Governor's Third Grade Reading Workgroup Report has been added to the agenda. He said Ms. Karen McPhee, Senior Education Policy Advisor, Executive Office, will provide the update. He said there is encouraging framing of third grade reading and how we can be effective, and he hopes the Board can be supportive.

Mr. Austin said an effective teacher evaluation system is needed. He said a few years ago tenure reform was enacted. He said a key component of tenure reform is an effective teacher evaluation system which is supportive and helps teachers improve rather than punish. He said the Governor appointed the Michigan Council for Education Effectiveness, chaired by Dr. Deborah Ball, which issued recommendations in its report. He said Michigan could be a national leader with bipartisan legislation developing an effective teacher evaluation system which would improve the quality of teaching in a supportive way.

Mr. Austin said also pending are the Governor's plan for education in Detroit which has effective ideas. He said the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren also proposed good ideas. He said the Board should continue to be supportive.

Mr. Austin said the turnaround strategy for priority schools needs to be effective.

He said the budget compromise developed by the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives has many good things that the Board can support such as at risk funding which is close to the Governor's proposal.

Mr. Austin said Mr. Brian Whiston will begin serving as the State Superintendent on July 1, 2015, and he and the Board will continue to develop policy priorities for the future. He said the August and September Board meetings will focus on hearing from stakeholders regarding the five top education policy priorities.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:53 a.m. and reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

Mrs. Weiser left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

XVII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked Deputy Superintendents to introduce new employees.

Mr. Kyle Guarrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services, introduced Mr. Anthony Soule and Ms. Molly Emerson from the Office of School Support Services.

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Ms. Traci Teasley from the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation.

XVIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. Rogelio Landin, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Landin, President, PerformancED, thanked Mr. Flanagan, welcomed Mr. Whiston, and provided an update on his previous presentation on resource equity.
- B. Dr. Mike Ennis, Grand Blanc, Michigan. Dr. Ennis, representing Michigan's University Career and Technical Teacher Educators, shared comments and written information regarding the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators' request for a career and technical education certification waiver.
- C. Ms. Mary T. Wood, Warren, Michigan. Ms. Wood shared comments regarding the Education Achievement Authority.
- D. Ms. Suzanne Hewitt, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Hewitt, representing the Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez, Grand Rapids/West Michigan, shared verbal comments regarding the Cinco de Mayo celebration.



- E. Ms. Naomi Norman, Executive Director; Ms. Nhu Do, Principal; Ms. Erika Gallay-MacGregor, Math/Science Teacher; Mr. Eric Wynn, Literature and Lead Teacher; Ms. Sharon Szabo, Mr. Daniel Neamati, Ms. Maria Patton, Mr. Logan Kennedy, and Ms. Olivia Datson, students; Washtenaw International High School and Middle Academy. The group shared information on the school and the recent visit by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, Mrs. Weiser and Dr. Zeile.

XIX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- K. Human Resources Report

Grants

- L. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2014-2015 Professional Development Support for Teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Instruction for State School Aid Act Section 99b – Initial; \$330,000
  - 2. 2014-2015 Section 22i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment; \$25,400,000
  - 3. 2014-2015 Section 99h: competitive FIRST Robotics Grants – Amendment; \$2,821,650
  - 4. 2014-2015 Consolidations of Operations or Services Grant – Initial; \$2,000,000
  - 5. 2014-2015 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Amendment; \$4,168,850
  - 6. 2014-2015 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant – Initial; \$329,918
  - 7. 2014-2015 School Climate Transformation – Initial; \$248,000
  - 8. 2014-2015 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Amendment; \$2,736,031

Mr. Flanagan shared recent posts from his Twitter account and spoke about lessons he has learned. He thanked all the people he has worked with the past ten years as State Superintendent, and donated a collection of books to be designated at the State Board of Education Lending Library.

XX. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF TWO ALTERNATE NOMINATIONS TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Teri Johnson Chapman, Director, Special Education; presented on the discussion and approval of two alternate nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Mr. Flanagan said at the March 17, 2015, State Board of Education meeting, the Board approved nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). He said subsequently, the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education and the Michigan Association of Teachers of Children with Emotional Impairments submitted nominations for alternates for their organizations. He said the Board is being asked to approve these two nominations.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the nomination of Marcia O'Brien and Richard Spring as organizational alternates to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the terms specified in Attachment B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 26, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

XXI. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE GOVERNOR'S THIRD GRADE READING WORKGROUP REPORT

This item was added to the agenda.

Mr. Austin said Governor Rick Snyder recently convened a workgroup that produced a report on Third Grade Reading. He said the Board is supportive of policies, practices and interventions necessary for students to master reading by the end of third grade rather than retaining students. Mr. Austin said he believes the report is a thoughtful framework for effectively advancing third grade reading.

Mr. Austin asked Mrs. Karen McPhee, Senior Education Policy Advisor, if she would be willing to review the Governor's Third Grade Reading Workgroup Report. Mrs. McPhee agreed, and copies of the report were distributed.

Mrs. McPhee said the Governor convened a bipartisan, bicameral Third Grade Reading Workgroup to study early literacy. She said the workgroup solicited information from the K-12 community, postsecondary community and staff from the Michigan Department of Education in an effort to understand what was working, where it was working and why it was working. Mrs. McPhee reviewed the recommendations.

Board member comments included promotion of students in areas of mastery while providing reading interventions; next steps for policy, stakeholders and practices; national and state testing; proficiency averages for the nation and Michigan; varying developmental levels with varying kindergarten entry ages; poverty areas in Michigan; and effects of class size on reading instruction.

Mr. Austin said the Board applauds the work of the study group, and offers its assistance in whatever way would be helpful.

This was a discussion only and no board action was taken.

## XXII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, and Mrs. Kathleen Straus presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on the budget and adequacy study.

In Dr. Ulbrich's absence, Mrs. Straus served as Chair and provided an update on the State Board of Education Legislative Committee meeting held on June 2, 2015. Mrs. Straus said four statements will be presented to the Board for discussion and action.

### Statement Regarding School Counselors

A draft statement was distributed, and Mrs. Straus introduced the statement.

Mr. Austin said in light of pending legislation, he supports increasing the capacity for the counseling core and enhancing the college and career guidance skills of counselors through ongoing professional development and support.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on School Counselors.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

The Statement on School Counselors is attached as Exhibit D.

### Statement Regarding Home Schooling

A draft statement was distributed, and Mrs. Straus read the statement.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on Home Schooling.**

Dr. Zeile said he will not support the statement. He said currently we have parts of systems for many things, and it should be part of a more comprehensive set of regulations.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus**

**Nay: Zeile**

**Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

The motion carried.

The Statement on Home Schooling is attached as Exhibit E.

### Statement Regarding Detroit School Plans

A draft statement was distributed, and Board members were given time to read the statement.

Ms. Fecteau distributed a shorter version of the statement.

**Ms. Fecteau moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on Detroit School Plans.**

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus**

**Nay: Zeile**

**Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

The motion carried.

The Statement on Detroit School Plans is attached as Exhibit F.

### Statement on House Bill 4041 Regarding Truancy

A draft statement was distributed, and Board members were given time to read the statement.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on House Bill 4041 Regarding Truancy.**

Discussion followed.

Dr. Zeile said it is not a good idea to respond to reports in the media by enacting legislation. He said he will not support the statement.

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

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus**

**Nay: Zeile**

**Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

The motion carried.

The Statement on House Bill 4041, "Truancy Bill" is attached as Exhibit G.

Mrs. Straus provided an update on federal issues that were discussed in the National Association of State Boards of Education Governmental Affairs Committee meeting on June 8, 2015, of which she is a member.

XXIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- O. Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorship
- P. Approval of Criteria for the MI Excel Statewide System of Support, Program Evaluation Grant

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- O. support the cosponsorship of the 2015 Fuel Up to Play 60 Rally for School Health, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 26, 2015; and**
- P. approve the criteria for the Title I MI Excel Statewide System of Support, Program Evaluation Grant, as described in the attachment to the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 26, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Zeile**

**Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

The motion carried.

XXIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Fecteau said policies have improved regarding career and technical education opportunities for students with special needs, and parents need to be made aware.

Dr. Zeile said he attended three graduation ceremonies in the past week at the following locations: St. Paul's Lutheran School in Royal Oak, Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in Detroit, and Fitzgerald High School in Warren. He shared details of the commencement ceremonies and congratulated the graduates.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny thanked Mr. Flanagan for his leadership and she listed his leadership traits. Mr. Flanagan received a standing ovation as he ended his last meeting as the State Superintendent. Mr. Flanagan passed the gavel to Mr. Whiston, the incoming State Superintendent.

XXV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich and Ms. Fecteau with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- E. Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 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

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION**

**MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN**

LET IT BE KNOWN, Michael P. Flanagan has served Michigan students and educators as State Superintendent of Public Instruction since May, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mike earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Notre Dame and his Master of Educational Administration from Eastern Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, For seven years, Mike Flanagan served as the Superintendent of the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA). Prior to that, he was Superintendent of the Farmington/Farmington Hills School District in Michigan for five years. He is past chairperson of the Education Alliance of Michigan, a nonprofit coalition of leading parent, business, and education associations; past president of the National County Superintendents Association and former Education Advisor for Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. In his leadership, Mike is driven to engage and empower stakeholders, policy leaders, and the public to provide input and insight; and

WHEREAS, Mike has earned many prestigious national and state awards and honors over his tenure. For example, he became the first State Superintendent in the nation to receive the highly-coveted *Distinguished Service Award* from the National Association of State Boards of Education and earned the *Distinguished Service and Leadership Award* from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Whether it is serving on a national or state board or touring a Michigan school and learning from local educators and students, Mike always has led by his example of continuous learning, hard work, open-mindedness, tenacity, and commitment to effectiveness in his roles as a student, leader, mentor and colleague; and

WHEREAS, Mike has announced his retirement as State Superintendent effective on June 30, 2015; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives with deep regret the news of the retirement of this honored and distinguished leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education thanks Mike for his contributions and years of dedicated service to the State of Michigan, its educators and its children; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education wishes Mr. Michael P. Flanagan a future full of laughter, happiness and good health with friends and family; especially his wife Anna, their children Mike (Judan), Brian (Lauren), and Christa (Jason); along with their grandchildren, Alysha, Ella, Avery, Will, Landen and Joseph.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION**

**MELODY ARABO  
2014-2015 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Michigan State University and a Master's of Arts in Teaching and Curriculum from Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has been a third grade teacher for thirteen years at Keith Elementary; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education honored Melody Arabo as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has shared her passion for increasing teacher leadership opportunities to expand teacher reach and impact; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has carried out her mission to promote a shift in thinking and change the approach to bully prevention as the Michigan Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has recognized the importance of student engagement and challenge; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has authored *Diary of a Real Bully* and the *Chaldean for Kids* Book Series; and

WHEREAS, Melody Arabo has been named the 2015 Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40 2015 Winner and selected to be a 2015 Michigan Educator Voice Fellow; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has continually supported teachers with several quality initiatives, including the Michigan Teacher of the Year Program and the Milken National Educator Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Melody Arabo and the thousands of educators in the great State of Michigan for their outstanding work; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education supports all efforts, training, and resources available to our state's educators so that they may continue to educate and positively influence the children of today as they become the leaders of tomorrow.



**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION**

**RICK JOSEPH  
2015-2016 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, throughout Michigan and across the country, teachers open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge, and dreams; and

WHEREAS, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship and their hard work and efforts are directly responsible for creating the leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has continually supported teachers with several quality initiatives, including the Michigan Teacher of the Year program and the Milken National Educator Award; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education have named Rick Joseph, teacher at Birmingham Covington School, Birmingham Public Schools, with twenty-one years of teaching experience, as the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rick Joseph and the thousands of educators around the great State of Michigan for their outstanding work; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education supports all efforts, training, and resources available to our state's educators so that they may continue to educate and positively influence the children of today as they become the leaders of tomorrow.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

The State Board of Education has long recognized the necessity of having well prepared counselors in our public schools. They provide valuable services to students with their advice and counsel. The major problem with the delivery of these services is the inadequate number of counselors in our schools. The average counselor has a case load of 700 students, making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to provide each student with the information needed.

The State Board has approved standards for the Education Preparatory Institutions regarding what counselors should know. They cover numerous areas, including the ability for counselors to advise students on college entrance requirements, applications, scholarships and grants information

The State Board of Education supports providing proper training, for both aspiring counselors and those already practicing, to help students apply to college and other post-secondary programs. The State Board supports legislation that enhances the college and career guidance skills of counselors through ongoing professional development and support.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON HOME SCHOOLING**

Michigan is one of only eleven states that have no requirements for registration for families that wish to homeschool their children. The State Board of Education has long been concerned that there is no way to know who is being homeschooled, or how many children are being home schooled. House Bill 4498 would require registration of home-schoolers. It is not intrusive. The State Board supports such registration.

## **STATE OF MICHIGAN**

### **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON DETROIT SCHOOL PLANS**

The State Board of Education applauds the aggressive efforts by the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children (CFDS), Governor Snyder, and Detroit Mayor Duggan to address the daunting financial and academic challenges facing publically funded Detroit schools. As we have learned with Detroit's municipal bankruptcy, conditions will only worsen by delaying effective intervention and Michigan's children in Detroit will bear the greatest cost. These intervention efforts are not only important in Detroit, but can serve as a template for other communities across the state facing similar challenges.

While the Board strongly supports the Governor's plan to address the Detroit Public Schools' debt, we also believe an educational plan must recognize and effectively address the underlying structural causes of financial instability that has resulted in woefully inadequate classroom funding necessary to address the academic needs of some of Michigan's neediest children.

These structural causes were clearly outlined in the CFDS report, "The Choice is Ours," earlier this year and include: a nearly 40% decline in Detroit's school-aged children between fall 2002 to fall 2013, but without a proportionate decline in the number of schools; growing poverty due to the mass exodus of middle class families from the city leaving Detroit with a 59% child-poverty rate as well as a higher percentage of special education students neither of which are provided adequate educational funding; state policies and a funding system that have created financial uncertainty, an unfair playing field, and little local control over the opening, closing and location of charter schools.

To address these concerns, the Board endorses implementation of the CFDS recommendations outlined in their report, particularly moving to a differentiated funding model based on the actual cost to educate children with differing needs, using a three-year budget projection model rather than unpredictable count-day totals each year, and increasing state funding to eliminate debt accrued under state emergency management. We also support immediately restoring governance of Detroit Public Schools to a Detroit elected school board; and recommend any Commission appointed to ensure quality and transparency among all schools and to make decisions about the opening and closing of schools, has the powers to do this job and is appointed by a Detroit-elected body, such as the Mayor or School Board. We also agree with Mayor Duggan's proposal for universal and comprehensive performance standards that are holistic and not overly reliant on standardized testing.

The Board believes that these improvements on behalf of Michigan's most disadvantaged children will not only elevate the state's overall national ranking in education outcomes, but more importantly, will improve the opportunities and the future for all Michigan citizens.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**STATEMENT ON HOUSE BILL 4041, "TRUANCY BILL"**

The Michigan State Board of Education supports the goal of increasing school attendance of all MI students. We recognize that just one missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn and that research shows that there is a connection between student attendance and student achievement. Moreover, as board members, we strongly urge all students to be consistently in attendance at school, learning and getting the education needed to end the cycle of poverty.

However, the MI State Board of Education does not support House Bill 4041, which is aimed at terminating cash assistance for families if a child between the ages of 6 and 15 is considered truant by their local school district, or for the minor alone if over age 16.

From the perspective of the Michigan State Board of Education, House Bill 4041 is unnecessarily harsh on children who are living in extreme poverty and have no control over their economic status. These children have very few resources and already face a greater likelihood to face a number of challenges, including mental health difficulties, chronic illnesses such as asthma, living with adult caregivers with inconsistent work schedules and lack of access to reliable transportation – some of the main barriers to regular school attendance.

With more than half a million Michigan children living in poverty and the needs of too many families unmet, our state should be doing everything possible to lift them up, not push them deeper into economic crisis.

This legislation, if implemented, will further push more of our children deeper into poverty, making it even more difficult to get to school. Knowing that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) currently is implementing this practice as its departmental policy, we recommend that DHHS cease this practice immediately and urge Governor Snyder to veto this legislation, and for the legislature to adequately appropriate funding/advance legislation aimed at addressing the root causes of truancy.