

## **MINUTES**

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by  
Executive Directive 2020-2 and Executive Order 2020-154

September 8, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Michael F. Rice, Chairperson  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, President  
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Mr. Tom McMillin, Treasurer  
Dr. Judith Pritchett, SBE Legislative Committee Co-Chairperson  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, SBE Legislative Committee Chairperson  
Ms. Nikki Snyder, SBE Legislative Committee Member  
Ms. Brandy Johnson, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Owen Bondono, 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year

Absent: Ms. Tiffany Tilley, NASBE Delegate

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

Dr. Rice said due to the COVID-19 national emergency and in accordance with Executive Directive 2020-2 and Executive Order 2020-154, the State Board of Education Regular and Committee of the Whole meeting is being convened with remote access technology.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

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

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Fecteau – Aye**  
**McMillin – Aye**  
**Pritchett – Aye**  
**Pugh – Aye**  
**Ramos-Montigny – Absent**  
**Snyder – Absent During Vote**  
**Tilley – Absent**  
**Ulbrich – Aye**

**The motion carried.**

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Rice asked that the members of the State Board of Education be introduced. Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:41 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

V. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny joined the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

VI. EDUCATIONAL UPDATES RELATED TO COVID-19

Dr. Rice shared information on a variety of policy issues affecting prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public education during the pandemic. He provided statistics related to the pandemic.

Dr. Rice provided information on waivers granted for feeding children; Michigan State University Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPCI) analysis of return to learn plans and offering in-person instruction; passage of return to learn laws; the digital divide relative to devices and connectivity; funding available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER); equitable services lawsuits related to CARES Act/ESSER funding; state summative assessments; ventilation systems; physical education; the issuance of more than 100 guidance documents from the Michigan Department of Education in the last six months; webinars related to the return to learn laws; and school funding.

Board member comments included the number of applicants for the educational equity funds, paying for assessments, a request for a written summary of Dr. Rice's presentation, environmental concerns regarding pathogens of the virus in school buildings, and instruction provided in person and at a distance.

VII. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 STRATEGIC EDUCATION PLAN – GRADUATION RATE

Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student, and School Supports; Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions; and Ms. Kelly Siciliano Carter, Director of Strategic Planning and Implementation, presented on the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan.

Dr. Rice said the presentation is an overview of the newly adopted Top 10 Strategic Education Plan; introduction of the new brand for the Top 10 plan; metrics data for the goal to improve high school graduation rates for four, five and six years for all students and all groups of students; and Michigan Department of Education contributions to support the goal to improve graduation rates.

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

Board member comments included clarification of the four, five, and six year cohort data; discussion on the logo; and cross referencing data from different subgroups to determine the greatest struggle and ways to help.

There was Board consensus to reorder the agenda.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

IX. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ulbrich said the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) annual conference will be held on October 20-23, 2020. She said the voting delegate for Michigan needs to be designated, and that is typically the NASBE Delegate who is Ms. Tilley. She asked board members to notify Ms. Schneider of their attendance plans.

Dr. Ulbrich said this is the first day of school for many students, and some students have been in school for a week or two. She said she hopes all is going well as the school year begins.

Dr. Ulbrich said she is grateful to the United States Department of Agriculture for extending the waivers that will allow continuing flexibility in how Michigan is able to serve students who need food.

Dr. Ulbrich said she is disappointed that the United States Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has denied the request for a testing waiver. She said a testing waiver is still needed during the pandemic.

X. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Approval of Record of Special Meeting of July 30, 2020

**Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of the Special Meeting of July 30, 2020.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

Approval of Record of Special Meeting of August 4, 2020

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of the Special Meeting of August 4, 2020.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 11, 2020

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 11, 2020.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Dr. Rice said the State Board Executive has proposed a meeting schedule for 2021. He said the regular meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, and the Board's advance is scheduled for the third Tuesday in May. He said the Board is being asked to approve the 2021 State Board of Education Meeting Schedule today.

**Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2021, as attached to the State Board Executive's memorandum dated August 25, 2020.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

The State Board of Education Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2021 is attached as Exhibit A.

XII. REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

G. Human Resources Report

H. Report on the Approved Changes to the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2020-2021 ESSA Title IX, Part A McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant – Initial; \$1,650,648 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
2. 2019-2020 Team Nutrition 20 – Initial; \$150,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
3. 2020-2021 Distribution of Federal Funds Awarded to Michigan Through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Initial; \$10,394,241 (Early Childhood Development & Family Education – Noel Kelty)

4. 2020-2021 Secondary CTE Perkins Grant Program – Initial; \$19,853,035 (Career and Technical Education – Brian Pyles)
5. 2020-2021 LSTA Public Library Services Grant Program – Initial; \$750,925 (Library of Michigan – Randy Riley)

Dr. Rice said it is critical for people to wear masks and observe a range of mitigation strategies to be safe and extend the period of instruction that can be available in person.

Dr. Rice said Michigan was awarded the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grant from the U.S. Department of Education which will provide \$16 million over the next five years to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for children from birth through grade 12, including limited English proficient students and students with disabilities. He said the grant will be used to build upon an educational and professional development network between the state, and local and intermediate school districts to improve literacy for Michigan children.

### XIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:03 a.m. and reconvened the Committee of the Whole at 11:49 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### XIV. UPDATE ON DEVICES AND CONNECTIVITY

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student, and School Supports; Mr. David Judd, Director of the Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology; and Ms. Amanda Stoel, Department Specialist, Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology; presented the Update on Devices and Connectivity.

Dr. Rice said when the governor announced the end of in-school instruction in March, device and connectivity gaps were noted in the homes of students and teachers. Dr. Rice said the presentation will provide a brief overview of those issues facing students and educators during this time of pandemic. He said information will be shared on available funding sources for school districts to address COVID-19 response efforts and the Michigan Department of Education supports.

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

Board member comments included teacher feedback on improvements, collaboration with broadband providers including the need for state and federal funding and incentives, parent survey methods, process for application and distribution of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

funds, grant funding through the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, the task force charge of aligning needs of other agencies and leveraging funds, current availability of funding for school districts, monitoring parent needs, and building analysis into the system to leverage what districts are doing in a more consistent way.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XVI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; provided the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny reported on the State Board of Education Legislative Committee meeting on August 25, 2020.

Mr. Ackley reported on legislation regarding days, hours, attendance, and enrollment during the pandemic. He said the state budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 has been reconciled. He said there was a consensus revenue estimating conference on August 25, 2020, and the legislature is focused on completing the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget by September 30, 2020.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said the next State Board of Education Legislative Committee meeting will be on September 29, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

XVII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There were no members of the public who requested an opportunity to provide public comment.

XVIII. REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Owen Bondono, the 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented his report. Mr. Bondono, an English language arts teacher at the Oak Park Freshman Institute in Oak Park, shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Ms. Tan-A Hoffman, Region 1 Teacher of the Year, from Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy in Sault Sainte Marie, introduced herself and urged people to give grace to themselves and others during the pandemic.

Board members expressed appreciation for the perspectives of teachers.

XIX. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Snyder said she shares great caution and concern for wearing masks during athletics. She said it is not necessarily the safest decision for students to wear masks during highly competitive sports.

Dr. Pritchett said as the school year begins, she thanks students for their resilience, problem-solving skills, and immense patience. She thanked parents and caregivers for their patience while observing data and making tough decisions to determine what is best for their children. She thanked educators, administrators, local board members, and the people that work in the school buildings for their agility.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said it was a wonderful meeting, and she thanked the presenters, visitors, and her board colleagues. She said it is important to wear masks for the safety of others.

Dr. Pugh said data and statistics related to COVID-19 are concerning. She said some groups are impacted more harshly than others. She urged wearing masks and protective equipment to protect others. Dr. Pugh said physical activity is important, and she said people should be made aware of the alternatives for people who cannot participate in sports.

Ms. Fecteau questioned why athletics are occurring, if precautions are not able to occur and restrictions are not ready to be lifted. She said new teachers need nurturing and extra support with the high degree of stress during a pandemic.

Mr. McMillin said he is glad the governor is allowing students to play sports. He said he and Ms. Snyder issued a press release last week asking the governor to lift the ban. He said the interpretation of the science and data has changed. He said some of the science is new. He said science is one piece of data. He said masks in athletics shouldn't be required. He said he hopes the legislature will get a chance to weigh in on all of the governor's decisions.

Dr. Pugh said we are thinking about educators, children, and parents and their safety and health and being able to learn in safe environments. She said children who are Hispanic or Latino, are eight times more likely to have adverse effects of COVID-19 than white children, and for African Americans it is five times more likely. She said in the general population here in Michigan, African Americans are six times more likely to die.

Discussion followed.

XX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Tuesday November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Tuesday December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.



XXI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Dr. Rice asked Board members if there are additional agenda topics they would like to be considered for future meeting agendas. He said they may contact Mrs. Schneider or himself to offer topics.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available on Michigan's State Board of Education website ([www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe)).

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING SCHEDULE**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

**January 12, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**February 9, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**March 9, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**April 13, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**May 11, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**May 18, 2021 (Retreat)**

Third Tuesday

**June 8, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**August 10, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**September 14, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**October 12, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**November 9, 2021**

Second Tuesday

**December 14, 2021**

Second Tuesday