

MINUTES

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by Public Act 254 of 2020 and
Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolution #21-261

June 8, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Michael F. Rice, Chairperson
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, President
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Vice President
Ms. Tiffany Tilley, Secretary
Mr. Tom McMillin, Treasurer
Dr. Judith Pritchett, NASBE Delegate, SBE Legislative Committee
Ms. Ellen Cogen Lipton, SBE Legislative Committee Chairperson
Ms. Nikki Snyder, SBE Legislative Committee
Mr. Jason Strayhorn, SBE Legislative Committee
Ms. Patricia Readinger, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

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

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Dr. Rice said due to the COVID-19 national emergency and in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020 and Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolution #21-261, the State Board of Education Regular and Committee of the Whole meeting is being convened with remote access technology.

Dr. Rice said to accommodate the schedule of Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Item D – Presentation by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will occur at 9:45 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pugh, that the State Board of Education add to the agenda Discussion and Action on the Resolution on Read by Grade Three Exemptions, and the Resolution on Ramifications of the A-F System for the 2020-2021 School Year following the item on Educational Updates Related to COVID-19; and Discussion and Action on a Recommendation to have the Michigan Department of Education Prepare a Freedom of Information Act Request on Charter School Financial Discovery during the State and Federal Legislative Update.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rice said there will be an opportunity for public comment prior to a vote on the items that have been added to the agenda, and he provided instructions for public comment.

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 the members of the State Board of Education.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:39 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 9:40 a.m.

VI. PRESENTATION BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive for the State of Michigan and Chief Deputy Director for Health in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services presented.

Dr. Rice welcomed Dr. Khaldun who provided a brief update on the COVID-19 response.

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

Board member comments included infection fatality rates, harm of masks and long-term effects of vaccines, new virus or variant, data supporting the response, effectiveness of masks, thanks for response and hard work, opening of schools, leading with equity, and disparities in vaccination rates among various ethnicities.

Dr. Ulbrich urged respect for presenters.

VII. EDUCATIONAL UPDATES RELATED TO COVID-19

Dr. Rice shared information on a variety of policy issues affecting pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public education during the pandemic. He said the number of COVID-19 cases and positivity rates are decreasing and vaccines are being administered across the state.

Dr. Rice provided an update on the executive budget and its relationship to the state strategic education plan, the submission of the American Rescue Plan state template on June 7, 2021, gifts that keep giving when determining how to allocate federal pandemic relief funds, and the uneven distribution of assessments administered across the state.

There were no board member comments.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:33 a.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

IX. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION ON READ BY GRADE THREE EXEMPTIONS

Dr. Rice said the board's legislative committee met on May 24, 2021, and discussed the writing of resolutions by staff for consideration by the full State Board of Education. He said there are two resolutions related to the pandemic.

Mr. Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, projected the draft Resolution on Read By Grade Three Exemptions onto the screen.

Ms. Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee, thanked the committee and those who participated in discussions urging the legislature to move in certain areas and advise parents of their rights and responsibilities, as specified in law.

Mr. Ackley read the resolution.

Ms. Lipton moved, seconded by Dr. Pugh, that the State Board of Education adopt the Resolution on Read By Grade Three Exemptions, as discussed during the State Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2021.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Absent during vote
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried.

The Resolution Encouraging Parents to be Informed on Read By Grade Three Exemptions is attached as Exhibit A.

X. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION ON RAMIFICATIONS OF THE A-F SYSTEM FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Rice said the board will discuss the second of two resolutions related to the pandemic.

Mr. Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, projected the draft Resolution on Ramifications of the A-F System for the 2020-2021 School Year onto the screen.

Ms. Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee, said the committee discussed the issue and said data would be misleading due to its collection during a pandemic.

Mr. Ackley read the resolution.

Mr. McMillin moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education adopt the Resolution on Ramifications of the A-F System for the 2020-2021 School Year, as discussed during the State Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2021.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

The Resolution on Ramifications of A-F System for 2020-2021 School Year is attached as Exhibit B.

Dr. Ulbrich and Ms. Readinger left the meeting at 11:02 a.m. and rejoined following the lunch break.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:02 a.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XII. PRESENTATION OF MICHIGAN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Dr. Scott Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and Student Transitions; Mr. Richard Lower, Director, Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning; and Ms. Lorraine Thoreson, Manager, 21st Century Community Learning Centers; presented the Michigan Out-of-School Time Standards of Quality.

Dr. Rice said the current Michigan Out-of-School Time Standards of Quality were approved by the State Board of Education in 2013. He said the revised set of standards being presented reflects updates based on the most current research and best practices and would inform continuous improvement efforts of Michigan’s out-of-school time programs and providers. He said the presentation will be followed by a period of public comment and a request for approval of the standards during the August 2021 board meeting.

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

Board member comments included appreciation that Michigan is a leader in early childhood education, and the timeline for review of standards.

XIII. PRESENTATION ON CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2024 AND MARKET RATE SURVEY

Dr. Scott Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and Student Transitions; and Ms. Lisa Brewer Walraven, Director, Child Development and Care; presented the Child Care and Development Fund State Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2024 and Market Rate Survey.

Dr. Rice said the Child Care and Development Fund is a \$5.3 billion block grant program that provides funding to states, territories, and tribes to provide access to child care services for low-income families and improve the quality of child care. He said every three years a state plan must be completed for the utilization of these dollars. He said as part of the state plan submission, states are required to submit the results of their statewide market rate survey on child care costs and rates. He said this is an informational presentation and does not require board action.

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

Board member comments included flow of funding, partnerships, and the need for increased awareness of available child care subsidies.

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:54 a.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XV. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING SHEILA ALLES

There was board consensus to reorder the agenda.

Dr. Rice said Chief Deputy Superintendent Sheila Alles has announced that she will retire this summer. He said Ms. Alles joined the Michigan Department of Education as Chief Deputy Superintendent in March 2017. Dr. Rice said in the wake of State Superintendent Brian Whiston's passing, Ms. Alles was appointed Interim State Superintendent by the State Board of Education on May 8, 2018 to serve as Michigan's first female state superintendent until August 1, 2019. He said at that time Ms. Alles returned to the Chief Deputy Superintendent position.

Dr. Rice said no resolution can fully capture Sheila's contributions to Michigan public education. He said she has been a major force for the improvement of the Michigan Department of Education, the development and implementation of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, and by extension the improvement of public education in Michigan. Dr. Rice said he appreciates her experience, drive, and regular focus on school children. He said he also appreciates her friendship, partnership, and mentorship.

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Lipton, that the State Board of Education adopt the Resolution Honoring Sheila Alles, as attached to the state superintendent's memorandum dated June 2, 2021.

Dr. Pritchett said Ms. Alles is calm, thoughtful, student-centered, practical, and flexible. She said it has been an honor to work with her.

Ms. Lipton said Ms. Alles is knowledgeable, focused, and has the ability to incorporate all ideas into a single vision. She said students are better for having been under her supervision, and she will be sorely missed.

Ms. Snyder said Ms. Alles is welcoming and intelligent. She thanked her for stepping up at a time when she was really needed during the passing of former State Superintendent Brian Whiston.

Ms. Alles said she is thankful for the kind comments and praise that warms her heart and lifts her spirit. She said she has been very fortunate to have worked alongside and to have led some really amazing educators throughout her career. She said she has had some fabulous opportunities awarded to her because of her role in the department, and she will always be greatly appreciative of those opportunities. She said it has been and continues to be her pleasure to serve, and she thanked the staff of the Michigan Department of Education and the State Board of Education members for their support.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Absent During Vote
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Absent During Vote

The motion carried.

The Resolution Honoring Sheila Alles is attached as Exhibit C.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:05 p.m.

XVII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Ms. Joellen Pisarczyk, Howell, Michigan, provided comments on education practices relevant to the Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery.
2. Ms. Stephanie Burke, Troy, Michigan, provided comments on the Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery.
3. Ms. Sarah Houston, Flint, Michigan, provided comments on the Michigan School for the Deaf.

4. Ms. Kristen Carson, Macomb County, Michigan, provided comments on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services presentation.

XVIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:19 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XIX. PRESENTATION ON MICHIGAN BLUEPRINT FOR COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT RECOVERY

Mr. Kevin Polston, Chairperson of Michigan’s Student Recovery Advisory Council, and Superintendent of Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, presented on the Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery.

Dr. Rice said Mr. Polston will share information on the Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery. He said it is an informational presentation and does not required board action.

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

Board member comments included clarification of recommendations rather than mandates, systemic racism, racial bias, making space for all perspectives and multiple truths, critical race theory, innovation zones should be well researched and evaluated, and Michigan Department of Education representation on the council.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:26 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XXI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 11, 2021

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Lipton, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 11, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye**

**Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Work Session of May 18, 2021

Ms. Lipton moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Work Session of May 18, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

XXII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ulbrich said she attended the welcome event for U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona at Henry Ford College in Dearborn earlier in the day. She thanked the people at Henry Ford College for their hospitality.

Dr. Ulbrich said the board adopted a Resolution Honoring Sheila Alles during the morning portion of the meeting. She said Ms. Alles served children in education for more than 46 years. Dr. Ulbrich said Ms. Alles stepped into the role of state superintendent after Brian Whiston’s passing, and she served with grace and distinction. She said Ms. Alles has definitely earned this well-deserved retirement.

Dr. Ulbrich said she disagrees with Senate Bill 218, requiring boys to play on boys athletic teams and girls to play on girls athletic teams. She said while in high school she was captain of the boys tennis team, which would not have been allowed if this legislation had been law at that time.

Dr. Ulbrich said Senate Bill 121, seeking the nomination of State Board of Education members by region on a rotating basis, would allow candidates to run for election in only specific years designated to their region. She said it will be discussed during the State and Federal Legislative Update.

XXIII. REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

H. Human Resources Report

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2019-2020 Title I, Part C Summer Migrant Program – Initial; \$3,594,425 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
2. 2020-2021 ISD Collaboration Grant – Amendment; \$746,500 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
3. 2020-2021 Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs – Amendment; \$445,821,093 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
4. 2020-2021 Title I, Part C Summer Migrant Program – Initial; \$4,059,683 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
5. 2021-2022 Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs – Initial; \$406,919,056 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
6. 2021-2022 Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction – Initial; \$53,467,636 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
7. 2021-2022 Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant – Initial; \$32,541,877 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
8. 2019-2020 FY 2020 Flint Declaration of Emergency – Backpack Program – Amendment; \$600,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
9. 2020-2021 Grant Programs to Build the Capacity of Michigan Schools to Impact the Health, Wellbeing and Educational Outcomes of LGBTQ Students – Initial; \$40,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
10. 2020-2021 Section 31n(6) – Mental Health and Support Services – Amendment; \$45,796,800 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
11. 2020-2021 104f – Assessment Digital Literacy Preparation Program – Initial; \$500,000 (Systems, Evaluation, and Technology – David Judd)
12. 2020-2021 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants Program – Continuation; \$3,375,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
13. 2020-2021 Statewide Evaluation System for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program – Initial; Continuation; \$449,998 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)

14. 2020-2021 Statewide Program Quality Interventions System for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program – Initial; Continuation; \$550,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
15. 2018-2019 Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program – Amendment; \$2,025,000 (Financial Management – Ann Richmond)
16. 2020-2021 LSTA Public Library Services Grant Program – Initial; \$260,703 (Library of Michigan – Randy Riley)

Dr. Rice said today Governor Whitmer announced her plan to expand preschool. He said her plan expands the Great Start Readiness Program to all eligible children.

Dr. Rice said he appreciates young people, educators, parents, guardians, and grandparents who soldiered through a very difficult school year. He said young people need more time going forward, and many districts are providing learning opportunities during the summer.

XXIV. REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Owen Bondono, the 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented his report. Mr. Bondono, is an English language arts teacher at the Oak Park Freshman Institute in Oak Park.

Mr. Bondono shared a year in review slide presentation about teaching during a pandemic and lessons learned.

Board members thanked Mr. Bondono for serving as the Michigan Teacher of the Year and the lessons they have learned from him.

XXV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Ms. Ellen Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Dr. Judith Pritchett, Delegate, National Association of State Boards of Education; provided the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley read the Recommendation to have the Michigan Department of Education Prepare a Freedom of Information Act Request on Charter School Financial Discovery, and he projected it onto the screen.

Ms. Lipton moved, seconded by Dr. Pugh, that the State Board of Education have the Michigan Department of Education prepare a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on Charter School Financial Discovery, as discussed during the State Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2021.

Ms. Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee, thanked members of the committee.

Mr. McMillin said he is proposing an amendment to follow the final sentence of the recommendation.

Mr. McMillin moved, seconded by Ms. Snyder, that the recommendation be amended by adding "Further due to severe funding inequities that charter schools face, especially since they cannot receive taxpayer funds for construction of buildings, the State Board of Education also directs the Michigan Department of Education to research and prepare, prior to the end of the summer, FOIA requests of a cross section of traditional public school districts to help ascertain the extent of this unfair inequity that charter schools face compared to traditional public school districts."

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend.

**Lipton – Nay
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Nay
Pugh – Nay
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Nay
Tilley – Nay
Ulbrich – Nay**

The motion to amend failed.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Abstain
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Abstain
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried.

Mr. Ackley reported on Senate Bill 121 that would divide the state into eight regions that would rotate nomination of candidates for the State Board of Education by each political party. He projected the legislation onto the screen.

Discussion followed.

There was no National Association of State Boards of Education report.

The Recommendation to have the Michigan Department of Education Prepare a Freedom of Information Act Request on Charter School Financial Discovery is attached as Exhibit D.

XXVI. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Tilley said the pandemic has affected everyone. She said she has missed meeting Mr. Bondono in person. She thanked Ms. Alles for being very welcoming when she was a new board member.

Dr. Pugh said in response to a public comment, she has spent time in Flint and there has been a State Board of Education meeting at the Michigan School for the Deaf. Dr. Pugh congratulated Ms. Alles on her retirement and said she appreciates her service.

Mr. McMillin said there is a social media group surveying students and parents on social emotional health, and it is concerning to him.

Dr. Rice said he joined Dr. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and Student Transitions; Ms. Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education; and Ms. Janis Weckstein, Assistant Director, Office of Special Education; at the Michigan School for the Deaf graduation on June 3, 2021.

XXVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Tuesday, October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

XXVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Dr. Rice asked Board members if there were 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.

XXIX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tilley
Secretary

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

**Resolution Encouraging Parents to Be Informed
on Read By Grade Three Exemptions**

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind grade three;

WHEREAS, if a third grade child's reading score on the English Language Arts M-STEP is more than one year below grade level, the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) is required to send a letter to the parent or legal guardian of that child informing the parent/guardian that the child has been identified for retention in the third grade for the following school year;

WHEREAS, if the parent/guardian does not agree that the child should be retained in third grade, the parent can request a meeting with the child's school and file a good cause exemption within 30 days of receiving a notice regarding potential retention;

WHEREAS, if the parent/guardian requests a good cause exemption and one is granted by the school district, the child will be allowed to enroll in fourth grade in the next school year;

WHEREAS, state law requires that the child's school leadership must make itself available to discuss the child's progress; and

WHEREAS, the child's school needs to have a decision whether or not to retain the child 30 days before the first day of the next school year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **State Board of Education urges parents/guardians to fully engage in their right, written in state law, to seek from their local school superintendents, when applicable, good cause exemptions to the required retention of their children, and that school superintendents inform parents/guardians of all possible good cause exemptions available to parents/guardians and carefully consider all ramifications associated with retention before rendering a decision to retain a student.**

Adopted June 8, 2021

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

Resolution on Ramifications of A-F System for 2020-2021 School Year

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is on record attesting that the legislatively mandated A-F school accountability system is a narrow and therefore flawed system;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education urged that the state legislature not enact this system into state law three years ago;

WHEREAS, the state legislature did in fact pass the A-F school accountability system into law as Public Act 601 of 2018;

WHEREAS, at a minimum in the midst of a pandemic, we should not be using any high stakes accountability measures associated with state summative assessments;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the state legislature to set aside the A-F school accountability system during the pandemic and affirm that the Michigan Department of Education does not have to calculate and publish the A-F grades for Michigan schools for the 2020-21 school year.

Adopted June 8, 2021

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

Resolution Honoring Sheila A. Alles

LET IT BE KNOWN, Sheila A. Alles joined the Michigan Department of Education as Chief Deputy Superintendent in March 2017; was appointed Interim State Superintendent by the State Board of Education on May 8, 2018 serving until August 1, 2019; and returned to the Chief Deputy Superintendent position until her retirement on July 31, 2021;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles became the first woman to hold the esteemed position of state superintendent during the 182-year history in which the position had existed prior to her appointment;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles exceeded her goals to provide stability within the Department following the passing of former State Superintendent Brian J. Whiston until the appointment of State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice, and to continue the momentum to make Michigan a top ten education state;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles has left a lasting impact on education in Michigan by providing leadership to update and implement Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, to guide intermediate and local school districts through a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and to transform the Michigan Department of Education from a compliance focused to a customer service organization;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles brought a wealth of educational and leadership experiences to the Michigan Department of Education, having spent the first half of her career in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools where she taught the full range of students at the elementary school and middle school levels, and gained administrative experience there as a curriculum coordinator and curriculum director; then culminating her school district career at Livonia Public Schools, where her administrative positions included elementary principal, director of elementary instruction, director of academic services, and chief academic officer;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles earned her Bachelor degree in Elementary Education and Masters degree in Reading from the University of Michigan, and Education Specialist degree in Administration and Supervision from Wayne State University;

WHEREAS, Sheila Alles has served with dedication, passion, and grace during her more than 46 years supporting students in public education;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education extends to Sheila Alles its highest regard and gratitude for the dedication and expertise that she has brought to the children of Michigan, their parents and caregivers, their schools and districts, and the Michigan citizens that her work has affected; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education wishes Sheila a well-deserved retirement full of happiness and good health with family and friends.

Adopted June 8, 2021

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

**Recommendation To Have the Michigan Department of Education Prepare a
Freedom of Information Act on Charter School Financial Discovery**

In response to the request of a member of the State Board of Education following the presentation on *Growth of Charter Schools and Charter Virtual Schools: Two Policy Reports from Western Michigan University and the National Education Policy Center* by Gary Miron, Ph.D., Professor of Evaluation, Measurement and Research, Western Michigan University at the April 2021 State Board of Education meeting, the State Board's Legislative Committee recommends that the full State Board of Education direct the Michigan Department of Education to research and prepare, prior to the end of the summer, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests of a cross section of public school academies (PSAs) and education management organizations (EMOs) to help ascertain the extent to which PSAs and EMOs hold—and are held—to the same standards of financial transparency as traditional public school districts.

Adopted June 8, 2021