

**MINUTES**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by  
Public Act 228 of 2020

October 22, 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  
Ms. Tiffany Tilley, NASBE Delegate  
Dr. Judith Pritchett, SBE Legislative Committee Co-Chairperson  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, SBE Legislative Committee Chairperson  
Ms. Nikki Snyder, SBE Legislative Committee Member

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

Absent: Ms. Brandy Johnson, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Dr. Rice said due to the COVID-19 national emergency and in accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020, 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

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Snyder, 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 – Aye  
Tilley – Aye  
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 the 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 9:45 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 indicating that the number of cases is increasing.

Dr. Rice provided information on the United States Department of Agriculture's extension of free school meals through the end of the school year, the sixth round of child care grants provided through congressionally-approved coronavirus relief funds for lower income families and child care providers, the Michigan Learning Channel providing instructional programming for students through public television and other media platforms, Education Equity Fund grants for narrowing the digital divide and providing mental health services and supports, and pupil counts and the potential for some children to not be educated.

Board member comments included trauma-informed care and professional development, social emotional supports, home school registration not required, long-term health impact of COVID-19, change in practice in response to trauma, data on numbers of disengaged students not heard from during the pandemic, rates of retirement for teachers and support staff, sensitivity especially for communities severely affected by the pandemic, supports for protecting public health, risk of complications, choices such as education pods, growth of the educational gap, and affirmation that everyone cares about the children.

VII. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 STRATEGIC EDUCATION PLAN – GOAL TO EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions; and Mr. Richard Lower, Director of Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning; presented on the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan – Goal to Expand Early Childhood Learning Opportunities.

Dr. Rice said the presentation highlights the goal to expand early childhood learning opportunities and will include metrics data and contributions to support the goal.

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

Board member comments included programming for three-year-old children, data on numbers of people who want access but don't have it, and definition of English language learners.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

IX. APPROVAL OF CAMP TUHSMEHETA SPENDING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions; Ms. Roxanne Balfour, Director of Low Incidence Outreach, Office of Special Education; Ms. Jill Teegardin, Director of Camp Tuhsmeheeta; and Ms. Michelle Woolf, Financial Manager for Low Incidence Outreach; presented Approval of Camp Tuhsmeheeta Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Dr. Rice said the Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee met on August 26, 2020. He said Ms. Michelle Fecteau and Ms. Nikki Snyder represent the board on the trust fund committee, and they reviewed the Camp Tuhsmeheeta Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Dr. Rice said the board is being asked to approve the spending plan during today's meeting.

Ms. Fecteau said she appreciates the work of Ms. Jill Teegardin who provided creative activities to keep people engaged when they could not be at camp due to the pandemic. Ms. Balfour thanked Ms. Fecteau for her support over the years and visiting Camp Tuhsmeheeta.

Ms. Balfour presented the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. She acknowledged the trust fund meeting held on August 26, 2020, where trustee members were informed that the State Budget Office gave authority to spend an additional 1.5 million dollars for the Camp Tuhsmeheeta 2019-2020 appropriation. She said the increase was given to allow completion of the camp entryway and new

activity center within one year rather than breaking it out into multiple years. She said it will provide a safe entryway and ability to promote physical fitness for students who are blind or visually impaired as well as other campers.

Ms. Teegardin reviewed the information in the Camp Tuhsmeheeta Annual Report.

Ms. Woolf reviewed the facility upgrades and shared budget information.

**Ms. Fecteau moved, seconded by Ms. Snyder, that the State Board of Education approve the Spending Plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated September 29, 2020.**

Ms. Snyder said the packets provided to campers at home are a wonderful educational tool. She asked if there is a need for assistance in assembling the packets. Ms. Balfour said she appreciates the offer, but very few people are assembling packets respecting social distancing and safety during the pandemic.

Ms. Tilley left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Schneider said no members of the public have requested an opportunity to offer public comment on this board item.

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.**

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:01 p.m.

XI. APPROVAL OF NOMINATIONS TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Dr. Scott Koenigsnecht, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions, presented Approval of Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Dr. Rice said the board is being asked to approve nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee. He said there are 16 vacancies including one organizational delegate, three organizational alternate delegates, seven ex-officio delegates, three member at-large delegates, and two member at-large in reserve delegates for terms that expired or were not completed.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. McMillin, that the State Board of Education approve the nominees listed in Attachment B of the Superintendent’s memorandum dated September 29, 2020 and appoint those individuals to serve as members of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the terms specified.**

Dr. Ulbrich said there is a concern about the lack of racial diversity and she is curious what that means for the group as a whole. She asked what the make-up will be once the group of nominees is seated. Dr. Koenigsknecht said he will provide the information.

Ms. Fecteau asked if more than 16 people applied for vacancies. She said she encouraged the Autism Alliance to apply as an organization, and they said they applied. She asked about the process to be included as an organization on SEAC. Dr. Koenigsknecht said he will provide that information.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny asked if the board should vote or wait until the questions can be answered. Dr. Rice said it is the board’s prerogative.

Ms. Fecteau suggested that the motion be postponed until the November State Board of Education meeting, and there was board consensus to do so.

Dr. Pugh said people who are familiar with environmental drivers of health conditions are needed on the committee. She said it’s difficult to get people of varying backgrounds to participate due to the time constraints. She asked that the board be provided with qualifications and requirements to be a member of SEAC.

Dr. Rice said the board will be provided with answers to their questions, and this item will be on the State Board of Education’s November agenda.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

XIII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 8, 2020

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 8, 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.**

#### XIV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ulbrich said she is glad the October 13, 2020 State Board of Education meeting was able to be rescheduled for October 22.

Dr. Ulbrich said election turn out is anticipated to be record setting. She directed people to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote), and she encouraged safety.

Dr. Ulbrich said there was a foiled attempt to kidnap the Governor of the State of Michigan. She said violence is a crime against everyone. She said these are the final stressful days of an election season, and she encouraged people to set an example that supports positive dialog.

Dr. Ulbrich said there is an increase in COVID-19 cases in classrooms, which is worrisome. She said flexibility needs to continue. She asked people to be patient and kind and keep children's safety and health in mind.

#### XV. REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

##### Reports

##### F. Human Resources Report

##### Grants

##### G. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2020-2021 IDEA, Part B Formula Grant – Initial; \$390,821,309 (Special Education – Teri Rink)
2. 2019-2020 Title I, Part C Summer Migrant Program – Amendment; \$3,595,425 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
3. 2018-2019 Flint Declaration of Emergency Grants: Section 11s(2)- School Social Workers – Amendment; \$1,911,605 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
4. 2019-2020 Flint Declaration of Emergency Grants: Section 11s(2)- School Social Workers – Amendment; \$1,780,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
5. 2020-2021 E-Rate Enhancement Special Construction Matching Fund – Initial; \$48,628 (Systems, Evaluation, and Technology – David Judd)
6. 2019-2020 Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Initial; \$90,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
7. 2020-2021 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, Section 619 Preschool Grants – Initial; \$11,875,536 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)

8. 2020-2021 LSTA Collaborative Library Services Grant Program – Amendment; Continuation; \$200,615 (Library of Michigan – Randy Riley)
9. 2020-2021 LSTA Collaborative Library Services Grant Program – Amendment; Continuation; \$430,954 (Library of Michigan – Randy Riley)
10. 2020-2021 LSTA Improving Access to Information Grant Program – Initial; \$172,248 (Library of Michigan – Randy Riley)

Dr. Rice said Dr. Venessa Keesler is leaving the Michigan Department of Education to pursue another opportunity. He said she has done intricate and important work in the Michigan Department of Education for ten years, and he wishes her the best.

Dr. Rice said hospital chief medical officers just issued a statement that there has been an 80 percent increase in the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in recent weeks.

Mr. McMillin asked Dr. Rice what authority allowed him to cancel the October 13, 2020, State Board of Education meeting. Dr. Rice said the postponement is appropriate for discussion later in the meeting.

#### XVI. 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](#) on teaching and learning during a pandemic.

Mr. David Bunn, Region 2 Teacher of the Year, a high school teacher from Houghton Lake Junior/Senior High School, introduced himself. Mr. Bunn shared his passion for hands-on education through science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and lifting up students who have experienced trauma.

#### XVII. 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 September 29, 2020.

Mr. Ackley reported on pending legislation and completion of the state budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Ms. Fecteau asked if the budget includes differentiated funding for special education. Mr. Ackley said it does not.

Dr. Pugh asked for clarification on the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy grant program. Mr. Guerrant said it is a voluntary program for school districts to participate in a brief, confidential survey to gather basic information to help reduce transmission of infectious aerosols via the school district's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

#### XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. McMillin asked what authority Dr. Rice had to cancel the State Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 13, 2020.

Dr. Rice said the meeting was postponed because there was no authority to have the meeting. He said a Michigan Supreme Court ruling limited the governor's emergency powers and thus eliminated the emergency order allowing virtual meetings during the pandemic. He said the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an emergency order on gatherings and capacity restrictions affecting the ability to have an in-person meeting. Dr. Rice said he spoke with board members and staff members. He listed other boards in Michigan that made the decision to postpone meetings.

Mr. McMillin said the meeting could have been held at an alternate location.

Dr. Rice said at that time legislation was pending regarding the authority to hold virtual meetings, and it subsequently became Public Act 228 of 2020. He said this allowed the postponed October 13<sup>th</sup> State Board of Education meeting to be rescheduled to October 22, 2020.

Mr. McMillin said the authority should be addressed in the bylaws of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Ulbrich said it is not easy to move a meeting to a new location and ensure the Open Meetings Act is not violated. She said she appreciated and supported Dr. Rice's decision.

Dr. Ulbrich said it would be good to look at the bylaws ensuring the ability to not have a meeting and who has authority in an emergent situation. She invited others to join her in reviewing and updating the bylaws.

Ms. Snyder left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Discussion followed.

XIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Tuesday December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Tuesday, January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

XX. 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.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 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