

## **MINUTES**

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 19, 2017  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Brian J. Whiston, Chairman  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Co-President  
Dr. Richard Zeile, Co-President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Mr. Tom McMillin, Treasurer  
Ms. Nikki Snyder, NASBE Delegate  
Dr. Pamela Pugh  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Mr. Tyler Sawher, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mrs. Tracy Horodyski, 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion to approve the agenda and order of priority.

**Ayes: McMillin, Ramos-Montigny, Snyder, Ulbrich, Zeile  
Absent: Fecteau, Pugh, Weiser**

**The motion carried.**

#### III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Weiser arrived at 9:31 a.m.

Mr. Whiston asked that newly hired staff members of the Michigan Department of Education be introduced.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student and School Supports, introduced Ms. Shelby Lee from the Office of Educator Talent, and Mr. Tim Tahaney from the Office of Standards and Assessment.

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations, introduced Ms. Becki Gresh from the Office of Financial Management.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions, introduced Ms. Julie Sworden from P-20 System and Student Transitions.

Mr. Whiston invited the audience to introduce themselves. He said audience members should complete public participation forms if they wish to offer comments during the public participation portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Schneider reviewed procedures for evacuation during the statewide tornado drill that was planned for later in the day.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:34 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

V. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

VI. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR TERRI TCHORZYNSKI

Mr. Whiston introduced Ms. Terri Tchorzynski, from Calhoun Area Career Center, who was named the 2017 School Counselor of the Year, by the American School Counselor Association. Mr. Whiston said Ms. Tchorzynski received national recognition at the White House during a ceremony when Michelle Obama delivered her final remarks as First Lady.

Ms. Tchorzynski thanked the Board for inviting her to the Board meeting. She said the honors she receives are unexpected, because she is doing what she loves by working with students and advocating for them. She thanked the Board and Department for supporting the work of school counselors.

Dr. Ulbrich and Dr. Zeile presented a plaque to Ms. Tchorzynski honoring her achievement. Dr. Ulbrich said the Board is proud that Ms. Tchorzynski is representing Michigan in the prestigious role of 2017 School Counselor of the Year. Dr. Ulbrich thanked Ms. Tchorzynski for her service to students.

VII. PRESENTATION BY GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS ON READING LITERACY

Mr. Alex McNeece, Director of Instructional Services, Garden City; Ms. Susan Ford, Principal, Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center; Ms. Lindsay Skene, Kindergarten Teacher, Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center; and Ms. Larissa Gibson, Title I Teacher, Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center; presented the Garden City Schools Reading Literacy Program.

Mr. Whiston said educators from Garden City Schools are presenting information on its balanced early literacy program including implementation, funding, data and success rates.

Information was provided via a Keynote presentation. A folder of written information was distributed.

Dr. Pugh and Ms. Horodyski arrived at 9:38 a.m. Ms. Fecteau arrived at 9:44 a.m.

Board member comments included competency-based learning, tracking individual competencies, sustainability of system embedded in practice, support for existing state standards, resource choices made by group decision of staff, absenteeism, paperwork for special education assessments, staff longevity, and staff collaboration.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT

Dr. Thomas Haas, Chair of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission, and President of Grand Valley State University; Mr. Dave Campbell, Superintendent of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency; and Mr. Doug Ross, President of the American Promise Schools; presented on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission Report.

Mr. Whiston said the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission was announced during Governor Snyder's State of the State Address in January 2016 and formally created by Executive Order 2016-6. He said the Commission was chaired by Dr. Thomas Haas, President of Grand Valley State University, and included a diverse group of administrators, teachers unions, early childhood experts, charter school leaders, business leaders and higher education representatives. Mr. Whiston said he participated along with Mrs. Eileen Weiser, Mr. John Austin, Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, and Dr. Richard Zeile.

The report, "The Best Education System for Michigan's Success," was distributed. Dr. Haas, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Ross presented the report, and discussion followed.

Mr. Whiston said the plan for becoming a Top 10 education state in 10 years contains seven of the nine principles of world-class education contained in the report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission. Mr. Whiston said a crosswalk of the documents is underway. Ms. Ramos-Montigny said Michigan's Every Student Succeeds Act Plan is also aligned.

Dr. Ulbrich said she and Dr. Zeile participated in the final meeting of the Commission, as newly elected Co-Presidents of the State Board of Education. She said that was the only meeting they attended.

Board member comments included governance, elimination of the State Board of Education removes a voice of the public, bipartisanship, costs involved with change, education empowers people, public school academies, impacts of poverty, special education excluded from report, structure of governance, and report as a five- to seven-year plan submitted to Governor and Legislature.

IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There was Board consensus to reorder the agenda, due to time constraints.

There were no Board member comments regarding grant criteria.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:19 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Rogelio Landin, representing PerformancED, Detroit, Michigan, provided comments on Massachusetts, accountability, equity, funding and poverty.
2. Kim Jones, representing Concerned Citizens of Paw Paw, Michigan, provided comments on Native American logo and imagery.
3. Linda Cypret-Kilbourne, representing Michigan Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media, Marshall, Michigan, provided comments on Native American Guardians Association Beating Drum, Marshall, Michigan.
4. Jim Farrar, representing Michigan Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media, Milan, Michigan, provided comments on Native American mascots, nicknames, and imagery.
5. Elnora Gavin, Benton Harbor, Michigan, provided comments on Benton Harbor Schools.
6. Marletta Seats, Benton Harbor, Michigan, provided comments on Benton Harbor Schools.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:45 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### XIII. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 IN 10

Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent; presented on the Top 10 in 10.

Mr. Whiston said Ms. Alles will present a virtual field trip of six schools implementing the goals and strategies of the Top 10 in 10.

Information was shown via a PowerPoint and video presentation.

Board member comments included evidence-based early literacy instructional strategies incorporated into teacher preparation programs, in-service learning and certification requirements; and assessment of early literacy.

### XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:24 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### XV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

F. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 14, 2017

**Mr. McMillin moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 14, 2017.**

Mrs. Weiser said the Presentation on Intermediate School District Role, Function and Structure should contain a board member comment ensuring intermediate school district services match district needs.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

G. Approval of Minutes of Closed Session of March 14, 2017

**Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Closed Session of March 14, 2017.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XVI. REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dr. Zeile said he appreciated the presentations during the Board meeting, and he thanked staff for the clarity of the Top 10 in 10 presentation.

Dr. Zeile said there have been discussions regarding a potential State Board of Education committee to explore urban education. He said the Board is seeking clarification on the Open Meetings Act, as it relates to committees.

Dr. Zeile said Mr. Whiston has been responsive to inquiries from members of the State Board of Education. He said he knows the State Superintendent and Michigan Department of Education staff are busy, and he appreciates the time taken to provide information to the Board.

Dr. Ulbrich said she, Ms. Fecteau and Department staff attended the Communities in Schools Dinner on March 21<sup>st</sup>. She said it was a great event honoring supporters of public education.

Dr. Ulbrich said there has been discussion about updating the tool used for the evaluation of the State Superintendent. She asked Board members to notify her if they would like to work on the update.

Dr. Ulbrich said she will be the keynote speaker for the Macomb Intermediate School District Teacher of the Year Awards on April 20<sup>th</sup>. She said she looks forward to honoring 63 wonderful teachers who teach in Macomb County.

Dr. Ulbrich said Mr. McMillin and Ms. Fecteau have expressed interest in examining urban education, best practices and recommendations. She asked Mr. McMillan and Ms. Fecteau to create a plan that could be discussed by the full Board at its Retreat.

XVII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

H. Human Resources Report

I. Report on Approved Changes to the Clare-Gladwin Regional Educational Service District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

J. Report on Teacher Certification Revocation Decisions

Grants

K. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2016-2017 Section 35(5) Additional Instructional Time and Interventions - Amendment; \$16,274,115

2. 2016-2017 Section 22g District/ISD Consolidation Grant - Initial; \$500,000
3. 2016-2017 Section 22g(3) – District/ISD Consolidation Grant – Initial; \$2,500,000
4. 2015-2016 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality - Amendment; \$2,483,241
5. 2016-2017 Section 31b Year-Round School Grant - Amendment; \$399,375
6. 2016-2017 Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to Priority and Focus Schools - Amendment; \$14,834,875
7. 2016-2017 Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant - Amendment; \$5,671,287
8. 2016-2017 Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 - Prevention and Intervention for Neglected and Delinquent - Amendment; \$6,976,834
9. 2016-2017 Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting - Amendment; \$84,203,709

Mr. Whiston said the Michigan College Access Network presented Venessa Keesler with the Compass Award: Advocating for Attainment. He said recipients of this award have launched or championed bold proposals that focus on increasing Michigan’s post-secondary attainment rate.

Mr. Whiston said work continues to finalize Partnership Agreements with 10 school districts including 38 buildings. He said the goal is to improve achievement levels at the lowest performing schools in Michigan, while maintaining local control.

Mr. Whiston said Governor Snyder has asked him to work with Mr. Roger Curtis, Director of the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development, to develop a report on career and technical education recommendations. He said they have been inviting people from schools, the business community and unions to meet with them to discuss successes, road blocks, and visioning.

Mr. Whiston said he has visited the following schools in the past month: Ugly Community Schools, St. Charles Community Schools, Meridian Public Schools, Bad Axe Public Schools, Flat Rock Community Schools and Airport Community Schools. He said they often share how they are aligned to Top 10 in 10.

#### XVIII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Tracy Horodyski, 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Horodyski used her Michigan Teacher of the Year website to share information on school visits she made since the last Board meeting.

XIX. DISCUSSION ON MICHIGAN'S EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PLAN AND TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD FOR SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student and School Supports, presented on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan and Transparency Dashboard for School Accountability.

Mr. Whiston said during the March 14, 2017, State Board of Education meeting there was discussion and action regarding the transparency dashboard for school accountability, as it relates to Michigan's Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He said Board members want to make sure the dashboard is easily understood by parents and community members seeking information about their local schools. He said this is an opportunity for further discussion regarding updates to the dashboard. He said Dr. Keesler will provide a brief overview of the ESSA Plan.

Information was provided via a [PowerPoint presentation](#). The Overview of Michigan's Consolidated State Plan was distributed.

Mr. Whiston said if legislation on the accountability system is not passed by June 30, 2017, the Board's preference for a transparency dashboard without letter grades will be the accountability system. He said Governor Snyder signed the letter accompanying the ESSA Plan saying that he was provided the opportunity to review and give input. Mr. Whiston said Governor Snyder noted that he would like continuing conversations on the n size for special education and his support for an A-F accountability system. Mr. Whiston said the ESSA Plan has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

Board member comments included input provided by people from Detroit, the ESSA Plan as a living document that can be updated, n size in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, subgroups, reporting n size and accountability n size, accountability for special needs, transitioning special education students post-high school as a dashboard indicator, class-size indicator, parent satisfaction indicator, broad class offerings indicator, allowing schools to select something to showcase that is objectively verifiable, graduation rate indicator, transition from middle school to high school indicator, define labels by clicking on icons, dropout rate of four to six years, remedial enrollment inaccuracies, clarifying percentages on the dashboard, importance of parental engagement, and loss of special education clarity.

Dr. Ulbrich left the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Mr. Whiston said there will be further discussion regarding the transparency dashboard for school accountability at the Board's retreat in May. Mr. Whiston said the Department needs final direction from the Board in June to prepare for the upcoming school year.

XX. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Mrs. Eileen Weiser, Chair of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Ms. Nikki Snyder, NASBE Delegate, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on pending legislation and legislative committee meetings.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on April 10.

Mrs. Weiser said House and Senate subcommittee meetings are often available for viewing online. She asked that the link be provided to Board members when notices are sent. She said statements are also accepted electronically, if individual Board members wish to comment. Mrs. Weiser asked Board members to notify the Board's Legislative Committee if they would like a statement developed on a topic listed on the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mrs. Weiser asked if the Board wished to consider any statements, and there were none.

Ms. Snyder said in June she will be attending the New Member Institute sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education. She said if Board members have questions for NASBE, she is happy to seek information.

XXI. CONSENT AGENDA

N. Approval of the Model Local School Wellness Policy; and

O. Approval of Criteria for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Regional ISD Partnership Grant, \$500,000

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

**N. Approve the Model Local School Wellness Policy, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 4, 2017; and**

**O. Approve the Criteria for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Regional ISD Partnership Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 4, 2017.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Fecteau, McMillin, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Snyder, Weiser, Zeile**  
**Absent: Ulbrich**

**The motion carried.**

## XXII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. McMillin said he attended the American Educational Research Association Lecture Series with Charles Payne on The Limits of Schooling, The Power of Poverty. He said he and Ms. Fecteau are interested in gathering local urban grassroots perspectives to understand the challenges parents are facing, and seeking information on what's successful in other states.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny asked if the effort would encompass the entire state? Ms. Fecteau said it could encompass multiple urban areas of the state as well as rural and suburban communities.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said she served on the selection committee for the Michigan Teacher of the Year, and the incoming MTOY will be introduced at the June State Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said she has been approached about media training, and she has invited the constituent to attend a State Board of Education meeting and provide public comment.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said May 5 is Cinco de Mayo commemorating the Mexican victory in the Battle of Puebla. She said the Grand Rapids Cinco de Mayo celebration has an education focus, and everyone is invited to participate. She said determination in the face of challenges should be celebrated every day.

Dr. Zeile said he also attended Dr. Payne's presentation, and his insights are that urban districts can make a real difference in student achievement through relationships, rigor and expecting students to achieve at their level. He said the real work needs to be at the local level.

Ms. Snyder said she would like the Board to consider committees on reading literacy or evidence-based practice committee, unless it would be included in other committee work.

Mrs. Weiser said it is important for Partnership Districts, and other schools that are struggling, to see successful practices that schools are using to make a difference in student achievement.

Dr. Pugh thanked Mr. Whiston and Department staff for their extensive work on the Partnership Model. She said she appreciates it, and so do the people in the school districts. She said State Board of Education members can be supportive as local community members.

## XXIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Whiston said Board members may contact him or the Co-Presidents with suggestions for future agenda topics.

XXIV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, May 16, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- B. Wednesday, May 24, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) State Board Retreat
- C. Tuesday, June 13, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting

XXV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary