

## **MINUTES**

### MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by Public Act 254 of 2020 and  
Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolution #21-219

May 18, 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

Staff Present: Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations  
Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and  
Student Transitions  
Dr. William Pearson, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Educator,  
Student & School Supports  
Dr. Sue Carnell, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs  
Mr. Mark Howe, Chief of Staff, Chief Deputy Superintendent  
Ms. Alisande Shrewsbury, Special Assistant, Superintendent's Office  
Mr. Mike Flaminio, Department Specialist  
Ms. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive  
Ms. Jennifer Cook, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Karen Carefoot, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Leah Breen, Director, Office of Educator Excellence  
Ms. Kelli Cassaday, Strategic Implementation Consultant, Office of  
Educator Excellence  
Ms. Rebecca McIntyre, Supervisor, Office of Special Education

## **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 #21-219, the State Board of Education Work Session 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.**

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. McMillin, that the State Board of Education add a discussion and approval item associated with the June 8, 2021 Regular State Board of Education meeting and whether it will be held virtually or in person, following Item V – Board Norms on the agenda.**

A roll call vote was taken on the amendment.

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

**The motion carried.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

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

**The motion carried.**

III. TEACHER SHORTAGE UPDATE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Ms. Leah Breen, Director, Office of Educator Excellence; Ms. Kelli Cassaday, Strategic Implementation Consultant, Office of Educator Excellence; and Ms. Rebecca McIntyre, Supervisor, Office of Special Education; presented on the Teacher Shortage and Related Activities.

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

Board member comments included Promise Zones as partners, reasons for teachers leaving the profession, support for teachers and teachers

recommending the profession, promote grow your own programs, income goes further without student loans, importance of teacher/child relationships, opportunities to work one on one with students, what would success look like, measurable goals and metrics encouraged, and reaching out to Rodney Robinson 2019 National Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Tilley joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

#### IV. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TEMPLATE AND STATE PLAN

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Director, Finance and Operations, presented the American Rescue Plan Template and State Plan.

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

Board member comments included the per pupil equalization fund, distribution of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, adequacy and equity of funding, the number of schools that moved to in-person instruction to access funding, guidance on ventilation at the federal level, logistics of submitting American Rescue Plan information to the United States Department of Education, and expectation of feedback to states.

#### V. BOARD NORMS

Dr. Ulbrich lead the discussion on Board Norms.

Dr. Ulbrich said the board has two new members, and she is suggesting that the board develops a shared set of norms, principles, expected behaviors, and how to facilitate the board's work. She said currently norms are not explicit or written. She suggested a couple of small group meetings perhaps with a facilitator.

Mr. McMillin asked if a there is a proposal or list to be shared. Dr. Ulbrich said the board should develop the list which may include items such as being prepared, on time, agenda planning, and how far in advance to share a proposed resolution or policy statement.

Ms. Lipton said it is a good idea as she likes to know the rules of engagement.

Ms. Snyder said Robert's Rules of Order may already cover it, and she asked what should be included. Dr. Ulbrich said it is up to the board. Ms. Snyder said an agenda should be provided so members know what is being proposed. Dr. Ulbrich said she is not proposing anything, but rather sharing the idea for discussion about whether or not the board wants to develop board norms.

Mr. McMillin said he is open to the idea, and the board would adhere to the Open Meetings Act. He said it is good to clarify areas of uncertainty, and board members could come up with ideas or brainstorm ideas.

Ms. Lipton said she would be happy to take a first leap at topics. She said training and by-laws are great, but she still had questions as a new board member.

Dr. Pugh said each board member could propose topics such as how the agenda moves and inviting speakers.

Mr. Strayhorn said he is a new board member, and he would welcome board norms.

Dr. Pritchett said it could be helpful to have board norms. She said current documents such as by-laws should be provided prior to the meeting so the board does not develop a document that previously existed.

Ms. Tilley said a small handbook and perhaps a mentor would be helpful.

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education create a mechanism to identify existing or board norms to bring forward for vote by the full board.**

Mr. McMillin asked for the definition of mechanism. Dr. Ulbrich said her idea is small group meetings.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

VI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON CONVENING OF REGULAR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON JUNE 8, 2021

Dr. Ulbrich lead the discussion on whether the Regular State Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2021 should be convened virtually or in person.

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Lipton, that the State Board of Education continues to operate remotely for the June 8, 2021 meeting.**

Mr. McMillin said he would like to meet in person. He said local boards are meeting in person, and the state board should lead by example. He said masks are coming off.

Ms. Tilley said currently she is unable to meet in person due to medical issues.

Ms. Lipton said there is no substitute for in-person meetings. She said she is not suggesting virtual meetings in perpetuity. She said masks are coming off, and people are receiving vaccinations. She said she has a medical condition, and the Open Meetings Act accommodates her virtual participation through the end of the year. She said the public has said they have felt more empowered to participate, because they have a virtual option. She said she is suggesting one more virtual meeting in June.

Dr. Pugh said she concurs with Dr. Ulbrich on a virtual meeting in June, and she looks forward to meeting in person in the future.

Ms. Snyder said the issue is multi-faceted and to honor others to be able to share and participate, she will abstain.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

VII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Pugh suggested board meetings be posted on social media to bolster public participation.

Mr. McMillin said the flu is more dangerous than COVID-19 for healthy children. He said the long-term effects of COVID-19 and vaccinations are unknown. He said vaccinations are available for those who want them. He said healthy children do not need to be vaccinated.

Ms. Snyder said she echoes Mr. McMillin’s comments in general. She said she testified before the House Oversight Committee, and she urges caution and concern for others as they make personal decisions.

Dr. Ulbrich and Dr. Pugh urged people with concerns about vaccines to contact their health care provider.

Dr. Pritchett said she sees schoolchildren every day, and she thanked the students and staff who have done a phenomenal job all year. She encouraged parents to examine summer learning opportunities and take advantage of them if it works for their family.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

No one requested the opportunity to provide public comment.

IX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Tuesday August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned a 12:19 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,

Tiffany Tilley  
Secretary