

## **MINUTES**

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by  
Public Act 228 of 2020

November 10, 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  
Ms. Brandy Johnson, 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 9:34 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

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, 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 – Aye  
Snyder – Aye  
Tilley – Aye  
Ulbrich – Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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 9:37 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 9:38 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 Every Student Matters, which is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Education, organizations, and community groups to locate missing students and help ensure they are educated and safe; partnering with educational organizations to alleviate the teacher shortage; and agenda topics for the lame duck legislative session.

Board member comments included calculation of the number of missing children who are not being educated.

VII. PRESENTATION ON REDUCING HEALTH EXPOSURE RISKS

Ms. Claire Barnett, Founder and Executive Director, Healthy Schools Network, presented on reducing health exposure risks.

Dr. Rice said the Healthy Schools Network is an award-winning organization serving as a voice for children's environmental health in schools.

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

Board member comments included thanks to Dr. Barnett for being a resource on environmental issues, health and safety of school environment is critical so students can focus on learning, environmental oversight in other states and engagement with public health experts, pending legislation, state regulations on infection control plans in schools, appreciation for guidance on school environments, and funding for school buildings.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 STRATEGIC EDUCATION PLAN – INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN AREAS OF SHORTAGE

Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent, and Ms. Leah Breen, Director, Office of Educator Excellence, presented on the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan – Increasing the Number of Certified Teachers in Areas of Shortage.

Dr. Rice said the presentation highlights the goal to increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage, and it will include metrics data and contributions to support the goal. He said following the presentation, there will be conversation regarding opportunities to increase the number of certified teachers in areas of shortage.

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

Board member comments included awareness of lists of teacher shortage areas, loan forgiveness programs for teachers, grow your own initiatives, determining effectiveness of initiatives to address areas of shortage, data regarding the number of certified elementary teachers, teacher shortages across the nation, race/ethnicity data presented does not reflect the timeframe of the pandemic, suggested teacher/child ratio and geographic distribution to eliminate gaps, data on teacher shortage areas disaggregated by geographic distribution, and grow your own paraprofessionals face hurdles of time and funding.

IX. PRESENTATION ON INTERRUPTING PROLONGED SITTING WITH ACTIVITY (InPACT)

Dr. Rebecca Hasson, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Nutritional Health and Director of the Childhood Disparities Research Laboratory, University of Michigan; Ms. Samantha Wiens-Wice, K-12 Physical Education, Health, and Virtual Academy Mentor, Clarkston Community Schools; and Mr. Matthew Mair, K-5 Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Clarenceville School District in Livonia; presented on Interrupting Prolonged Sitting with Activity (InPACT).

Dr. Rice said the InPACT at Home program is an online free-use initiative designed to be a year-long, daily routine, which was created during the pandemic to help children stay active at home.

Information was shared via a PowerPoint presentation and videos.

Board member comments included thanks for leadership in physical activity during a pandemic, specific ways to access the program, and social and emotional supports and family engagement kit to be provided in InPACT.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:22 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Ms. Jacqueline Bell, representing Detroit Independent Freedom Schools Movement, from Detroit, Michigan, provided comments on the third grade reading statute.

Ms. Tilley rejoined the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

### XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:27 p.m. and reconvened the Committee of the Whole.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### XIII. PRESENTATION OF REVISED MODEL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations, and Dr. Diane Golzynski, Director, Office of Health and Nutrition Services, presented the Revised Model Anti-Bullying Policy.

Dr. Rice said the Model Anti-Bullying Policy has been updated to reflect current practices aligned to legislation. He said following a period of public comment, the Board will be asked to approve the Model Anti-Bullying Policy at its December meeting.

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

Board member comments included clarification of groups targeted for public comment, concern regarding bullying, due process procedures during investigations, alignment to statute, and Title IX definition of harassment is very strong.

### XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 1:41 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

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

Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 22, 2020

**Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 22, 2020.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XVI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ulbrich said there was record participation in the general election on November 3, 2020. She congratulated Ms. Ellen Cogen Lipton and Mr. Jason Strayhorn on their successful election campaigns to become members of the State Board of Education, and she thanked all of the candidates who ran for office.

Dr. Ulbrich said Ms. Fecteau and Ms. Ramos-Montigny will have their last meeting in December, and she thanked them for their dedicated service. She said it was a pleasure to work with them, and they will be missed.

Dr. Ulbrich said she has reviewed the Board’s by-laws to determine a clear mechanism to provide for the cancellation of a meeting. She said in accordance with the by-laws procedure she will provide written language in December and the Board will be asked to vote on the language in January. She said if agreed upon, there will be a clear direction in the Board’s by-laws.

XVII. REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

G. Human Resources Report

Grants

H. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2020-2021 ESSA Regional ISD Partnership Grant – Initial; Continuation; \$563,529 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
2. 2020-2021 ESSA Title IX, Part A McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant – Amendment; \$2,410,088 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
3. 2020-2021 ISD Collaboration Grant – Initial; \$700,000 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
4. 2020-2021 Sec. 41 Bilingual Grant – Initial; \$12,999,850 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)

5. 2020-2021 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Programs – Amendment; \$2,559,682 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
6. 2020-2021 Title 1, Part D, Subpart 1, State Agency Programs for Neglected or Delinquent Children – Initial; \$916,231 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
7. 2020-2021 Title I, Part D, Subpart 2, Local Programs for Neglected or Delinquent Youth – Amendment; \$5,966,112 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
8. 2020-2021 Title III, Part A Language Instruction for Immigrant Student Grant – Initial; \$1,927,081 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
9. 2019-2020 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Amendment; \$4,596,170 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
10. 2019-2020 FY 2020 Flint Declaration of Emergency – Backpack Program – Amendment; \$650,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
11. 2020-2021 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Initial; \$4,629,700 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
12. 2020-2021 Mandated Activities Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Initial; Continuation; \$1,645,587 (Early Childhood Development & Family Education – Noel Kelty)
13. 2020-2021 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Indicators Grant – Initial; \$250,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
14. 2020-2021 Statewide Collaboration and Capacity Building of Michigan’s Out-of-School Time System in support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program – Initial; \$150,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
15. 2020-2021 Application for School Bus Driver Education Safety Program – Initial; \$2,025,000 (Financial Management – Ann Richmond)
16. 2020-2021 Application for School Bus Inspection Program – Initial; \$1,789,500 (Financial Management – Ann Richmond)
17. 2020-2021 IDEA, Part B Grant Funded Initiatives – Initial; \$22,865,000 (Special Education – Teri Rink)
18. 2020-2021 State Personnel Development Grant Under the IDEA – Initial; \$1,386,000 (Special Education – Teri Rink)

Dr. Rice said Dawn Hedges and Holly Holm have been named the 2020 Michigan Education Support Staff Professionals of the Year. He said they are now eligible for the national Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award, which is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Rice congratulated everyone who won an election. He congratulated Ms. Ellen Cogen Lipton and Mr. Jason Strayhorn who were elected to fill vacancies on the State Board of Education.

Dr. Rice thanked Ms. Michelle Fecteau and Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny who are completing terms on the State Board of Education and chose not to run for reelection. He said they have served with distinction over the past eight years.

#### 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 highlighting his activities during the past month.

Ms. Erin Carlson, Region 5 Teacher of the Year, an English and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher in Sandusky Junior/Senior High School, introduced herself. Ms. Carlson said she enjoys providing opportunities for learning outside the classroom walls including service projects and connecting students to potential career opportunities.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny thanked Mr. Bondono and Ms. Erin Carlson for their outstanding presentations and carrying the flag for educators.

#### XIX. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING VENESSA KEESLER

Dr. Rice said Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student, and School Supports, joined the Michigan Department of Education in 2010. He said she served with dedication, perseverance, and intelligence in the roles of consultant, manager, office director, and deputy superintendent.

Dr. Rice said Dr. Keesler has accepted a position outside of state government, and she is wished a future filled with success and happiness. Dr. Rice said the Board is being asked to adopt a resolution honoring Dr. Venessa Keesler.

**Ms. Snyder moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution honoring Venessa Keesler, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 27, 2020.**

Dr. Pugh said she is very proud of Dr. Keesler's accomplishments and appreciates her service.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny congratulated Dr. Keesler on her new position noting that she will be a dynamic asset, and she is wished the best.

Ms. Fecteau thanked Dr. Keesler for being well prepared, sharing a depth of information, and her willingness to readily answer questions.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The Resolution Honoring Venessa Keesler is attached as Exhibit A.

XX. 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 October 27, 2020.

Mr. Ackley reported on election results, teacher and support staff grants administered by the Michigan Department of Treasury, and pending legislation for possible consideration during the lame duck legislative session.

Ms. Fecteau asked Mr. Ackley to provide a written copy of the [State Board of Education Legislative Report](#) from the meeting held on October 27, 2020.

XXI. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. McMillin said he is disappointed so many people are not attending school in person. He said scientists disagree with a lockdown, and he cited information from reports.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said all of the presentations were outstanding and relevant.

Ms. Snyder said she echoes Mr. McMillin's comments about whether or not decisions are being made based on science. She questioned the accuracy of comments made regarding state funding, and she read an e-mail from a constituent regarding literacy. She said she appreciates working with the Board.



Dr. Pugh congratulated Mr. Strayhorn and Ms. Lipton on their successful elections to become members of the State Board of Education. She thanked the presenters and staff for their continued energy.

Ms. Fecteau recognized and thanked teachers.

Discussion followed.

XXII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

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

XXIII. 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.

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 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 of Michigan  
State Board of Education

Resolution Honoring Dr. Venessa Keesler

LET IT BE KNOWN, Dr. Venessa Keesler has served Michigan's children as Deputy Superintendent in the Michigan Department of Education since 2012;

WHEREAS, Dr. Keesler earned her B.A. in Sociology from Harvard University and her Ph.D. in Measurement and Quantitative Methods from Michigan State University;

WHEREAS, she joined the Michigan Department of Education in 2010 and held the positions of consultant, manager, and office director within the Michigan Department of Education prior to her role as Deputy Superintendent;

WHEREAS, Venessa has been a supporter of Michigan students and has advocated for improvement of academic outcomes for all students;

WHEREAS, Venessa has served in her role as Deputy Superintendent with dedication, perseverance, and intelligence. She is a staunch supporter of her staff and recognizes the talents that lie within each person. She has a passion for education, educators, and students;

WHEREAS, Venessa's knowledge, leadership, and guidance have truly made a difference for the department as well as for Michigan students;

WHEREAS, Venessa has accepted a position outside of state government and has announced her departure from the Michigan Department of Education, effective November 2020;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education extends to Venessa its 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 Venessa much success in her next endeavor and a future full of laughter, happiness, and good health with family and friends.

Adopted November 10, 2020