

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

January 13, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer (via telephone)
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone)
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich
Ms. Niya Hardin, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Also Present: Mrs. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

II. AGENDA FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Attachment A of State and Federal Legislative Update (Item H)
- B. Report on Consent Agenda

III. INFORMATIONAL FOLDERS

- A. Information on the Report to the Legislature on the Postsecondary Enrollment Options for 2007-2008
- B. Information on Partnership with the School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM)
- C. Information on Biennial Report of the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

- D. Information on 2007-2008 Michigan Test for Teacher Certification Annual Legislative Report

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. 2008-2009 Title I Accountability Grant – Initial – added to agenda
- B. 2008-2009 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial – added to agenda
- C. 2008-2009 Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality Statewide Activities – Initial – added to agenda
- D. 2008-2009 Great Start School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Continuation – added to agenda

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

V. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education, Department of Education staff, and guests attending the meeting.

VI. SWEARING IN OF JOHN AUSTIN AND KATHLEEN STRAUS

Having been re-elected in the November general election to eight-year terms on the State Board of Education, John Austin and Kathleen Straus were sworn into office by The Honorable Michael F. Cavanagh, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

VII. POINT OF THE DAY

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director of Communications, shared an historical perspective of the State Board of Education as the Point of the Day.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:59 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

IX. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:00 a.m.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion Regarding Universal Education Vision and Principles/
Universal Design for Learning

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

The Board adopted the Vision and Principles of Universal Education in 2005. The application of this policy framework was presented.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member questions and *clarifications* included:

1. universal education makes the high school graduation requirements possible;
2. are there other states that are engaged in universal education – *universal education as a policy framework is not common; universal design for learning is more common; there is a misconception that they are the same thing;*
3. concise report that effectively answers questions;
4. seat time waivers provide an enormous learning opportunity for students by acknowledging different learning styles and addressing barriers to learning; and
5. waivers are opportunities to determine what may work better rather than perpetuate negative impressions associated with labels.

XI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. CAROLYN L. CURTIN

Mrs. Curtin said she would like to take a moment of personal privilege to introduce Mark Parsons, Superintendent of Manton Schools, and Dean Smallegan, McBain Rural Agricultural School, Board member. She said Mr. Parsons was a teacher at Evert Public Schools when she ran for the Evert school board.

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

B. Discussion Regarding Consolidation of Services

The following individuals presented:

- Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent
- Mr. Jon Tomlanovich, Associate Executive Director, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
- Ms. Elaine Madigan, Executive Director, School Finance and School Law
- Mr. Clark Volz, Superintendent, Midland County Education Service Area

Part 7B of the Revised School Code, enacted on September 19, 2007, as Public Act 63 of 2007, requires each intermediate school district to conduct a study to identify opportunities for sharing services among their local constituent school districts. The "Michigan Intermediate School Districts and the Consolidation of Services" report was released on May 19, 2008. Discussion included recommendations contained in the report and progress of the collaboration between the Michigan Department of Education and intermediate schools districts in the consolidation of non-instructional services.

Board member questions and *clarifications* included:

1. consolidation of services is necessary; there are good efficiencies taking place;
2. the number of local districts within intermediate school districts varies greatly; valuable data is contained in the report;
3. the legislation was a compromise, the report is an encouraging first step that will lead to a more thoughtful approach;

4. clarify shared transportation outside intermediate school districts in future reports;
5. loss of autonomy and flexibility is noted as a barrier related to the Personnel Services function – *possible hiring done at the intermediate school district level and supervision done at the local level is sometimes viewed as a gap;*
6. collaboration and consolidation of services gains a broader network of opportunity – *headlines redefine barriers and turns them into initiatives;*
7. how does hiring house legal counsel save costs – *when legal counsel is shared at the intermediate school district level it prevents multiple charges for the same opinion issued multiple times.*
8. how does the State Board of Education help move this initiative forward – *bigger is not always better; some local districts are very efficient with personnel performing multiple duties and sharing services; numbers may be deceiving if they are the only determining factors;*
9. how is it anticipated that the Legislature will use the information contained in the report; what will be their focus – *desire to achieve cost savings;*
10. maximizing efficiencies can allow districts to maintain local autonomy;
11. is there a follow up to the report – *intermediate school district superintendents were asked to report on the top initiatives and transportation, business, and food services are areas of continued focus on collaboration; in many cases the investigation is the precursor to the reality of consolidating services;*
12. the State Board of Education should make recommendations to the Legislature – *ethically as well as practically this is an organizational goal to continue focusing on consolidation of services;*
13. is there expansion beyond the intermediate school districts to include sharing of services between school districts and local units of government – *yes;*
14. were Regional Educational Media Centers and Math Science Centers included – *they were inherent in the conversation;*

15. the Education Alliance could help think of areas to share services; some districts share superintendents;
16. connectivity in rural areas remains an issue in further expansion of technology that needs to be addressed by the Legislature; practitioners need to learn to use technology; get beyond land lines; licensing software could be expanded to statewide or intermediate school district licenses;
17. technology makes efficiencies possible; inform and clarify to communities and the Legislature the efficiencies contained in the report;
18. there are varying degrees of technological maturity in districts; professional development should be provided if districts are having difficulty reaching a level of maturity;
19. is there a dollar amount that can be associated with the efficiencies – *Michigan School Business Officials has been working to associate cost savings to efficiencies through consolidation of services; and*
20. reflect on conversations; deliberate on ways to achieve the goal without legislation; consider county system of non-instructional services while maintaining the local flavor of “Friday night games” without consolidation of districts being forced.

C. Discussion Regarding Career and Technical Education Standards

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. Patty Cantu, Director, Career and Technical Preparation

The Carl D. Perkins Act requires that career and technical education programs of instruction demonstrate that students receive rigorous instruction in both academic and technical skills and that instruction is delivered through programs of study that prepare students for postsecondary education. A significant component of the Act is the requirement to measure technical skill achievement through the use of assessments at the completion of a career and technical education program. To meet this mandate, it is necessary for career and technical education programs in Michigan to use common standards in its programs of instruction.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Board member questions and *clarifications* included:

1. career and technical education is a highly skilled academically based instructional model; essential knowledge and skills, teamwork, and ethics are all important;
2. all high school standards were incorporated; how adaptable are career and technical education programs to middle college programs – *very adaptable and applicable; health care programs are career and technical education programs; career and technical education programs articulate with a community college;*
3. academic competencies are delivered in an interesting way and students are also learning 21st century skills;
4. programs are relevant and the earlier we can engage students the better;
5. there are wonderful educational programs in Michigan that provide positive results and the public should be made aware; and
6. per pupil funding and seat time need to be addressed; a single site for learning would save transportation costs.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting via telephone at 1:10 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. Scott Crosby, Cadillac, Michigan. Mr. Crosby provided comments on the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- B. Mr. Rodney Hose, Lake City, Michigan. Mr. Hose, President, Lake City Area Schools Board of Education, provided comments on the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

- C. Mr. Bud Ashton, Lake City, Michigan. Mr. Ashton, Superintendent, Lake City Area Schools, provided comments on high school reform.
- D. Mr. Mark McWilliams, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. McWilliams, representing Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service Incorporated, provided verbal and written information on Universal Education, the "Kids Count in Michigan" report, and a national report on seclusion and restraint in U.S. schools to be released by the National Disability Rights Network.
- E. Ms. Mary Wood, Warren, Michigan. Ms. Wood provided verbal and written information on public school academies.
- F. Mr. Fred Bunker, Southfield, Michigan. Mr. Bunker provided verbal and written information on public school academies.

XV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of December 9, 2008

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of December 9, 2008.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

Mr. Flanagan declared that nominations were in order for State Board of Education Officers for 2009-2010.

Mrs. Bauer said she would like to propose one motion for the entire slate of officers. There was Board consensus.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education make the following nominations for State Board of Education Officers for 2009-2010: Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President; Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President; Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary; Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer; and Mrs. Nancy Danhof, as Delegate to the National Association of State Boards of Education.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. REPORT OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year, provided a verbal report as an update to her written report.

Mrs. Haberling said December was a busy month. She provided highlights of the Network of Michigan Educators Conference; filming of the Michigan Lottery commercial; the National Governors Association Policy Forum on Teacher Effectiveness in Kansas City, Missouri; and the upcoming National Teacher of the Year conference in Dallas, Texas.

XVIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Re-elected as President of the Board

Mrs. Straus said she is honored to be re-elected as President of the State Board of Education, and she appreciates the confidence and support of her colleagues. She said the country's economic challenges add to Michigan's challenges; however significant progress will be made as we continue to work together to reach our goal of improving student achievement for all students.

B. National Association of State Boards of Education Study Group

Mrs. Straus said she served on the National Association of State Boards of Education Study Group on Middle Schools. She said the report is titled, "Beginning in the Middle – Critical Steps in Secondary School Reform." She urged Board members to read the report which contains valuable information.

She said the Study Group, representing 19 states, benefitted from presentations by outstanding researchers and practitioners and was made possible by funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

She said the Study Group discussed grade configurations for middle school, decline in reading and mathematics scores between 4th and 8th grade, and social emotional issues that manifest in the middle years. She said with the increase in high school requirements, there is an urgent need to focus on the middle years so students can achieve in high school.

Mrs. Straus said key factors for success include: size of school, class size, student engagement, personalization, relationships, teacher preparation, and transition from elementary to middle school.

Mrs. Haberling left the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and Ms. Hardin left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

XIX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- F. Human Resources Update
- G. Report on Cosponsorships
- H. State and Federal Legislative Update
- I. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Huron Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Grants

- J. 2008-2009 Middle College High School Health Partnership Grant – Amendment
- K. 2008-2009 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Subsidy Grants – Initial
- L. 2008-2009 Title II, Part D (Models of Demonstrated Proficiency) Enhancing Education Through Technology Competitive Grants – Amendment
- P. 2008-2009 Title I Accountability Grant – Initial
- Q. 2008-2009 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial
- R. 2008-2009 Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality Statewide Activities – Initial
- S. 2008-2009 Great Start School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Continuation

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on:

- A. Governor's Cabinet Meeting

Mr. Flanagan said he attended the Governor's Cabinet Meeting prior to the Board meeting. He said the economic picture continues to be very serious, as was the tone of the meeting. Her said staff has been involved in the economic stimulus package that is anticipated from the federal government.

Mr. Flanagan said Jim Epolito, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, is leaving state government to be President of Delta Dental of Michigan. He said Mr. Epolito will be greatly missed.

B. Retirement of Betty Underwood

Mr. Flanagan announced that Betty Underwood, Director of the Office of School Improvement, is retiring in late February. He said Betty has been a dedicated, valuable employee of the Michigan Department of Education.

C. Detroit Public Schools – Emergency Financial Manager

Mr. Flanagan said the Governor is interviewing the candidates for the Emergency Financial Manager of Detroit Public Schools, and she will soon be making the appointment. He said it gives the Detroit Public Schools Board an opportunity to focus solely on educational programming, while the Emergency Financial Manager handles the fiscal matters of the district.

XX. PRESENTATION ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WEBSITE

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Betty Underwood, Director, Office of School Improvement; Ms. Linda Forward, Supervisor, Academic Support, Office of School Improvement; and Ms. Kathy Sergeant, Director, North Central Association; presented on the School Improvement Website. Representatives of AdvancED, Mr. Mark Elgart, President and CEO; and Mr. Albert Mayo, Chief Information Officer; joined the presentation via telephone.

Mr. Flanagan said the Michigan Department of Education entered into a collaborative agreement with the North Central Association and AdvancED, the parent organization of the North Central Association, in order to reduce redundancy of effort and to strengthen the efforts of all Michigan educators to develop systems leading to continuous school improvement for all students. He said as a result of this collaboration, there are several online tools that allow schools and districts to complete their Education YES! Reports, their comprehensive needs assessments, and school improvement plans in order to fulfill state, federal, and North Central Association requirements. He said this frees schools and districts to focus on improving student learning.

Ms. Underwood and Ms. Forward used a PowerPoint presentation to show highlights of the School Improvement Website. Mr. Mayo presented a

webinar to demonstrate key components of the online tool that will be used by local school districts, intermediate school districts, and at the state level.

Ms. Sergeant said this is an excellent way to collaborate by using the same components and language to develop professional learning opportunities from a systemic standpoint.

Ms. Underwood said the Michigan Department of Education/North Central Association School Improvement Conference will be on April 21-22; the Teaching for Learning Institute is August 18-22; and the Fall School Improvement Conference will be on December 1-2.

This was a presentation only, and no Board action was required.

Mrs. Danhof left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

XXI. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions

- N. Adoption of Resolution Regarding National School Breakfast Week
- O. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Michigan School Support Staff Week

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda, as follows:

- N. adopt the resolution regarding National School Breakfast Week, March 2-6, 2009, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated December 18, 2008; and**
- O. adopt the resolution regarding Michigan School Support Staff Week, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated December 18, 2008.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof**

The motion carried.

The resolution regarding National School Breakfast Week is attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution regarding Michigan School Support Staff Week is attached as Exhibit B.

XXII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Home Schooling – Mrs. Marianne McGuire

Mrs. McGuire said home schooling was discussed at the last Board retreat and she would like to know what is being done in other states. Mrs. Hamilton said staff is preparing information that will be shared with the Board in the future.

XXIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mrs. Straus, Mr. Austin, and Mrs. Curtin with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXIV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. February 10, 2009
- B. March 17, 2009
- C. April 14, 2009
- D. May 12, 2009

XXV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary