

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

March 8, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Brian J. Whiston, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Treasurer  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Dr. Richard Zeile  
Mrs. Karen McPhee, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Rick Joseph, 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEM

1. Information on At-Large Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee including Three Organizational Seat Replacements

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Weiser,  
Zeile  
Absent: Ulbrich**

**The motion carried.**

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Schneider invited guests to introduce themselves.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:42 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON *EARLY ON*<sup>®</sup>

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start; Renee DeMars-Johnson, Director, Early Childhood Development and Family Education; and Vanessa Winborne, Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Development and Family Education; presented on *Early On*<sup>®</sup>.

Mr. Whiston said the presentation provides an overview of Michigan's approach to providing individualized services and supports for families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or delay as required under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and known in Michigan as *Early On*<sup>®</sup>.

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

Board member comments included funding level, nonexistent state funding, diminishing numbers of kindergarten students who need special education services, services for families who do not speak English, environmental exposures and high lead levels in areas across the state, eligibility affected by a rule change, determining effective interventions, number of other states with robust programs and state funding, and services for students provided in their natural environment.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING STUDENTS

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services; and Ms. Kim Phillips-Knope, Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs; presented on State Board of Education Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students.

Mr. Whiston said due to a variety of factors, the school experience can be significantly more difficult for students with marginalized identities. He said despite widespread efforts, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students continue to face challenges that threaten their health, safety, and learning opportunities in schools. He said the presentation includes a proposed statement and guidance which will be available for public comment and presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

Mr. Austin said he was approached by educators asking for guidance.

Information was provided via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member comments included supportive environments, suicide rates, OK2SAY, restroom facilities, public comment opportunities, ensuring the guidance for one group of students does not exclude other groups, and data sources for risk behaviors for children who do not feel supported which may lead to public health crises.

Mr. Whiston said discussion on this topic would continue later in the meeting so that the next presentation could begin.

#### IX. PRESENTATION ON STATE SCHOOL REFORM OFFICE

Ms. Natasha Baker, State School Reform Officer, Michigan Department Technology, Management and Budget, presented on the State School Reform Office.

Mr. Whiston said it is important that partners work together to provide the best possible education for all the children of Michigan. He said Ms. Natasha Baker, State School Reform Officer, will share information on the work of the State School Reform Office in supporting the lowest performing schools.

Ms. Baker provided information via a PowerPoint presentation. Her presentation focused on four guiding questions: (1) What is the School Reform Office, and what does it do? (2) What are the academic trends for Priority Schools? (3) How does the School Reform Office collaborate with stakeholders and measure progress in Priority Schools in time for midcourse corrections? (4) What necessitates School Reform Office intervention, and why is the intervention necessary?

Board member comments included Board guidance on state school turnaround; decisions leading to the Chief Executive Officer model being introduced in East Detroit Public Schools; community input; powers of Chief Executive Officer; level of effectiveness of the Emergency Manager model; data related to reading at grade level, remediation and social

promotion; obstacles hindering previous turnaround efforts; mitigating factors affecting student achievement; collaborative process to develop Michigan's plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act; intervention models; exit plan for Priority Schools; pattern of feeder schools; increasing clarity of communications related to cycle and expectations; communication between Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget; and Performance Information System data.

X. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

There was Board consensus to reorder the agenda.

There were no Board member comments regarding grant criteria.

XI. PRESENTATION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING STUDENTS (continued)

Mr. Whiston asked if Board members had additional comments related to the presentation earlier in the meeting on State Board of Education Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students.

There were no additional comments.

Mr. Whiston said Mrs. Weiser will propose amended language in the statement, as previously discussed.

Mr. Austin invited public comment prior to the statement and guidance being presented for action at a future Board meeting.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 12:29 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIII. CONSIDER GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education convene in closed session at the request of Brian Whiston, Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as provided in Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye**  
**Fecteau – Aye**  
**Pugh – Aye**  
**Ramos-Montigny – Aye**  
**Straus – Aye**  
**Ulbrich – Aye**  
**Weiser – Aye**  
**Zeile – Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:31 p.m. at which time the Board met in closed session until 1:25 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:35 p.m.

Mrs. McPhee left the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

XV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston asked Deputy Superintendents to introduce employees recently hired by the Michigan Department of Education.

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services, introduced Ms. Evette Atkin, Library of Michigan.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start, introduced Ms. Desiree Hughes, Great Start, Early Childhood Development and Family Education.

Ms. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Ms. Kelli Cross, Education Improvement and Innovation.

XVI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer, Ferndale, Michigan. Mrs. Bauer provided verbal comments and written information on the State Board of Education Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students.

B. Ms. Janet LaVasseur, Augusta, Michigan. Ms. LaVasseur, representing Portage Public Schools, provided verbal comments and written information on the Portage Central High School Community Garden as a Network of Michigan Educators success story.

- C. Mr. Rogelio Landin, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Landin, representing PerformancED, provided verbal comments on the state strategic goals plan and federal initiative alignments.
- D. Mr. LaMar Lemmons, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Lemmons shared verbal comments and a display chart regarding Detroit Public Schools.
- E. Mr. Peter Tchoryk, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Tchoryk provided verbal comments on the State Board of Education Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students.
- F. Ms. Nicole Ellefson, Williamston, Michigan. Ms. Ellefson provided verbal comments on the State Board of Education Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students.
- G. Mr. Reid Ellefson-Frank, Williamston, Michigan. Mr. Ellefson-Frank provided verbal comments regarding his experience in Michigan public schools.
- H. Ms. Mary Starr, Plymouth, Michigan. Ms. Starr, representing Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers, provided verbal comments on the Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers annual report. She shared written information on the National Science Teachers Association 2016 Summer Institute.

XVII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 2:09 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XVIII. PRESENTATION ON EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, presented on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Mr. Whiston said in December of 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) of 1965. He said ESSA provides states with new flexibility in defining their systems of support, assessment and accountability while still keeping a focus on ensuring that every student is exposed to career and college ready standards, rigorous assessments, and that schools and districts are held to meaningful accountability measures and provided with research-based supports. He said the presentation will focus on the general aspects of the ESSA, as well as general timelines and next steps.

Information was provided via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member comments included four district restricting models in state statute no longer required in federal statute, accountability for the achievement of subgroups, reducing reliance on test scores, external factors affecting student achievement, emphasis on what makes schools successful, vision for students the most at-risk, and community involvement and budgetary support for community engagement.

XIX. PRESENTATION ON THE ASSESSMENT LITERACY STANDARDS FOR MICHIGAN

By consensus of the Board, this item was removed due to time constraints.

XX. PRESENTATION ON THE ASSESSMENT INTEGRITY GUIDE

Mr. Andrew Middlestead, Director, Standards and Assessment; and Mr. Jason Kolb, Test Security Specialist, Standards and Assessment; presented the Assessment Integrity Guide.

Mr. Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education's Assessment Integrity Guide is a guidebook for education administrators and teachers around the state to assure they are administering Michigan's assessments in a fair, reliable, and equitable way for students. He said as the transition from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) to the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-Step), and from paper-based to online assessments, makes it necessary to revise the manual to be current with today's assessments.

Information was provided via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member comments included length of public comment period, number of students tested, testing window, online assessments, and number of irregularities.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:47 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XXII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

H. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 9, 2016

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 9, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said he testified before the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, March 7. He said his testimony on Detroit Public Schools legislation focused on lifting the debt, returning decision-making to Detroit residents, and managing the marketplace of all public schools for quality and accessibility.

Mr. Austin said he looks forward to discussions regarding how to organize and finance schools for the whole state.

XXIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- I. Human Resources Report
- J. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships

Grants

- K. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2014-2015 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality - Amendment; \$2,495,107
  - 2. 2015-2016 Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to Priority and Focus Schools - Amendment; \$16,360,500
  - 3. 2015-2016 Mathematics and Science Centers Curriculum and Professional Development Support for the Michigan Merit Curriculum - Initial; Continuation; \$750,000
  - 4. 2015-2016 Michigan STEM Partnership - Amendment; \$450,000
  - 5. 2015-2016 Professional Development Support for Teachers STEM Instruction, Section 99s(5); formerly 99b - Initial; \$250,000
  - 6. 2015-2016 Science Olympiad - Initial; \$128,483



7. 2015-2016 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant - Initial; \$11,239,254
8. 2015-2016 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant - Initial; \$12,250,000
9. 2015-2016 Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants - Amendment; \$2,153,000
10. 2015-2016 Section 35a(6) Targeted Literacy Instruction and Interventions - Initial; \$8,260,380
11. 2015-2016 Evaluation for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program - Amendment; Continuation; \$394,330
12. 2015-2016 Section 22g District/ISD Consolidation Grant - Initial; \$4,999,935
13. 2015-2016 Flint Water Emergency Funds - Initial; \$2,685,000
14. 2015-2016 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) - Initial; Amendment; \$4,273,880
15. 2015-2016 Mental Health and Wellness Commission Funding - Initial; \$235,000
16. 2015-2016 Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education - Amendment; \$340,441
17. 2015-2016 Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education - Amendment; \$1,326,750
18. 2015-2016 Section 31c Public Safety/Gang Prevention Grant - Initial; \$1,000,000

Mr. Whiston provided a verbal report on his testimony before the House Appropriations Committee regarding the Detroit Public Schools reform and rescue bills. He said he reiterated paying off the district's debt, not from the School Aid fund; a locally-elected school board; a local superintendent appointed by that locally-elected school board; and the need for a quality and aligned curriculum.

Mr. Whiston provided a verbal update on his visits to NICE Community School District and Grand Rapids Public Schools, reorganization of the Department, Flint water, release of focus schools that have reduced the achievement gap between high-performing and low-performing students, and testimony on quarterly deficit finance reports.

XXV. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Rick Joseph, the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year, provided his report. Mr. Joseph shared a slide show presentation highlighting his activities during the past month as the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXVI. EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Austin said the Board met in closed session earlier in the day to discuss the annual Evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Approval of the First Addendum to the Agreement Between the Board and the State Superintendent. Mr. Austin said Mr. Whiston began serving as State Superintendent on July 1, 2015.

Mr. Austin reviewed the categories of the evaluation instrument, and said Mr. Whiston received a rating of highly effective. He said the Board members unanimously gave a very positive and strong assessment of Mr. Whiston's performance, emphasizing his strengths in engaging the stakeholder community in beginning and executing a strategic road map lifting education in Michigan through a new dynamic, collaborative and straight-forward way.

Mr. Austin said the Board is offering Mr. Whiston a one-year extension to his agreement with the Board.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the first addendum to the Agreement between the Board and Brian J. Whiston which extends the agreement between the Superintendent and the Board to July 31, 2019.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Whiston thanked the Board for their leadership and partnership. He said it is a team effort between the Board, Department, State Superintendent and stakeholders. He thanked all those involved in lifting education.

XXVII. UPDATE ON TOP 10 IN 10 PROGRESS

Ms. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, provided an update on developing Michigan into a Top 10 Education State in 10 Years.

Mr. Whiston said the Board has approved the guiding principles, goals and strategies for Developing Michigan into a Top 10 Education State in 10 Years. He said regular updates will be provided during Board meetings.

Ms. Sass said stakeholders are working on gathering perspectives and prioritizing strategies and next steps.

XXVIII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Mrs. Kathleen Straus, NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on March 1, 2016, and discussed a draft statement on House Bills 5384-5387 and the 2014-2015 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans.

Statement on House Bills 5384-5387

Dr. Ulbrich provided an update on the State Board of Education Legislative Committee's discussion on House Bills 5384-5387. The draft statement was distributed and Dr. Ulbrich read the draft statement that was proposed for Board action.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on House Bills 5384-5387.**

Mrs. Straus said she would like to add a statement regarding opening and closing of public schools, as adopted by the Board at its February 9, 2016 meeting. Dr. Pugh agreed with Mrs. Straus.

Mrs. Weiser said she voted against the Board's statement on Opening and Closing of Public Schools, and she would vote against the current statement with the proposed amendment.

Dr. Zeile said Mr. LaMar Lemmons provided public comment that Detroit districts should be no different from other Michigan school districts, which would be in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Discussion followed.

**Dr. Pugh moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the draft Statement on House Bills 5384-5387, be amended to include the State Board of Education Statement on Opening and Closing of Public Schools, as adopted at its February 9, 2016 meeting.**

The vote was taken on the motion to amend.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich  
Nays: Weiser, Zeile**

The motion carried.

The vote was taken on the statement, as amended.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich**  
**Nays: Weiser, Zeile**

The motion carried.

The State Board of Education Statement on House Bills 5384-5387 is attached as Exhibit A.

Approval of the 2014-2015 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board's Legislative Committee discussed the 2014-2015 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans which reflects a sampling of school improvement activities across the state. She said the Board is required to submit the report to the Legislature, which summarizes a review of 150 schools designated as Focus schools, randomly selected to participate in a review of their School Improvement Plans for the 2014-2015 school year. She said the report is being recommended to the full Board for approval.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 23, 2016, and submit the report to the Senate and House Committees on Education.**

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Weiser**  
**Abstain: Pugh, Zeile**

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus said the National Association of State Boards of Education Annual Education Policy and Legislative Conference is April 3-5, 2016. She said Board members will attend the conference and also meet with members of Congress.

Mrs. Weiser said she joined Representative Harvey Santana and other state legislators for a Detroit visit including Henry Ford High School (an Education Achievement Authority school), and a local service branch for Michigan Health and Human Services. She said the day emphasized the complexities of children living in poverty who are dependent on social services. When Representative Santana asked former students what could have kept them from dropping out or going to jail, the answers included mentors; caring faculty and staff who understood and helped with the challenges they faced; ending social promotion; and career counseling. She said the school is focused on providing security, building connections and mentorships and that test scores are rising.

XXIX. CONSENT AGENDA

- O. Approval of Criteria for Section 95a and Section 115 for Educator Evaluation Research and Evaluation Activities, \$1,900,000
- P. Approval of Criteria for Section 95a for Educator Evaluation Training, \$12,100,000
- Q. Approval of Criteria for Section 95a for Educator Evaluation for Regional Intermediate School District Staff, \$1,800,000

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

- O. approve the Criteria for Section 95a and Section 115 for Educator Evaluation Research and Evaluation Activities, as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated February 23, 2016;**
- P. approve the Criteria for Section 95a for Educator Evaluation Training, as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated February 23, 2016; and**
- Q. approve the Criteria for Section 95a for Educator Evaluation for Regional Intermediate School District Staff, as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated February 23, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXX. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Fecteau said she met with members of Decoding Dyslexia who are concerned about the third grade reading and retention legislation. She said she invited them to provide public comment to report on successful reading strategies.

Ms. Fecteau said she also met with library media staff regarding the use of Every Student Succeeds Act funding for librarians in schools.

Ms. Fecteau said with regard to Detroit Public Schools, there is a wide diversity of strong opinions and no consensus.

Mrs. Straus suggested that the Board hold a future meeting at the Michigan School for the Deaf.

Dr. Pugh said it is important to support community conversations that engage students and parents at all local schools.

Dr. Pugh said parents with high levels of stress that are poverty driven impact the educational achievement of children, and topics addressing this should be added to future agendas.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said the Committee to Honor Cesar Chavez will host social justice activities on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids. She said the theme is education and Kathleen Straus will be honored.

XXXI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Whiston asked the Board to notify him or a member of the agenda planning committee with suggested agenda topics for future Board meetings. He provided the upcoming State Board of Education meeting dates.

XXXII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 12, 2016, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Wednesday, May 18, 2016, Board Retreat (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, June 14, 2016, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXXIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary

**State Board of Education Statement on  
House Bills 5384-5387**

The State Board of Education opposes House Bills 5384–5387 and refers the State Legislature to the State Board of Education’s previous statement on Senate Bill 710. This statement encouraged the Legislature to address the following missing elements from Senate Bill 710:

- Authorize an elected Community School Board to hire the Superintendent for the Community School District at the earliest election possible.
- Elimination of the debt of the qualified School District without extracting resources from the State School Aid Fund.
- Establish set lengths of terms for specific seats on the Community District School board, so candidates know before the election the exact length of service on the Board.

The State Board of Education also refers the State Legislature to the Board’s previous statement on Opening and Closing of Public Schools. The State Board of Education urges the Legislature to pass legislation directing the Michigan Department of Education to create a mechanism overseeing the opening and closing of public schools to ensure quality, accessibility and financial stability.

Adopted March 8, 2016