

## **MINUTES**

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 5, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

Present: 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  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny  
Ms. Nikki Snyder

Absent: Ms. Sheila A. Alles, Chairperson  
Mr. Josh Neyhart, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Ryan Ray, President, Ray & Associates, Inc.  
Mr. Mike Collins, Regional Search Associate, Ray & Associates, Inc.  
Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, Michigan Department  
of Education

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Ulbrich, acting as Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

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

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Fecteau, McMillin, Pritchett, Ramos-Montigny, Snyder,  
Ulbrich**

**Absent: Pugh, Tilley**

**The motion carried.**

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Dr. Ulbrich asked that the members of the State Board of Education be introduced. Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education, and guests were introduced.

Dr. Ulbrich asked audience members to complete public participation forms if they wish to offer comments during the public participation portion of the meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dr. Ulbrich said the selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, also known as the State Superintendent, is one of the most important duties of the State Board of Education. Dr. Ulbrich thanked Ms. Sheila Alles for serving as the Interim State Superintendent since the passing of former State Superintendent Brian Whiston in May 2018.

Dr. Ulbrich said 53 applications were received for the position of State Superintendent, and two people withdrew. She said all candidates requested confidentiality. She said the hope is to identify candidates today for interviews and name them publicly at the end of the meeting.

Dr. Ulbrich introduced Mr. Ryan Ray, President, Ray & Associates, Inc.; and Mr. Mike Collins, Regional Search Associate, Ray & Associates, Inc.

Dr. Ulbrich asked for a motion to meet in closed session to review applications of individuals who have requested confidentiality, as provided in Michigan Compiled Laws 15.268, Section 8(f), of the Open Meetings Act.

**Ms. Fecteau moved, seconded by Mr. McMillin, that the State Board of Education meeting in closed session to review applications of individuals who have requested confidentiality, as provided in Michigan Compiled Laws 15.268, Sec. 8(f), of the Open Meetings Act.**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

V. RECESS

The Board recessed at 10:17 a.m. at which time the Board met in closed session until 1:45 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session in the Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room at 1:55 p.m.

Dr. Pugh arrived at 10:26 a.m., and Ms. Tilley arrived at 10:47 a.m.

VI. DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

Dr. Ulbrich thanked all who applied to be the next State Superintendent of Michigan and showed an interest in the future of education in Michigan. She said there were many highly-qualified candidates, and Board members reviewed every application.

Dr. Ulbrich said five candidates will be invited to interview.

**Dr. Pugh moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education invite the following five applicants to interview as semi-finalist candidates for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction: Brenda Cassellius, immediate past Minnesota Commissioner of Education; Jeanice Swift, Superintendent, Ann Arbor Public Schools; G. Eric Thomas, Chief Turnaround Officer, Georgia Board of Education; Randy Liepa, Superintendent, Wayne RESA; and Michael Rice, Superintendent, Kalamazoo Public Schools.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Dr. Ulbrich said she is proposing that the Board conduct first interviews on April 22 at 11:30 a.m. for two candidates; and April 24 at 9:30 a.m. for three candidates. She said she is proposing May 7 at 9:30 a.m. for second interviews and a decision.

**Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Dr. Pugh, that the State Board of Education convene Special Meetings on April 22, April 24, and May 7, 2019, for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. McMillin noted that all interviews will be open to the public.

**Mr. McMillin moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education designate Board President Casandra Ulbrich to work with the search firm to develop a list of interview questions.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There were no comments during public participation.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 9, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- B. Monday, April 22, 2019 (11:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- C. Wednesday, April 24, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- D. Tuesday, May 7, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Special Meeting
- E. Tuesday, May 14, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- F. Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Board Retreat

IX. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

There were no additional comments by State Board of Education members.

X. ADJOURNMENT

**Dr. Pugh moved, seconded by Ms. Snyder, that the State Board of Education meeting of April 5, 2019, be adjourned.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary