

# MINUTES

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

December 13, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

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

Also Present: Mrs. Tracy Horodyski, 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year

Absent: Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the meeting to order at 9:51 a.m.

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

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

The vote was taken on the motion to approve the agenda and order of priority.

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

**The motion carried.**

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Whiston asked that newly hired staff members of the Michigan Department of Education be introduced.

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations, introduced Ms. Pamela Baker from the Office of School Support Services.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent of P-20 System and Student Transitions, introduced Ms. Amy Hurth from the Office of Special Education.

Mr. Whiston asked audience members to introduce themselves. Mr. Whiston welcomed Judge Walter Shapero, the husband of Mrs. Kathleen Straus.

Dr. Pugh arrived at 9:53 a.m.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston thanked Mrs. Kathleen Straus and Mr. John Austin, who are completing their terms of office on the State Board of Education. He said Mrs. Straus is completing 24 years of service, and Mr. Austin is completing 16 years of service. He said they will be honored during the meeting and at a reception immediately following the meeting.

Mr. Whiston thanked Chief Deputy Superintendent Norma Jean Sass, who will be retiring shortly. He said she has worked tirelessly on an actionable plan to elevate Michigan to a Top 10 education state.

Mr. Whiston wished a joyful holiday season to those present.

V. A. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING JOHN C. AUSTIN

B. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING KATHLEEN N. STRAUS

Mr. Whiston said John C. Austin and Kathleen Straus, esteemed Board members, are concluding their terms of office on the State Board of Education. He said Mrs. Straus has been on the Board for 24 years, holding the office of President for 16 years, and she was also Secretary and National Association of State Boards of Education Delegate. He said Mr. Austin has served on the Board for 16 years, holding the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Mr. Whiston said John and Kathleen are extremely dedicated public servants who have made sacrifices for the betterment of public education. He said there will be a reception honoring them immediately following the meeting.

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution honoring John C. Austin, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 29, 2016,**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Whiston presented the framed resolution to Mr. Austin.

Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Whiston and the Board. He said education is where people come together across divides of race and culture and learn to work together as human beings. He said education is also where people hone critical thinking skills that they need to become discerning citizens of a democracy. He said he hopes he and Mrs. Straus were helpful and encouraging to educators and staff across the state. He said he is also thankful for Department staff who do the work behind the scenes. He said it has been an honor to serve the people of Michigan.

The resolution honoring John Austin is attached as Exhibit A.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution honoring Kathleen N. Straus, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 29, 2016,**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Austin presented the framed resolution to Mrs. Straus. Mr. Austin said he knew of Kathleen's legend before he joined the Board. He said she had been fighting for social justice, racial justice and education for all. He said she is a champion for public education and a friend, role model and mentor to all. He thanked Mrs. Straus for her service to the citizens of Michigan.

Mrs. Straus said she has been, and is still, a staunch supporter of a strong public education. She said it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Board for so many years and to meet so many wonderful

people in the schools, and the wonderful Department staff who are unsung heroes behind the scenes. She said she is thankful for the support and friendships she enjoys.

The resolution honoring Kathleen Straus is attached as Exhibit B.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:05 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

VIII. PRESENTATION BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR AGUSTIN V. ARBULU

Mr. Agustin V. Arbulu, Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights; and Ms. Vicki Levensgood, Communications Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights; presented.

Mr. Whiston welcomed Mr. Arbulu and Ms. Levensgood, who shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member comments included the effect of media on the number of incidents reported, proactive approach, Native American mascots inventory update and moratorium on spending to fund such items, current bullying incidents, bringing incidents to light rather than suppressing them, and policy decisions with implications that perpetuate the problem.

IX. PRESENTATION ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) BY EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ms. Samantha White, Ms. Taylor Murray and Ms. Katie Knox, Students for Females in STEM, East Lansing High School, presented.

Mr. Whiston said the student presentation will focus on the activities of the group they formed at East Lansing High School – Students for Females in STEM.

Information was shared via a PowerPoint presentation.

Board member comments included online courses, advocacy on the national level regarding STEM, and involvement with the Michigan Department of Education.

X. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 IN 10

Ms. Norma Jean Sass, Chief Deputy Superintendent; presented on the Top 10 in 10.

Mr. Whiston said Department of Education staff continue to work with stakeholders to develop Michigan into a Top 10 education state within 10 years, and share information at monthly State Board of Education meetings. He said Ms. Sass will share information on developing the plan and moving the work forward.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#). A document, Top 10 in Review, was distributed.

Mr. Whiston left the meeting at 11:15 a.m. to attend a meeting with Governor Snyder. Mr. Austin chaired the meeting in Mr. Whiston's absence.

Board member comments included binders of Top 10 information for Board members, closing the gap faced by African American males, learner-centered supports, parent engagement meetings in the evening rather than the daytime, need for a timeline of anticipated goals, Multi-Tiered System of Support, clarification of goals to raise student achievement across the board including groups with achievement gaps, putting it into practice from a teacher's perspective and personalized learning for teachers, and participation in all grade levels.

XI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – EILEEN WEISER

Mrs. Weiser said the Senate Education Committee is convening a hearing on House Bills 5409-5417 regarding seclusion and restraint. She said the hearing is at 12:00 p.m. during the State Board of Education meeting. She said she will circulate a statement of support that Board members may sign, if they choose, and it will be delivered to the hearing.

XII. PRESENTATION ON EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PLAN

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of Educator, Student, and School Supports, presented on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan.

Mr. Whiston said the presentation provides an overview of the ESSA Forums that the Michigan Department of Education has been conducting across the state. He said the presentation outlines the ongoing work with additional indicators in the accountability system along with the transparency dashboard. He said aligning these indicators to key areas of the Top 10 in 10 plan ensures measurement and reporting of elements critical to Michigan's success as a state.

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

Board member comments included evaluation of the effectiveness of a school or the community, student engagement measures of dropping out of school or student mobility, timeline for submission of Michigan's ESSA plan, school quality school community measure of wrap-around services, use of transparency dashboard to elevate transparency, support for schools to partner with communities, and educator engagement and professional learning opportunities.

XIII. RECESS

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Mr. Whiston rejoined the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN C. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston welcomed Mr. Tom McMillin and Ms. Sheila Alles, who were attending the meeting. He said Mr. McMillin will begin his term as a member of the State Board of Education on January 1, 2017. He said Ms. Alles will be joining the Michigan Department of Education as the Chief Deputy Superintendent when Ms. Norma Jean Sass retires.

XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Nino Rodrigues, representing Latino Leaders for Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) and MiALMA, Lansing, Michigan, provided verbal comments regarding student behavior and school culture.
2. Guillermo Z. Lopez, representing LLEAD, provided verbal comments on hate and bias incidents and the Every Student Succeeds Act Plan for Michigan.
3. CSI Class from Grand Blanc, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students representing City School, provided comments on assessment.
4. Peter, Sydney, and Jacq Kai Tchoryk from Ann Arbor, Michigan, provided comments on guidance for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students.
5. Linda Cypret-Kilbourne of Marshall, Michigan, representing Michigan Coalition Against Racism in Sports Media, AIM Great Lakes, and Native American Student Community Organization, provided comments and written information regarding Native American themed sports mascots, logos and nicknames in Michigan schools.

6. Kelley Senkowski, representing the Michigan Association for Gifted Children, provided verbal comments and written information regarding the needs of gifted children in Michigan.
7. Tracy Foster, representing Benson's Adventures in Michigan, provided books and comments on her Michigan-based children's book.
8. Mike Flanagan, Lansing, Michigan, provided comments thanking John Austin and Kathleen Straus for their leadership on the State Board of Education.
9. Elizabeth Bauer, Ferndale, Michigan, provided comments thanking John Austin and Kathleen Straus for their leadership on the State Board of Education.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:58 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XVII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

Dr. Ulbrich asked if there is a legal challenge related to the Criteria for Section 152b Institutional Nonpublic Schools Reimbursement Grant for Mandated Health and Safety Costs. Mr. Whiston said the Supreme Court chose not to hear the case.

Mrs. Straus asked for clarification regarding Section 61c(6) Support for Mechatronics Program and Updating Mechatronics Program Equipment. Dr. Ulbrich said mechatronics includes electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and all the mechanisms that make up electronics.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:00 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

H. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 15, 2016

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 15, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said he is using his final President's Report to reflect on things the Board has done together. He said he is proud of bipartisan efforts in teacher quality, high standards, No Child Left Behind Act subgroups to educate all children, high school reform, choice and charters for quality options, Lieutenant Governor Cherry Commission for Higher Education and Economic Growth, closing gaps, anti-bullying, Native American mascots, seclusion and restraint, universal education.

Mr. Austin said he is proud of the Board's proactive approach and encourages the Board to find as much common group as possible to do the right things. He said education is the way to close gaps.

XXI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

I. Human Resources Report

Grants

J. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2016-2017 Section 35a(5) Additional Instructional Time and Interventions - Amendment; \$15,281,145
2. 2016-2017 Child Care and Development Block Grant - Initial; \$14,871,200
3. 2016-2017 Section 32p Grants - Initial; \$2,200,000
4. 2016-2017 Section 61b Planning Grants for Career and Technical Education Early/Middle College Programs - Initial; \$500,000
5. 2016-2017 Race to The Top-Early Learning Challenge - Initial, Continuation; \$14,911,493
6. 2016-2017 21st Century Community Learning Center - Initial; Continuation; \$37,096,773



7. 2016-2017 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Indicators Grant - Initial; \$250,000
8. 2016-2017 Mathematics and Science Centers - Initial; \$1,999,972
9. 2016-2017 Section 21g: Competency-based Reporting Pilot Grant - Initial; \$500,000
10. 2016-2017 Section 35a(6) - The Michigan Education Corps Grant - Initial; \$1,000,000
11. 2016-2017 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Regional Intermediate School District (ISD) Partnership Grant - Initial; Continuation; \$465,310
12. 2016-2017 McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant - Amendment; \$1,737,228
13. 2016-2017 Section 41 Bilingual Grant - Initial; \$1,200,000
14. 2016-2017 Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs - Amendment; \$428,482,710
15. 2016-2017 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Programs - Amendment; \$3,540,158
16. 2016-2017 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Programs - Amendment; \$3,556,773
17. 2016-2017 Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 - Prevention and Intervention for Neglected and Delinquent - Initial; \$6,860,082
18. 2016-2017 Title III, English Language Acquisition Program - Initial; Amendment; \$9,395,026
19. 2016-2017 Title III, Immigrant Student Grant - Initial; \$1,658,149
20. 2016-2017 Flint Declaration of Emergency Grants: Section 11s(2) - School Social Workers - Initial; \$975,000
21. 2016-2017 Flint Declaration of Emergency Grants: Section 401 – TEFAP Disaster Commodities Logistics - Initial; \$99,007
22. 2016-2017 Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education - Initial; \$373,182
23. 2016-2017 Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Planning, Local Education Agencies & Local Communities - Initial; \$298,083

Mr. Whiston shared information on the Quarterly Report to the Legislature on Deficit Districts, which he presented on December 13, 2016. He also reported on his recent school visits, and thanked Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus

for their service on the State Board of Education and service to the community long before and after they were members of the Board.

Mr. Ruff arrived at 2:10 p.m.

XXII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Tracy Horodyski, 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Horodyski shared information on her visit to Ganiard Elementary School in Mt. Pleasant, and offered the Board an opportunity to decorate lunch bags for Kids Food Basket, a charity on the west side of the state.

XXIII. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPING A POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPULSION OF CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 IN EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE PROGRAMS

Mr. Whiston said at the September 14, 2016 Board meeting, staff presented the draft Statement and Guidance on Developing a Policy for Prevention of Suspension and/or Expulsion of Children Birth Through Age 8 in Early Education and Care Programs. He said following the Board meeting, the statement and guidance was released for public comment, revisions were made, and Board approval is requested.

Ms. Kaitlin Ferrick, Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office, reviewed the comments that were received and how they were incorporated into the policy document.

Dr. Pugh said children currently undergo multiple developmental screenings, and she asked if data could be accessed among health providers to eliminate multiple screenings. Ms. Ferrick said there is a separate project that is working on that issue.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Statement and Guidance for Developing a Policy for Prevention of Suspension and/or Expulsion of Children Birth Through Age 8 in Early Education and Care Programs, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 29, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XXIV. APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Mr. Whiston said the Office of Special Education has received requests from organizations asking that their Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) designees be changed. He said the Board is being asked to approve the changes.

Ms. Joanne Winkelman, Supervisor, Program Accountability Unit, Office of Special Education, provided information on the proposed changes.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny asked if there were concerns. Ms. Winkelman said there were no problems. She said changes are needed due to people changing jobs, and organizations designating alternates.

Mrs. Straus stressed the need for diversity, and Ms. Winkelman said that is a current topic of discussion by SEAC members.

Dr. Pugh suggested the addition of a member with a public health background in the area of lead poisoning.

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the changes to organizational, member-at-large and Ex-Officio representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 29, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

XXV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Delegate; Mrs. Kathleen Straus NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee; and Mrs. Eileen Weiser, Education Commission of the States; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said House Bills 5409-5417 regarding seclusion and restraint were reported to the floor from the Senate Education Committee. He provided an update on the status of pending legislation.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Legislative Committee discussed Senate Bill 567 regarding the post Labor Day start date for schools. She said the Committee did not propose a statement, but is inviting discussion by the full Board, if desired. Dr. Ulbrich said she does not believe the legislation is moving during this session, so it does not seem to be urgent that a Board statement be adopted at this time. Ms. Ramos-Montigny and Mrs. Weiser said they agree with Dr. Ulbrich.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said NASBE is asking for delegates to the Public Education Positions Committee and Governmental Affairs Committee, and Board members should contact Ms. Ramos-Montigny if they are interested in serving.

Mrs. Straus she does not have a report on the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Mrs. Weiser said the Education Commission of the States has an Every Student Succeeds Act Thinkers Meeting, and a draft paper will be released the week of December 18, 2016. She said there may be reinterpretations of the regulations after January.

Mr. Whiston said the Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission met on December 12 and areas under discussion include governance, school accountability, teacher preparation and school funding. He said recommendations are anticipated at the end of January or beginning of February.

#### XXVI. CONSENT AGENDA

- N. Approval of Criteria for Section 61c(6) Support for a Mechatronics Program and Updating Mechatronics Program Equipment, \$200,000
- O. Approval of Criteria for Section 152b Institutional Nonpublic Schools Reimbursement Grant for Mandated Health and Safety Costs, \$2,500,000

**Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- N. approve the Criteria for Section 61c(6), Support for a Mechatronics Program and Updating Mechatronics Program Equipment, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 29, 2016; and**
- O. approve the Criteria for Section 152b: Institutional Nonpublic Schools Reimbursement Grant for Mandated Health and Safety Costs, as attached to the Superintendent's memo dated November 29, 2016.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

**The motion carried.**

**XXVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**

Mrs. Straus thanked her colleagues for their kindness and bipartisanship. She said she is delighted that her husband, Walter Shapero, was able to join her at the Board meeting. She said she is grateful to her colleagues on the State Board of Education for their commitment and friendship, and she has learned so much from the Michigan Teachers of the Year, who have been seated at the Board table.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said she will miss Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus, and she is thankful for what they have done in her life and career.

Dr. Pugh said she would share an educator survey with Mr. Whiston.

Dr. Pugh said she appreciated the public service of Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus, and she has learned much from them.

Mr. Whiston said Mr. Austin graciously requested that today's celebration focus on Mrs. Straus. Dr. Ulbrich provided details on the Kathleen Straus Scholarship that has been established at Wayne State University. Mrs. Straus said she is very honored by the scholarship and those that have made contributions.

Dr. Zeile said he has been treated with acceptance and made to feel part of the Board process, and he is thankful to Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus for their kindness.

Mrs. Weiser said issues were resolved well, thoughtfully, and cohesively. She thanked Mrs. Straus and Mr. Austin for their part in the wonderful journey.

Mr. Whiston said Board members are asked to contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

**XXVIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- A. Tuesday, January 10, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- B. Tuesday, February 14, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting
- C. Tuesday, March 14, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Regular Meeting

XXIX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 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

RESOLUTION HONORING

JOHN C. AUSTIN

WHEREAS, John C. Austin was elected to the State Board of Education in November 2000 for an eight-year term from January 1, 2001 - January 1, 2009; and subsequently was re-elected for a second eight-year term from January 1, 2009 – January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, John earned a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College in Economics and Political Science; and

WHEREAS, John is currently serving his third term as President of the State Board of Education, and previously served as Vice President and Treasurer, as elected by his peers; and

WHEREAS, John serves as a Gubernatorial appointee to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission, and previously was a Gubernatorial appointee to the Education Commission of the States and Midwestern Higher Education Compact; and

WHEREAS, John is the Director of the Michigan Economic Center, is a non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, and a Lecturer on the Economy at the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, John previously held the position of Executive Director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan; and

WHEREAS, John was Policy Director for the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth and the Michigan Postsecondary Credential Attainment Workgroup; and

WHEREAS, John co-chaired the State Board of Education's Ensuring Excellent Educators Task Force ensuring teacher quality, preparation and professional development; and

WHEREAS, John is known for his passion for education, his dedication toward the goal of increasing postsecondary degrees and credentials, and his belief that Michigan should be a welcoming state where all people are valued and treated with respect; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education extends to John C. Austin its highest regard and heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and expertise he has brought to the children of Michigan, their parents, and the millions of Michigan citizens whose lives have been enhanced through his efforts; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education expresses its fervent wish that John C. Austin continues to enjoy many rewarding experiences with family, friends and colleagues.

Adopted December 13, 2016

RESOLUTION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS

WHEREAS, Kathleen N. Straus was first elected to the State Board of Education in 1992, re-elected in 2000, and re-elected again in 2008, to fulfill three eight-year terms spanning January 1, 1993 to January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Hunter College, and pursued graduate studies at American University, Columbia University, New York University and Wayne State University; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen served seven two-year terms as President of the State Board of Education, and previously served as Secretary and National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Delegate, as elected by her peers; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen has served as Staff Director of the Senate Education Committee, Director of Governmental Relations for the Michigan Association of School Boards, and President of the Center for Creative Studies; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen has served NASBE in several capacities including Central Area Director, Restructuring High Schools Study Group, Middle Schools Study Group, Study Group on Civic Learning and Ethical Behavior, Study Group on Statewide Assessment Systems, and Governmental Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen was a Michigan representative to the Education Commission of the States, and a delegate to the Congressional Conference on Civic Education; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen was President of the League of Women Voters of Detroit and a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Michigan through which she was heavily involved with the Michigan Constitutional Convention of 1963; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen was Executive Director of People and Responsible Organizations for Detroit, a community-wide coalition of business, labor and civic groups and schools established to assure that court-ordered desegregation would be implemented smoothly and peacefully; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen served on numerous Boards including the Michigan State Board for Public Junior and Community Colleges, Detroit Science Center, ArtServe Michigan, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Michigan Women's Studies Association, and Communities in Schools – Detroit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education extends to Kathleen N. Straus its highest regard and heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and expertise she has brought to the children of Michigan, their parents, and the millions of Michigan citizens whose lives have been enhanced through her efforts; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education expresses its fervent wish that Kathleen N. Straus continues to enjoy many rewarding experiences with her family, friends and colleagues.

Adopted December 13, 2016