

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH
JANUARY 2005

WHEREAS, providing for the education of Michigan's school-aged children is a fundamental duty of state government, as stated in Article VIII, Section 2, of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963; and

WHEREAS, locally-elected school boards play an important and vital role in a representative democracy, and decisions made by local boards of education directly influence instruction in Michigan's public schools; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,100 local school board members across Michigan demonstrate their dedication to education through this grass roots exercise of democracy in action; and

WHEREAS, the service of these committed men and women represents countless hours invested in deliberating important decisions about curriculum, budgets, personnel, and other matters that affect parents, students, teachers, and citizens throughout Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these decisions also set direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global 21st Century knowledge economy, and ultimately affect 1.7 million Michigan children and more than \$11.5 billion in education investments; and

WHEREAS, the education of our youth is the foundation upon which the economic, social and intellectual capital of our state is built; and

WHEREAS, local school board members display to the students they serve the high character of civic duty and responsibility that all citizens should engage; and

WHEREAS, our local community schools, under the direction of local school boards, are the true Statue of Liberty of this great country of ours - taking the tired, the hungry, the poor, the huddled masses; children who speak English as a second language; and children with disabilities, and giving them hope and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, School Board Member Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the thousands of men and women who champion the cause of public education as board members, their schools, and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme – School Boards Build Brighter Futures – reflects the efforts of these board members who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts and preserving the core of our democratic nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education declares January 2005 as Local School Board Member Recognition Month in Michigan, and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize our state's dedicated school board members.

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction



Adopted September 14, 2004