



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**

**State Fire Safety Board Regular Meeting**

CRA Sun Room – 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906

Thursday, October 20, 2022

1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Julie Bulson, Representing Hospital Administrators  
Steven Densmore, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Randall Halstead, Liquefied Petroleum or Flammable Compressed Gas Industry  
Kenneth Herbart, Chair, Representing Registered Architects  
Ruth Ann Knapp, Representing School Board Administrators/Members  
Andrew Marceau, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Tavis Millerov, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Patrick Phelan, Representing the Professional Engineers  
Dylan Rogers, Representing Places of Public Assemblage  
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal/Director, Ex-Officio Member  
Brian Talvensaari, Representing Fire Departments in the Upper Peninsula  
Robert Williams, Representing the Building Trades  
Ora Wolf, Representing the Flammable Liquids Industry

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Timothy Dockerty, Representing Owners of Adult Foster Care Facilities  
Jeramie Morris, Vice Chair, Representing the Chemical Manufacturing Industry  
Richard Prestage, Representing the Nursing Home Industry  
David Williams, Representing the Licensed Electrical Contractors

**OTHER BUREAU ATTENDEES:**

Hollie Metts, LARA/BFS, Executive Secretary  
Joe Forro, LARA/BFS, Operations Chief  
Pat Riney, LARA/BFS, Plan Review Manager  
Jordyn Hanses, LARA/BFS, Student Assistant

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Meagher, Certified Fire Protection Specialist (Retired)  
Brian Smilnak, Wakley Associates, Inc.  
Ryan Vranesich, Superintendent, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
Trevor Kessell, Principal, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
Nagwa Ali, Assistant Principal, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
Abdulfta Yahia Assistant Principal, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
MaryAnn Cyr, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
Barbara Potter, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools  
Elfi Hervey, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

The State Fire Safety Board meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. Chairman Kenneth Herbart lead all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by executive secretary, Hollie Metts. A quorum was determined present.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**22-10-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Steven Densmore** and seconded by **Board Member Randy Halstead** to approve the meeting agenda for October 20, 2022, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**22-10-02**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Ruth Ann Knapp** and seconded by **Board Member Julie Bulson** to approve the meeting minutes from September 15, 2022, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Bob Meagher, Certified Fire Protection Specialist (Retired)** again shared his concerns with the board regarding sprinkler impairments and his ongoing frustrations with industry. He provided handouts to the board prior to the meeting (forwarded by board secretary Hollie Metts) with information regarding ISO surveys and fire sprinkler reports, as well as information he feels should be left on-side at all buildings equipped with fire sprinkler systems and information from the New York Fire Prevention Department. Mr. Meagher thanked the board for their time over the years.

**Ryan Vranesich, Superintendent, Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools** gave an overview of the situation they are facing (increasing enrollment, outdated school facilities, funding challenges, etc.) and the research that went into their decision to pursue an air supported dome facility for the high school gymnasium in lieu of a brick-and-mortar facility. He thanked the board for their time and consideration.

**V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

- a. **Fire Prevention Month:** The Fire Marshal shared that Governor Whitmer proclaimed October 2022 Fire Prevention Month in Michigan. Every year, the second week of October is recognized as Fire Prevention Week and this year happens to be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He gave an overview on the fire prevention activities that have taken place throughout the month of October, to include reading to elementary school aged children around the state, walking students to school with the Royal Oak Fire Department (a local fire prevention week tradition), and a joint press conference with the National Fire Protection Association, the Phoenix Burn Society and Domino's pizza hosted at the Flint Fire Department. He also shared the great work that MI Prevention has done to prepare the "tool kit" created to assist fire departments with fire safety education in their communities and disbursing smoke alarms to fire departments for local residential installations.
- b. **Fatal Fire Stats:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an update on the 2022 fire fatalities. To date, there have been 94 fire related deaths in 79 fires. He discussed the trends MI

Prevention has identified and stressed the importance of having working smoke alarms and fire escape planning.

- c. **2022 Fireworks Safety Fees:** The Fire Marshal discussed the 2022 fireworks safety fees generated from the sales of consumer fireworks and how it provides funding for firefighter training.
- d. **Firefighting Foam Training Video:** Staff continue to record the training rosters for this mandatory training, which were due on July 1, 2022. On October 15, 2022, with the help of the Michigan Townships Association, a third letter was sent to the township supervisors to try to reach fire departments who have not yet complied with this training requirement.
- e. **Fire Department Survey:** In addition to the firefighting foam training video, another component to the letter that was sent to the townships was a fire department survey. This survey is intended to help the bureau update the Fire Service Directory and get a better understanding of the staffing and recruiting and retention challenges that fire departments currently face. To date, the bureau has received a total of 266 responses to the survey.
- f. **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** To date, 134 fire departments have not submit fire reports at all this year. This is a mandatory requirement that ultimately has an impact on fiscal year county funding for departments who do not report in the NFIRS system.

**VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier provided the board with updates on the following proposed bills.

**a. Schools:**

- [HB 5561](#) (Radios)
- [HB 6319](#) (Fire Drills)
- [HB 5701](#) (Door Locking/Barricade Devices)
- [HB 6331](#) (School Construction and Lockdowns)

**b. Tanks:**

- [HB 6421](#) (Software/Reporting)
- [SB 1169](#) (New Tanks)

**c. Fireworks**

- [HB 5333](#) (Fireworks bonds)
- [SB 5](#) (Fireworks)
- HB [4888](#), [4889](#), [4890](#), [4891](#), and [4892](#) (Fireworks package)
- [HB 5063](#) & [SB 355](#) (Fireworks/Juneteenth)

**d. Residential/Construction**

- [HB 6304](#) (automatic sprinklers)

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Fireworks Injuries Report:** Board Member Julie Bulson shared that the fireworks injuries report will be available by the next meeting.

**22-10-03**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Robert Williams** and seconded by **Board Member Andrew Marceau** to table the fireworks injuries report until the December meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- b. **Appeal Decision on Modification Denial (#PR2022 BFS002249):** Chairman Herbart gave an overview to the board of the appeal hearing that took place in the morning at 10:00 am. There was some discussion among the board members before calling for the vote.

Total Votes: Uphold 12, Deny 0, Abstain 1, Absent 4. The board rules to uphold the State Fire Marshal's decision to deny the modification request. The board's decision will be mailed to the appellant via certified mail.

**IX. STATE FIRE SAFETY BOARD COMMENT:**

None.

**X. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

**22-10-04**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Dylan Rogers** and seconded by **Board Member Robert Williams** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting:**

Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Location: CRA Sun Room - 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906

Agenda Items Due: Thursday, November 17, 2022 by 5:00 pm

**APPROVED:** State Fire Safety Board Regular Meeting 12/1/22 (Motion #22-12-02)