

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting as Allowed by
Public Act 254 of 2020

March 9, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Present: Dr. Michael F. Rice, Chairperson
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, President
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Vice President
Ms. Tiffany Tilley, Secretary
Mr. Tom McMillin, Treasurer
Dr. Judith Pritchett, NASBE Delegate, SBE Legislative Committee
Ms. Ellen Cogen Lipton, SBE Legislative Committee Chairperson
Ms. Nikki Snyder, SBE Legislative Committee
Mr. Jason Strayhorn, SBE Legislative Committee
Ms. Brandy Johnson, representing Governor Gretchen Whitmer, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Owen Bondono, 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Dr. Rice said due to the COVID-19 national emergency and in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020, the State Board of Education Regular and Committee of the Whole meeting is being convened with remote access technology.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that Discussion and Action on the Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic for the 2020-2021 Academic School Year be added to the agenda following Item A – Educational Updates Related to COVID-19.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Absent During Vote
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. Strayhorn, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rice said in accordance with the board’s by-laws an opportunity for public comment will be provided before a potential vote on the Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic for the 2020-2021 Academic School Year.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Rice asked that the members of the State Board of Education be introduced. Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced the members of the State Board of Education.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:39 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

V. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rice called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

VI. EDUCATIONAL UPDATES RELATED TO COVID-19

Dr. Rice shared information on a variety of policy issues affecting prekindergarten through 12th grade public education during the pandemic. He provided statistics related to the pandemic. He said currently rates are flattening and vaccinations are becoming available.

Dr. Rice provided an update on modalities of instruction in local school districts; federally funded grants to build literacy skills, the federal assessment waiver request, waivers associated with state summative assessments and high-stakes accountability measures, and providing interventions and supports for children.

Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

VII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 9:48 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION ON WAIVERS ASSOCIATED WITH STATE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND HIGH-STAKES ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES IN A PANDEMIC FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

This item was added to the agenda.

Dr. Rice said last week the board's legislative committee voted unanimously to approve the writing of a resolution by staff for consideration of the full state board of education regarding urging of the state legislature to waive state summative assessments and related high-stakes accountability requirements.

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, projected the draft resolution onto the screen.

Ms. Ellen Lipton, Chairperson of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee, said the committee had a thorough discussion that occupied the bulk of its meeting. She said it is a time sensitive issue that received unanimous approval by the committee to bring to the full board. Dr. Ulbrich read the draft resolution into the record.

Ms. Snyder moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education approve the Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic for the 2021-2021 Academic School Year, as presented during the State Board of Education meeting on March 9, 2021.

Mr. McMillin said the final resolution statement is the most important, and he supports it. He said he has concerns regarding the social emotional clause because home determines values. He said people need to be equipped to handle social emotional needs. He said he will support the resolution since the final statement is the action item.

Dr. Ulbrich said state summative assessments should not be given during a pandemic when some students are remote and some are in-person and the tests cannot be administered to all students appropriately. She said the tests cannot be administered remotely and accurately so comparisons among school districts would be using flawed data that lack validity and reliability. She said benchmark assessments are more appropriate, because they can be administered appropriately in a variety of ways. She said they safeguard the time and attention for students and educators, allow for rapid results, and ensure that children's social and emotional wellbeing and academic growth are priorities. She said she is supportive of the resolution.

Dr. Pritchett said she agrees with Dr. Ulbrich. She said parents should be added to the first paragraph to acknowledge their partnership. She said parents have said please don't test.

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Lipton, that the Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic for the 2021-2021 Academic School Year be amended to add "parents" following students in the first paragraph of the resolution.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion as amended.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Schneider said no one asked to offer public comment on this agenda item.

The Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic for the 2020-2021 Academic School Year is attached as Exhibit A.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:07 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

X. UPDATE ON SUPPLEMENTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations, presented the Update on Supplemental for Fiscal Year 2021 and Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Dr. Rice said information will be shared on the supplemental for the current year and the budget for the upcoming year. He said it is an informational presentation that does not require board action.

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

Board member comments included tie-barring legislation to budget bills, funding contingent on offering 20 hours of in-person learning to all students, making sure people survive, public education and public health should not be in competition, communities of color disproportionately affected and widening of the gap, Title I funding formula to be used, doctors urging in-person learning to benefit physical and mental health, lives lost to suicide during the pandemic, infusion of funds and guidance to be provided, and the timeline for the governor's action on the supplemental budget.

XI. PRESENTATION ON TOP 10 STRATEGIC EDUCATION PLAN – GOAL TO IMPROVE EARLY LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT

Ms. Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Paula Daniels, Director, Office of Educational Supports; and Ms. Shelly Proebstle, Interim Literacy Manager, Office of Educational Supports; presented on the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan – Goal to Improve Early Literacy Achievement.

Dr. Rice said the monthly presentation on the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan will highlight the goal to improve literacy achievement and will include data associated with the goal. He said it is an informational presentation that does not require board action.

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

Board member comments included great opportunities and diversity of programs making a difference in Michigan, literacy website provides opportunities for struggling readers to access resources at their level, expanded partnerships, and data showing improvement.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XIII. VOTE TO CONVENE CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ANNUAL EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (STATE SUPERINTENDENT)

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that the State Board of Education convene in closed session at the request of Dr. Michael Rice, 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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:26 a.m., at which time the Board met in closed session from 11:56 a.m. until 1:08 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:19 p.m.

XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, Grand Rapids, Michigan, representing the Committee to Honor César E. Chávez, extended an invitation to participate in a virtual community gathering on March 31, 2021.

XVI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 9, 2021

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Ms. Lipton, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 9, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye**

Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ulbrich said she and Dr. Pritchett participated in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Public Education Positions (PEP) committee meeting, and they are working with a subcommittee to update language and text on PEP guidelines. She said draft public education positions will be shared with NASBE members and voted on in October.

Dr. Ulbrich congratulated the five school districts that received federally funded Michigan Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants: Benton Harbor Area Schools, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Flint Community Schools, Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, and Pontiac School District.

XVIII. REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

G. Human Resources Report

H. Report on Teacher Certification Revocation Decision

Grants

I. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2020-2021 Section 21(h): Partnership Districts Grant – Initial; \$5,629,117 (Partnership Districts – Gloria Chapman)
2. 2019-2020 Title III, English Language Acquisition – Amendment; \$9,924,279 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
3. 2019-2020 Title III, English Language Acquisition – Amendment; \$9,924,279 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
4. 2020-2021 ISD Collaboration Grant – Amendment; \$745,000 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
5. 2020-2021 Section 99s(2) and (3) – MiSTEM Advisory Council Grants – Initial; \$3,050,000 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
6. 2020-2021 Section 99s(5) and (6) – MiSTEM Network Regions – Amendment; \$3,834,300 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)

7. 2020-2021 Title I, Part D, Subpart 2, Local Programs for Neglected or Delinquent Youth – Amendment; \$5,978,970 (Educational Supports – Paula Daniels)
8. 2020-2021 31k Student Meal Debt Forgiveness – Initial; \$290,923.65 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
9. 2020-2021 FY 2021 Flint Declaration of Emergency – Nutritional Services – Initial; \$650,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
10. 2020-2021 Michigan Fitness Foundation Grant – Initial; \$400,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
11. 2020-2021 School Climate Transformation Grant – Amendment; \$544,795 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
12. 2020-2021 Section 31n(5)- Behavioral Health Providers – Initial; \$9,300,000 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
13. 2020-2021 Section 31n(6) – Mental Health and Support Services – Initial; \$25,799,200 (Health and Nutrition Services – Diane Golzynski)
14. 2020-2021 99h: Robotics Competition Grant – Initial; \$4,683,318 (Systems, Evaluation, and Technology – David Judd)
15. 2020-2021 Flint Declaration of Emergency Grants – Sec. 11s(3) – Early Childhood Services – Initial; \$4,000,000 (Early Childhood Development & Family Education – Noel Kelty)
16. 2020-2021 State Intervention Services – Initial; \$1,600,000 (Early Childhood Development & Family Education – Noel Kelty)
17. 2020-2021 Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Initial; Continuation; \$90,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
18. 2020-2021 Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation Grant – Initial; Continuation; \$350,000 (Preschool & Out-Of-School Time Learning – Richard Lower)
19. 2020-2021 Criteria for Career Pathways – Initial; \$269,385 (Career and Technical Education – Brian Pyles)
20. 2020-2021 Section 61b Planning Grants for Career and Technical Education Early Middle College Programs – Initial; \$349,951 (Career and Technical Education – Brian Pyles)

Dr. Rice shared information on Building Mirrors and Windows: Children Seeing Themselves and Others in the Literature that We Teach – a free virtual conference for administrators and educators hosted by the Michigan Department of Education on February 25, 2021.

XIX. REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Owen Bondono, the 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented his report. Mr. Bondono, an English language arts teacher at the Oak Park Freshman Institute in Oak Park, shared a PowerPoint presentation. He shared information on student recommendations for books to read in celebration of March is Reading Month.

Ms. Sarah Soper, Region 8 Teacher of the Year, an English teacher at Northwest High School in Northwest Community Schools in Jackson, introduced herself. Ms. Soper said she has been a teacher at Jackson Northwest for 16 years. She said her projects and passions include nerd camp and teaching living poets. Ms. Soper shared her experiences as a department chair, teacher of senior advanced placement literature, Link advisor, National Council of Teachers of English presenter, and Excellence in Education Winner.

Dr. Ulbrich congratulated the Mr. Bondono and Ms. Soper for peer-to-peer book recommendations inspiring students to encourage each other to read.

XX. EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dr. Ulbrich lead the discussion on the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dr. Ulbrich said that the agreement between the Board and Dr. Rice stipulates that based on the satisfactory or above annual performance evaluation of State Superintendent Dr. Rice, the agreement shall be extended by one year making the new ending date July 31, 2024.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Pritchett, that pursuant to the agreement between the State Board of Education and Dr. Michael F. Rice, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education has engaged in an annual evaluation of Dr. Rice, and has found his performance to be satisfactory or above.

Dr. Ulbrich said overall there were many positive remarks and some additional comments to think about for the future. She said Dr. Rice started his tenure on August 1, 2019 and seven months later we found ourselves in the worst public health crisis that this country has seen in at least 100 years. She said it has been one year since the board has met in person, due to the pandemic, and people have been forced to do their work differently. She said Michigan Department of Education productivity has been amazing. She said there have been numerous guidance documents regarding waivers, food assistance programs, remote and in-person learning, the Top 10 Strategic Education Plan with metrics, student achievement, and literacy metrics. She said she appreciates Dr. Rice's leadership and keeping the board informed, and she thanked him for continuing to serve as state superintendent in one of the worst situations imaginable.

Dr. Pugh said with the global pandemic and uprisings as a result of the George Floyd case and other cases, this is a pivotal moment. She said children are at the center of the conversations. She said it is difficult to pivot from normal as changes are taking place so quickly; to steer a department and whole education system; and also strategize and look toward the future. She said it is a lot, millions of people are impacted, and she appreciates Dr. Rice's service.

Dr. Pritchett said she agrees with Dr. Ulbrich and Dr. Pugh. Dr. Pritchett said leadership matters the most during difficult times. She thanked Dr. Rice for leading in support of students, families, and educators; being a steady voice at the helm; and pushing to keep forward thinking with the strategic plan.

Mr. McMillin said he will be voting no. He said he doesn't think the performance this past year by Dr. Rice has been satisfactory. He said there was a need to make a decision on seat time waivers and whether seniors would graduate, and virtual instruction and would it count. Mr. McMillin said there was a need to advocate for in-person instruction and sports. He said the Center for Disease Control website states that for children, COVID-19 is less harmful than the flu and people 50 years old or younger are less likely to die from COVID-19 than a car accident. Mr. McMillin said he asked for options for parents at home to get together to provide instruction, overcome barriers, and be provided options. He said he took strong offense at tracking homeschoolers. He said there was no authority to cancel a board meeting under the Open Meetings Act. He said districts are struggling to get teachers to come into classrooms so advocacy for more options is needed. Mr. McMillin said he will make a motion to not extend the contract.

Ms. Snyder said she echoes many of Mr. McMillin's comments including tracking homeschoolers. She said the responses she wrote in Dr. Rice's evaluation are given the opportunity to encourage sustained engagement of educators and students at the most imperative moments during our pandemic which is directly associated with improved early literacy and the gap that is widened as a result of the pandemic as well as the springboard for all other items listed in the evaluation, Dr. Rice didn't use the power or position he has to urge the highest possible participation of all student groups. She said at one point, calling anyone focused on this from the beginning "rabid individuals." She said she is deeply disturbed by that comment. Ms. Snyder said while the board passed an anti-bullying statement to encourage health, safety, and wellness of learners in the past year, we acknowledged the importance of this happening professionally with educational leaders. She said Dr. Rice sat idly by while multiple board members boldly act unprofessionally, inappropriately and in an undiplomatic fashion. She said it won't matter how you attempt to lead learners if you are not able to lead the adults that are the example to our learners. She said she feels very passionate about the issues that have come before the board and things that maybe should have been reconsidered during the quarantine and how to move forward. She said words matter and voices too. Ms. Snyder said she will vote no and second Mr. McMillin's motion to not extend the contract.

Ms. Tilley said she appreciates Dr. Rice's leadership. She said the pandemic has not been easy for anyone and has not happened in our lifetime. She said it has drastically changed the education system, and Dr. Rice stepped up to the plate and has been on point. She said some educators are not returning to the classroom out of fear and outbreaks around the state. She said Dr. Rice provided daily updates to engage board members. She said he kept the state updated, and worked really well with the Governor's office to handle the situation as best as possible. She said Dr. Rice made some really good decisions. She said he kept his grace even under attacks, and she appreciates and thanks him.

Mr. Strayhorn said he is a newly elected board member, and he appreciates Dr. Rice's leadership. He said education is close to health as something common in a diverse world. He said it transcends race, orientation, socio economic background, religion, wants, needs, and likes. He said everyone has a desire to be healthy and educate themselves and their children. He said during the fog of war in this global pandemic there are decisions that have to be made that history will tell if it is the right decision. He said the constant updating and ability to be nimble shows leadership with a department and large education system involving millions of students and teachers. Mr. Strayhorn said it is not an easy job, but Dr. Rice has done a fantastic job. He said the trajectory of where we are going is up. He said he appreciates Dr. Rice's openness. He said he will definitely be voting yes.

Dr. Pugh said COVID-19 was not caused by the governor, Dr. Rice, or anyone here. She said the disease has not gone away, and it is strengthening. She said the more people move the more COVID-19 will spread.

Ms. Lipton said the board's constitutional obligation is to appoint a state superintendent and set policy, and the policy is embodied in the state strategic plan. She said in terms of evaluation, she urges board members to look at the state strategic plan factors and metrics and look for growth and improvement in those areas. She said a performance evaluation is not an index of happiness with the general order of things. She said education during a pandemic is a most acute challenge. She said the majority of board members took the factors into consideration and believed Dr. Rice performed not just satisfactory as required by the contractual language, but well in excess of satisfactory.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Nay
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Nay
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried.

Mr. McMillin moved, seconded by Ms. Snyder, that the State Board of Education not extend the contract of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Michael F. Rice.

Dr. Ulbrich said in her opinion the motion violates the language of the contract and she believes it is completely inappropriate. She said the majority of the board feels strongly that Dr. Rice has done a very good job in the face of unbelievably challenging circumstances. She said votes like this undermine the future and ability to attract good talent. She said there are serious ramifications in what is essentially an exercise in futility.

Mr. McMillin said this is exactly what the contract calls for by stating that the contract is extended one year unless the state board votes to the contrary.

Ms. Snyder said in the spirit of elected to govern all board members are elected public officials who come to the table to do this work. She said it is not an exercise in futility; it is an execution of the due diligence that she and Mr. McMillin were elected to do.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Lipton – Nay
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Nay
Pugh – Nay
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Nay
Tilley – Nay
Ulbrich – Nay**

The motion failed.

XXI. APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO CHANGE THE NAME OF LEWIS CASS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HERITAGE SOUTHWEST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations, presented the Approval of Request to Change the Name of Lewis Cass Intermediate School District to Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District.

Dr. Rice said Section 380.604 of the Revised School Code requires that an intermediate board of education obtain the approval of the State Board of Education prior to adopting a distinctive name.

The Lewis Cass Intermediate School District board of education voted to rename the intermediate school district Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District, and approval from the State Board of Education is being requested.

Dr. Pritchett moved, seconded by Mr. McMillin, that the State Board of Education approve the request of the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District to change its name to Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District, as attached to the state superintendent’s memorandum dated February 23, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Lipton – Aye
McMillin – Aye
Pritchett – Aye
Pugh – Aye
Snyder – Aye
Strayhorn – Aye
Tilley – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

XXII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Ms. Ellen Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Dr. Judith Pritchett, Delegate, National Association of State Boards of Education; provided the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the State Board of Education’s Legislative Committee met on March 2, 2021, and much of the discussion was regarding the resolution the board passed during the morning portion of the meeting (see Exhibit A).

Mr. Ackley provided an update on budget bills.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Lipton, Chairperson, State Board of Education Legislative Committee, provided an update on pending legislation related to the strategic plan.

Dr. Pritchett, Delegate to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), said she and Dr. Ulbrich are on the NASBE Public Education Positions Committee to research and provide recommendations to be voted on by NASBE in October.

Dr. Pritchett said NASBE hosts office hours on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. to provide updates on federal legislation.

Dr. Pritchett said she and Ms. Lipton will attend the NASBE legislative conference that is being convened electronically on March 22-23, 2021.

XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Tilley urged respect during meetings. She said members are doing their duty on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.

Dr. Pugh said she would like more information on schools reopening, particularly partnership districts and the ability to provide safe environments and mitigate exposure risks. Dr. Rice suggested a presentation by Education

Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) regarding data related to in-person instruction. He said a future presentation on partnership districts is tentatively scheduled.

Ms. Lipton asked if federal money to schools is most effectively spent on one-time projects. Dr. Rice said nonrecurring funds are best spent on nonrecurring uses.

XXIV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Tuesday May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Tuesday May 18, 2021 Work Session at 9:30 a.m.
- D. Tuesday June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

XXV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Dr. Rice asked Board members if there were additional agenda topics they would like to be considered for future meeting agendas. He said they may contact Mrs. Schneider or himself to offer topics.

XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available on Michigan's State Board of Education website (www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tilley
Secretary

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

**Resolution on Waivers Associated with State Summative Assessments and
High-Stakes Accountability Measures in a Pandemic
for the 2020-2021 Academic School Year**

WHEREAS, pre-K-12 students, parents, and staff in Michigan and across the country have endured tremendous challenges in the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the state, nation, and world;

WHEREAS, 83 percent of school districts indicated last month that they were offering at least an in-person option, but—given parent choice and the enrollments of many of the districts that have been remote most of the year—fewer than half of Michigan students have received in-person instruction most days this school year;

WHEREAS, in recognition of this disruption and the public health threats present amidst the pandemic, the U.S. Secretary of Education approved the requests of the Michigan Department of Education and other states to waive state summative assessments and associated high-stakes accountability requirements tied to those assessments for the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS, Michigan’s legislature passed, and the governor signed, a state law last summer to require public school districts to administer locally chosen, national benchmark assessments to measure where students are academically at the beginning and end of this school year, and for districts to share that information with parents and educators;

WHEREAS, the data gathered from those benchmark assessments have helped and will continue to help local school districts focus resources and determine interventions and supports for students;

WHEREAS, given the presence of benchmark assessments, schools need to continue focusing as much time as possible on the academic and social emotional needs of their students;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Education has a request pending with the U.S. Department of Education to waive the federally required statewide summative assessments for the 2020-2021 school year and associated high-stakes accountability requirements and will continue discussions with the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on USED’s declared offer of flexibility on such issues;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that contingent upon the granting of these federal waivers, the State Board of Education strongly urges the Michigan Legislature to likewise act to relieve added burden on Michigan students and waive all state laws requiring the administration of statewide summative assessments and associated high-stakes accountability requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

Adopted March 9, 2021