

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

October 13, 2015
9:30 a.m.

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

Also Present: Mr. Rick Joseph, 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

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

The motion carried.

Dr. Pugh arrived at 9:40 a.m.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Schneider invited guests to introduce themselves.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston said he and many others were saddened by the recent passing of Becky Rocho, Assistant Superintendent of Legislation and Education Policy for the Calhoun Intermediate School District; and Wanda Jubb, retired supervisor of the School Health Unit of the Michigan Department of Education. Those present observed a moment of silence.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:42 a.m. to convene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whiston called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON EDUCATOR EVALUATIONS

Mrs. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; presented on Educator Evaluations.

Mr. Whiston said in 2009, Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 380.1249 of the Revised School Code was enacted, requiring school districts to conduct annual performance evaluations for teachers and administrators beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Whiston said over the last four years, districts have been hard at work implementing local evaluation systems that meet basic requirements defined by law. He said the variation in local systems makes direct comparison of district effectiveness ratings and systems extremely difficult because the criteria used to determine "effectiveness" in one district may be very different than those used in another.

Mr. Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education is proposing a plan of action for 2015-2016 to support districts in implementing effective educator evaluation systems that support effective teaching and improve student learning.

Mr. Whiston said the Board's Legislative Committee will present a statement on educator evaluations for consideration during the afternoon portion of the meeting.

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

Board member comments included the need for evaluations to be fair, supportive and improve teaching ability; meaningful appeals process; assumption that effective teachers will help students reach educational goals and whether teacher rating correlates with student performance; student growth as a factor in evaluation; growth in areas where growth is tapped out; using a wide variety of data to determine student growth; teacher professional learning; and avoidance of the fear of being terminated.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Mrs. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented the Student Learning Objectives.

Mr. Whiston said Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are measurable, long-term, academic goals that a teacher or teacher team sets for all students. He said legislation in Michigan requires that the student growth and assessment component of a teacher's evaluation consists of the state student growth and assessment measurement standards and a local student growth assessment. He said SLOs are one way to measure the academic growth of students. He said the presentation will provide an overview of the SLOs and outline the possible use of them in educator evaluation initiatives.

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

There were no comments by State Board of Education members.

IX. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED MICHIGAN STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TEACHERS OF WORLD LANGUAGES

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Dr. Sean Kottke, Education Consultant, Professional Preparation Services; presented the Proposed Michigan Standards for the Preparation of Teachers of World Languages.

Mr. Whiston said the Standards for the Preparation of Teachers of World Languages are being proposed as the guiding set of standards for initial teacher preparation in world language instruction and would also serve as the standards to support professional development of in-service teachers. He said approval will be requested at the November 10, 2015 State Board of Education meeting.

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

Board member comments included the involvement of Michigan teachers in development of the standards, inclusion of Latin and American Sign Language, world language graduation requirement, language immersion programs, continuity between teacher candidate training and professional learning, and world language instruction in early grades.

X. PRESENTATION ON THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTION MORATORIUM

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Dr. Sean Kottke, Education Consultant, Professional Preparation Services; presented on the Educator Preparation Institution Moratorium.

Dr. Keesler said the moratorium on approving new Educator Preparation Institutions was originally instituted by the State Board of Education on August 9, 2005 and extended in August 2008 and June 2012. She said the current moratorium expired on August 1, 2015. She said the original moratorium was enacted with the intent to reduce a perceived over-supply of teachers in the state. She said an additional extension of three years, through August 1, 2018, is being proposed. She said the moratorium, if approved, could be ended at any time by the Board.

Board member comments included focusing on preparation of teachers in current educator preparation institutions, addressing areas of need, requests to open educator preparation institutions by out-of-state entities.

Following discussion, Mr. Whiston said if any applications to open an educator preparation institution are received, the Board will be informed.

Mr. Austin proposed, and there was Board consensus, to add the approval of the Educator Preparation Institution Moratorium to the Regular Meeting during the afternoon portion of the meeting.

XI. PRESENTATION BY DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

This presentation did not occur, due to the emergency absence of the presenter, Mr. LaMar Lemmons, Member, Detroit Public Schools Board of Education.

XII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

There were no Board member comments regarding criteria for grant programs.

XIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 11:02 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XIV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said the Board and Department continue to gather input on developing Michigan into a Top 10 Education Performing State in 10 Years. He thanked people for the input they have shared. He said the plan will be presented at a Board meeting before the end of the year.

Mr. Austin said the opportunity for the Board to provide input on Detroit education plans is helpful.

Mr. Austin said there have been several opportunities for engagement by the public with regard to the science and social studies standards. He said there has been a very good public process to engage feedback and expertise in the state. He said the goal of improving standards is to improve learning for students.

XV. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Rick Joseph, the 2015-2016 Michigan Teacher of the Year, provided his report. Mr. Joseph said he has an official book, *The Junkyard Wonders*, written by Michigan author and illustrator, Patricia Polacco. He said Ms. Polacco could not read until she was 14 years old, due to dyslexia. He said the point of the book is to never give up on students or presume they are destined for a certain standing in life. He said Ms. Polacco's message of hope fits well with his theme of equity.

Mr. Joseph shared information on the Michigan Educator Voice and the importance of the teacher voice in the development of policy. He also shared information regarding his blog on the MEEMIC Insurance website, and the Gear Up to Lead leadership conference in Flint.

XVI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. JOHN C. AUSTIN

Mr. Austin said the Flint water crisis and the need for safe water is an issue that will affect other communities in the future. He said there is a need to rebuild the aging water infrastructure in the state to ensure clean and safe water. He thanked Board members and staff for their work on the issue as it relates to school children and the lasting health issues that affect learning.

XVII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

I. Human Resources Report

Grants

J. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2015-2016 Section 32p Grants – Initial; \$2,200,000
2. 2015-2016 Section 32p Grants – Initial; \$10,900,000
3. 2015-2016 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Initial; \$440,539,333
4. 2015-2016 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Programs – Initial; \$3,221,421
5. 2015-2016 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting – Initial; \$82,961,000
6. 2015-2016 Title III, English Language Acquisition – Initial; \$7,866,480
7. 2014-2015 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) – Amendment, Continuation; \$4,061,827
8. 2015-2016 1003(g) School Improvement Grant – Initial; \$1,451,229
9. 2015-2016 Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program – Initial; \$1,625,000
10. 2015-2016 Application for School Bus Inspection Program – Initial; \$1,690,700

Mr. Whiston said he just received word that Mr. LaMar Lemmons will not be attending today's Board meeting, and therefore, he will not be presenting on behalf of the Detroit Public Schools Board of Education.

Mr. Whiston provided an update on the process to develop Michigan into a Top Ten Education State in Ten Years. He said to date, more than 500 responses have been received.

Mr. Whiston shared information on the process for updating the science standards and the social studies standards. He said there has been opportunity for input at meetings across the state as well as via the Department's website. He said it is anticipated that the science standards will be presented to the Board in November, and the social studies standards are expected to be presented to the Board in early 2016.

Mr. Whiston said there is a map outside the Board room indicating more than 300 school visits across the state that will be done by himself, Deputy Superintendents and Directors. He said the purpose is to highlight promising practices and also ask school personnel where they need help.

Mr. Whiston said he has established four committees. The committees currently meeting are School Finance, Assessments, and Accountability. He said the Assessment Committee will examine federal, state and local assessment needs. The Accountability Committee will examine accountability as it relates to areas that parents consider important. He said the fourth committee is Teacher Preparation and it will address teacher preparation needs.

Mr. Whiston said the Department of Education is working with other state agencies and organizations to provide support to Flint to ensure that they have quality water in schools.

XVIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

Mrs. McPhee left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

XIX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. Michael Libbee, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Mr. Libbee, representing Michigan Geographic Alliance, shared verbal comments and a written information regarding the social studies standards.
- B. Ms. Rebecca Bush, Holland, Michigan. Ms. Bush, representing Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and the Michigan Social Studies Supervisors Association, shared verbal comments regarding the social studies standards.
- C. Mr. John Bracey and Mr. Chad Badgero, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Bracey, representing the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), shared verbal comments on MCACA's education grant programs.
- D. Ms. Hattie Mcguire, South Lyon, Michigan. Ms. Mcguire, representing the Network of Michigan Educators, shared verbal comments and written information on successfully changing a high school's reading culture.
- E. Ms. Linda Melaragni, East Lansing, Michigan. Ms. Melaragni, representing the Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, shared verbal comments on Senate Bill 442, open carry/concealed carry of firearms.
- F. Dr. Mike Shibler, Rockford, Michigan. Dr. Shibler, Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools, shared verbal comments and written information on Senate Bill 442, open carry/concealed carry of firearms.
- G. Ms. Kate White, Okemos, Michigan. Ms. White, Executive Director, Michigan Community Action, shared verbal comments and written information on the agency poverty supports in the community.

XX. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston asked Deputy Superintendents to introduce employees recently hired by the Michigan Department of Education.

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services, introduced Ms. Mary Anne Smith from the Library of Michigan.

Ms. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Ms. Andrea Nessel from Field Services.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, introduced Ms. Tammy Smolek from Standards and Assessment.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start, introduced Ms. Bethanie Kramer from Child Development and Care.

XXI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:11 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XXII. PRESENTATION OF THE MICHIGAN WINNERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Mr. Whiston said the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. He said PAEMST teachers will spend the next year serving as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

Mr. Whiston welcomed Mr. Luke Wilcox, PAEMST 7-12 Mathematics Awardee. Mr. Whiston said Mr. Wilcox was also a finalist for the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Wilcox discussed his experiences as a PAEMST award-winning teacher.

Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation, said Mr. Walter Erhardt is a PAEMST 7-12 Science Awardee, but he was unable to attend the Board meeting.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 1:20 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XXIV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There was Board consensus to reorder the agenda.

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; and Mrs. Kathleen Straus, NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on October 5, 2015. He said several pieces of legislation including House Bill 4822 - third grade literacy; Senate Bill 103 - educator evaluation; and House Bill 4261 - carrying firearms on school grounds.

Statement on House Bill 4261

Dr. Ulbrich read the draft Statement on House Bill 4261.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on House Bill 4261.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Austin, Mrs. Straus and Ms. Ramos-Montigny said they strongly support the statement.

Dr. Zeile said the issue should be left to the local school which knows the culture best; therefore, he does not support the statement.

Mrs. Weiser said there is a clash of constitutional rights versus children's rights, but school is no place for guns. She said she will support the statement.

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

The Statement on House Bill 4261 is attached as Exhibit A.

Statement on House Bill 4822

Dr. Ulbrich read the draft Statement on House Bill 4822.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on House Bill 4822.

Mrs. Weiser said she cannot support the statement as written. She said the goal should be to give every child the opportunity to read at grade level, and there should be Michigan Department of Education oversight of a local plan to ensure it.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board is not opposed to retention; the Board is opposed to state mandated retention. She proposed that additional language be added to the statement.

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Statement on House Bill 4822 is attached as Exhibit B.

Statement on Senate Bill 103

Dr. Ulbrich read the draft Statement on Senate Bill 103.

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on Senate Bill 103.

Ms. Fecteau said she has a difficult time supporting the statement. She said what would make it fair and balanced is a meaningful appeals process to ensure it is less likely to be abused.

Dr. Ulbrich proposed that additional language be added to the statement.

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Statement on Senate Bill 103 is attached as Exhibit C.

Mrs. McPhee rejoined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Statement on Blood Testing Children

Dr. Pugh read a personal statement on the Flint Water Crisis. She said Flint residents have complained about the quality of their water and suspected health effects.

Mr. Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been working with other state agencies to provide information to families, and provide bottled water in schools. Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services, said the agencies working with MDE are the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Ulbrich proposed a statement on blood level lead testing of children.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus that the State Board of Education adopt the Statement on Blood Testing Children.

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Statement on Blood Testing Children is attached as Exhibit D.

XXV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

H. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 8, 2015

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 8, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXVI. APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Norma Jean Sass, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, presented Approval of Changes to Organizational Representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Mr. Whiston said three educational organizations have requested changes for their representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee. He said the organizations are Michigan Association of School Psychologists, Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools, and Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

Ms. Norma Jean Sass explained the changes that the organizations have requested. She said the changes involve putting alternates in place of delegates.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve changes to organizational representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee, as outlined in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

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

The motion carried.

XXVII. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 CAMP TUHSMEHETA (CAMP T) SPENDING PLAN

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services; and Ms. Jane Schultz, Director, Financial Management; presented Approval of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Camp Tuhsmeheeta Spending Plan.

Mr. Whiston said at the September 15, 2015 Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee meeting, members Michelle Fecteau and Kathleen Straus reviewed the fiscal year 2015-2016 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta. He said the spending plan is being presented to the full Board for approval at today's meeting.

Mr. Guerrant and Ms. Schultz presented the Camp Tuhsmeheeta spending plan.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2015.

Mrs. Straus urged all Board members to visit Camp Tuhsmeheeta.

Ms. Fecteau suggested that the Board's retreat be held at the camp.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXVIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- N. Approval of Criteria for Section 31c Public Safety/Gang Prevention Grant, \$1,000,000
- O. Approval of Criteria for 2015-2016 Section 22g District/Intermediate School District Consolidation Grant, \$5,000,000
- P. Approval of Criteria for Section 65 Pre-college Engineering K-12 Educational Program, \$340,000
- Q. Approval of Criteria for Section 35a(6) Targeted Literacy Instruction and Interventions, \$17,500,000
- R. Approval of Criteria for Section 35a(5) Intermediate School District Early Literacy Coaches, \$3,000,000
- S. Approval of Criteria for Section 104(d) and Section 35a(4) Acceptable Assessment Tools for Early Literacy Educators, \$4,500,000
- T. Approval of Criteria for Section 35a(3) and 35a(4) for Professional Development for Early Literacy Educators, \$1,900,000

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the consent agenda as follows:

- N. approve the Criteria for Section 31c Public Safety/Gang Prevention Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2015;**
- O. approve the criteria for the 2015-16 Section 22g District/Intermediate School District Consolidation Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2015;**
- P. approve the Criteria for the Section 65, Pre-college Engineering K-12 Educational Program, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2015;**

- Q. approve the Criteria for Section 35a(6) Targeted Literacy Instruction and Interventions, as attached to the State Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 8, 2015;**
- R. approve the Criteria for Section 35a(5) Intermediate School District Early Literacy Coaches, as attached to the State Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 8, 2015;**
- S. approve the Criteria for Section 104(d) and Section 35a(4) Acceptable Assessment Tools for Early Literacy Educators, as attached to the State Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 8, 2015; and**
- T. approve grant criteria for Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4) for Professional Development for Early Literacy Educators, as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum dated October 8, 2015.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXIX. APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTION MORATORIUM

This item was added to the agenda, based on discussion during the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the extension of the moratorium on new educator preparation institution approvals for three years (October 13, 2015-October 13, 2018), as described in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated September 29, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whiston reiterated that the Board will be informed if any applications to open an educator preparation institution are received by the Department.

XXX. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Fecteau said she has received concerns regarding errors in online texts for social studies. Mr. Whiston said it is not a Department text, but it is a resource, and Department staff should be notified of errors.

Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation, said it is a resource for teachers by teachers, and there is an online opportunity to make corrections. She said the Department wants the resource to be accurate.

Mrs. Weiser said she is a huge proponent of online texts, and she believes this is tarnishing the social studies standards that are in the process of development. Mrs. Straus said she agrees with Mrs. Weiser.

XXXI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. BRIAN J. WHISTON

Mr. Whiston asked Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services to provide updated information on the water situation in Flint. Mr. Guerrant said he spoke with his colleague at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and they are working with the local health department to put testing protocols in place to test water in Flint within the next two weeks.

XXXII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Whiston asked the Board to notify him of agenda topics they would like included on a future agenda. He provided the upcoming State Board of Education meeting dates.

XXXIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, November 10, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, January 12, 2016, Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXXIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau
Secretary

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT ON WEAPONS IN SCHOOLS**

The State Board of Education is committed to the safety of all Michigan school children. With the exception of law enforcement and school security personnel trained in the use of weapons to protect public safety, it is our firm belief that dangerous weapons, such as hand guns and assault rifles, have no place in schools.

Allowing weapons on school grounds only increases fear on the part of students and staff, and increases the chances of a catastrophic incident.

As such, the State Board of Education supports the passage of House Bill 4261, a bill to eliminate the "open-carry" loophole that currently exists in law.

Furthermore, the State Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 442, which will allow concealed firearms to be carried on school grounds by anyone with a license to carry a concealed weapon.

Adopted October 13, 2015

**State Board of Education
Statement on House Bill 4822**

The State Board of Education believes that reading at grade level is an important part of a student's successful education.

House Bill 4822 has the potential to aid the Michigan Department of Education, schools, administrators, teachers and parents in moving the needle forward on reading proficiency for the children in our state.

The current bill initiates many education strategies aimed at supporting and improving the necessary work for all Michigan children to read at grade level by the end of third grade. These positive strategies include: comprehensive core classroom reading instruction; early literacy coaches; reading intervention programs in grades K to 3; summer reading camps; diagnostic reading assessments; and recognition of developmental obstacles in reading.

While the State Board of Education is a strong supporter of these positive strategies, the board remains opposed to the concept of "Smart Promotion/Retention," which currently remains in the bill. While there are situations where retaining students in their current grade is warranted, that decision needs to be decided on case-by-case basis, between educators and parents. It should not be automatic.

Instead of requiring retention at the state level, the State Board of Education recommends requiring local districts to develop an enforceable local plan related to retention/promotion, which shall be approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

The State Board of Education urges members of the state Legislature to provide the supports and positive strategies to help all students read at grade level, without the mandate of grade retention that currently is written in House Bill 4822.

Adopted October 13, 2015

**State Board of Education
Statement on Senate Bill 103**

The State Board of Education supports a fair and balanced educator evaluation system. The purpose of educator evaluations is to support effective teaching and improve student learning.

In order to realize this outcome, Michigan needs a more consistent educator evaluation system, based on consistent observation tools and practices; consistent approaches to determining student growth and incorporating growth measures into evaluation ratings; and the seamless integration of the evaluation process and outcomes with the identification and implementation of professional learning goals; and includes an appropriate/independent appeals process.

The State Board of Education appreciates the Governor and the state Legislature for their work in commissioning and supporting the final report of the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness, headed by Dr. Deborah Ball, and for the ongoing efforts of both the House and the Senate to draft legislation in support of Michigan's educator evaluation efforts.

The Legislature currently is crafting and deliberating on Senate Bill 103 – its latest version of amending the Revised School Code to improve the local teacher and administrator evaluation systems.

The State Board of Education reaffirms its support for a final product that remains faithful to the consensus recommendations in the "Ball Report" of the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness. Any effort to shave off integral components of that report will weaken the fair and evidence-based evaluation strategies contained within it.

Adopted October 13, 2015

**State Board of Education
Statement on Blood Testing Children**

The State Board of Education urges the state of Michigan and other proper authorities to offer blood level lead testing for Flint children at convenient locations, including schools, funded by the state.

Adopted October 13, 2015