



www.TrustedVoicesED.com

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Why Trusted Voices?

Your name

Why this session

Are you here to learn or here to help?

Agenda

- Share our Story
- Share Strategies
- Receive Feedback
- Work together to improve OUR
grass-root efforts



Learning Objectives:



Participants will:

- Share and take away strategies
- Advance Trusted Voices through collaboration and reflective feedback
- Share and apply teacher leadership principles in designing our grassroots movements
- Networking and sharing practices.

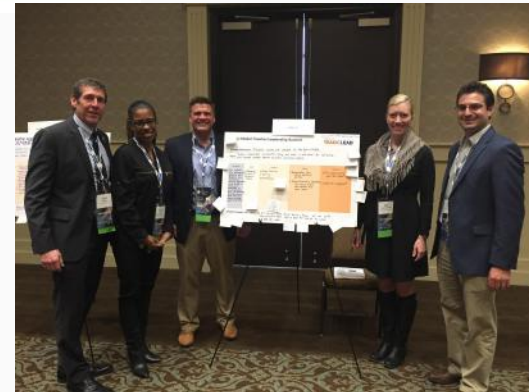
“ How do educators join the conversation
at the policy table?

Today's Challenge Statement

Galileo- Teacher Leadership



“Is the process by which teachers influence their colleagues, principals, and other members of the school community to improve teaching and learning practices with the aim of increased student learning and achievement.”



Our Plan

Public Model: Teacher Leadership Summit

Jarod McGuffey @McGuffeyJ

POWERED BY

TEACH LEAD

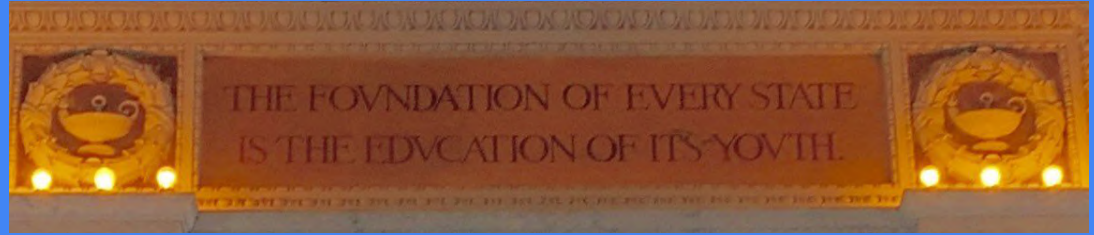
Problem Statement: Educator voices are absent at the policy table.

Goal: Inform stakeholders of education policy and create a safe space for reflective and informed dialogue between educators and policy makers.

Rationale:	Inputs:	Activities:	Outputs:	Outcomes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Our mission is to reframe the agenda for public education. As a nonpartisan advocacy organization, we are focused on informing all stakeholders on current education policy and collaborating with policymakers to ensure every child receives the highest quality of education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Professional standards for Educational Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Multiple Meet-Ups * Training * Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Representation from various educational entities. * Strong collaborative partnerships with teacher leaders, administration and policy makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Policy makers asking for input from Teacher Leaders * Statewide engagement.

Student Impact: (if..., then...) * If educator voice drives policy, then we can shift the narrative from what is best for adults to what is best for kids.

Mission



Our mission is to reframe the agenda for education. As a nonpartisan advocacy organization, our focus includes informing all stakeholders about current education policy as well as building collaborative relationships with policy makers to ensure every learner receives the highest quality of education.

Vision



A community made up of educators and policy makers collaboratively evaluating existing and creating future education policy.

Goals



- 1) Inform stakeholders of education policy and help educators to have their voice at the policy table.
- 2) Build strong collaborative partnerships with teacher-leaders, administration, and policy makers.
- 3) Advocate for teacher leadership and student learning.

Core Beliefs - Our guiding principles

- **Leadership matters, but it is the involvement of education professionals in the decision making at the building, district, and state level that matters most.**
- **Teacher Leadership** is valued and necessary for a world class learning experience.
- Ed policy must be established & evaluated through a **non-partisan and student-focused lens.**
- Non-partisan is an **intentional practice** for best collaboration.
- All students have the right to an **equitable and inclusive learning experience.**
- **All means all** - Trusted Voices lead and learn from every seat.
- **Equitable student funding** will result in increased academic achievement.
- Our community is a safe place physically and emotionally.
- **Collaborative partnerships** among administration, union leadership, teachers, community members, and policy makers work together to benefit students.
- **Covey's Seven Habits, Growth Mindset**, and continued **reflection** are guiding principles embedded within our practice.

Trusted Voice Representatives



Who is the right candidate?

The right candidate is about.....



- Having a collective and uplifting voice and sharing it.
- Collaborative and Productive Partnerships
- Positive and Supportive Relationships
- Positive Thinkers
- Interested in Education Policy
- Communication with all stakeholders



TV Rep Responsibilities

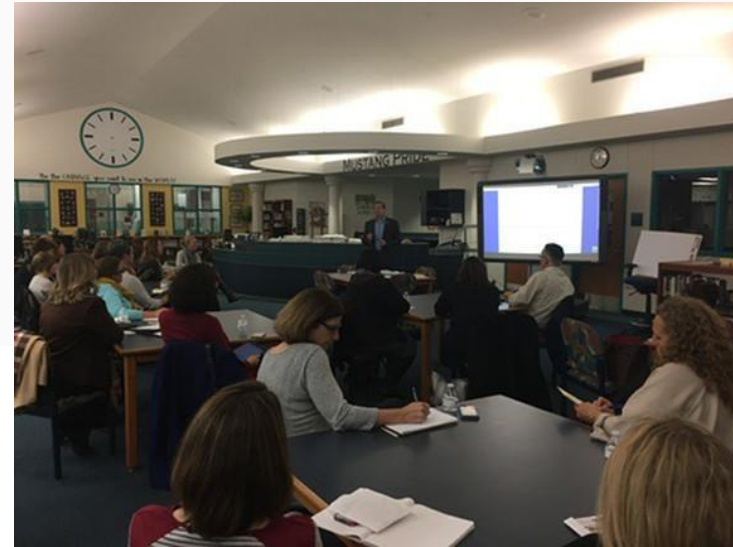
- Attend training meetups throughout year.
- Communicate to district staff & Parent Community (PTO/PTA)
- Develop positive and trusting relationships with House / State Reps & their Aides regardless of which aisle they position themselves.

TV Rep Schedule



- November - Induction Meeting
- January - Trusted Voices Collaboration Day in Lansing
 - **At least one rep per district will need a release day.**
- February - Legislative Round Table
- Spring - Reflect/Current Legislative Initiatives

Building Collaborative Relationships among Administrators, Teachers, & Legislators



col·lab·o·rate

/kəˈlabəˌrāt/ 

verb

gerund or present participle: **collaborating**

work jointly on an activity, especially to produce or create something.

"he **collaborated with** a distinguished painter **on** the designs"

synonyms: co-operate, join forces, team up, band together, work together, **participate**, **combine**, **ally**;

[More](#)

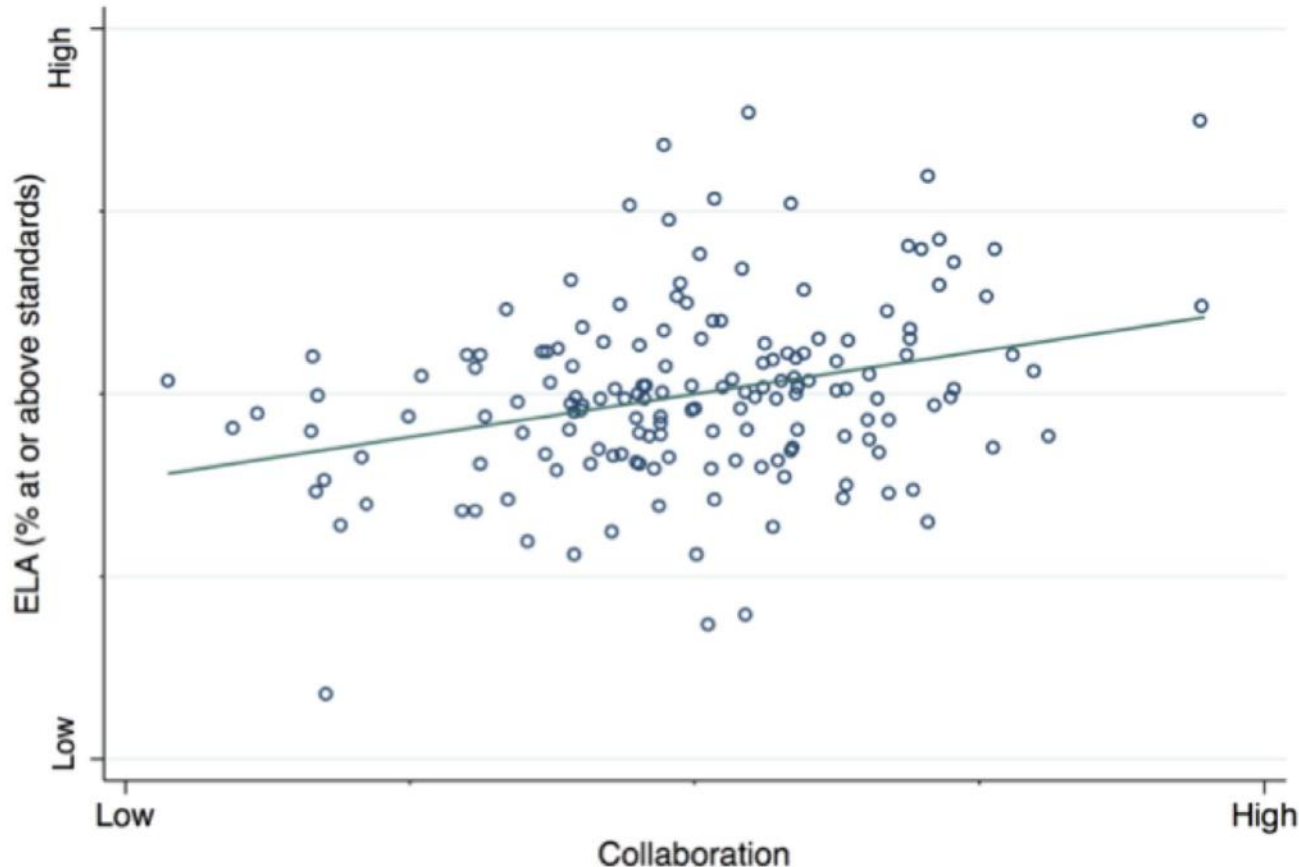
- cooperate traitorously with an enemy.

"the indigenous elite who **collaborated with** the colonizers"

synonyms: **collude**, **conspire**, **fraternize**, co-operate, **consort**, **sympathize**; *informal* be in cahoots

"they collaborated with the enemy"

Collaboration and ELA Performance



This study suggests that the highest level of collaboration corresponds to roughly 12.5% more students performing at or above standards, compared to the lowest level of collaboration.

National Study on Union-Management Partnerships and Educator Collaboration in US Public Schools

Union-management partnership is defined by the extent to which union leaders and district administration work together to improve teaching and learning.

Summary of Findings:

- School-level collaboration improves student performance (ELA and math), even after we control for poverty.
- School-level collaboration reduces voluntary turnover and increases school commitment.
 - These effects are particularly strong for high-poverty schools.
- Highly collaborative schools and strong union-leader networks increase cross-
- school knowledge sharing.
- Formal union-management partnerships at the district-level seem to be a catalyst
- for building highly collaborative schools, as we find that district partnerships are
- positively associated with school collaboration.
- School representatives in high-partnership districts are more likely to view collaboration-building as central to their union roles and responsibilities.

When Administrators, Teachers, & Legislators work together ~ everyone wins!



Preparing the Best

THE NEED

Michigan teachers need to be valued.

Republicans have been dismantling the profession of teaching over the past seven years. They have passed more than 25 Public Acts that have attacked not only teachers' salaries, pensions, health care, and collective bargaining agreements, but also their ability to effectively perform essential job functions in the classroom.

THE FACT

Michigan teachers need our support.

We need to ensure that all teachers feel supported and respected here in Michigan. The profession of teaching

Preparing the Best

We need to prepare future teachers through opportunities, training, and graduate programs.

Legislation areas include

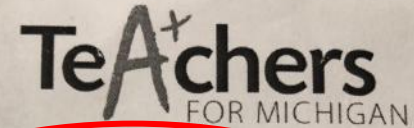
- Underrepresented Teacher Recruitment
- Early Childhood Educators Advancement
- Stipends for Student Teacher

Attracting the Brightest

We need to attract the brightest through incentives such as loan forgiveness.

Legislation areas include

- Student loan forgiveness
- One-time bonus for new, or returning teachers
- Annual Bonus for Math, Science, and Foreign Language



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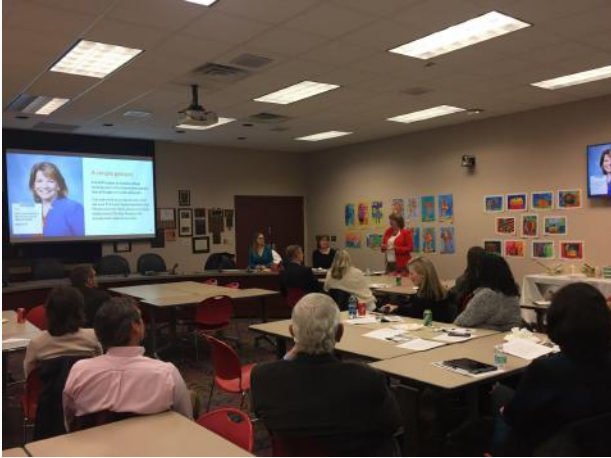
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Attracting the Brightest

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Connecting with Policy Makers



Contacting your representatives?

[Search for your Senator by residential address](#)

[Search for your Representative by residential address](#)

[Contact the Governor](#)

[Contact the Lt. Governor](#)

[League of Women Voters](#)

[Local Chapter of LWV](#)

[Vote 411](#)



Too many people are unaware who their reps are. As a Trusted Voice, our job is to help inform the community who to contact and what to talk about it.

Communications 101

A guide to communicating as an educational leader

- **Keep your supervisor in the loop**

No one likes to be surprised - least of all principals and superintendents

- **Let your community advocates speak for you**

Utilize social media and create an army of supporters. Each Reach 10.

- **Keep the conversation going**

Tell Our Story. #TrustedVoicesED

- **Personalize the message**

Press release. Call. Call sales rep. or aide or committee clerk

Education Committee



Senator Phil Pavlov
Committee Chair

Welcome to the Education Committee Webpage. The committee's regularly scheduled meeting time is Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. in room 1200 of the Binsfeld Building in Lansing. I welcome citizens to contact me or other committee members regarding bills or proposals our committee is addressing. Individuals needing special accommodations to participate in a committee meeting may contact my office to request the necessary assistance.

Committee Members:

- [Phil Pavlov](#) (R) Committee Chair, 25th District
- [Marty Knollenberg](#) (R) Vice Chair, 13th District
- [Darwin L Booher](#) (R) 35th District
- [Joe Hune](#) (R) 22nd District
- [Hoon-Yung Hopgood](#) (D) Minority Vice Chair, 6th District

Committee Clerk | 517-373-5314

- [Committee Testimony & Minutes](#)
- [Committee Audio Files](#)
- [Subscribe to Committee notices via e-mail](#)
- [View legislation referred to this committee](#)
- [Currently Scheduled Committee Meeting](#)

Education subcommittee on the Michigan Merit Curriculum



house.mi.gov

Quick Contacts

Anderson House Office Building

124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Mailing Address:
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

House Business Office

Ph: 517.373.6339
BusinessOffice@house.mi.gov

Capitol Building

P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Clerk's Office

Ph: 517.373.0135
Clerk@house.mi.gov

Committee



Committee Chair
Tim Kelly

Committee notices are available via e-mail.

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Education Reform

[Tim Kelly](#) (R) Committee Chair, 94th District
[Pamela Hornberger](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 32nd District
[Kathy Crawford](#) (R) 38th District
[Daniela Garcia](#) (R) 90th District
[Brett Roberts](#) (R) 65th District
[Julie Alexander](#) (R) 64th District
[Beth Griffin](#) (R) 66th District
[Jim Lilly](#) (R) 89th District
[Jeff Noble](#) (R) 20th District
[John Reilly](#) (R) 46th District
[Adam Zemke](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair, 55th District
[Winnie Brinks](#) (D) 76th District
[Stephanie Chang](#) (D) 6th District
[Darrin Camilleri](#) (D) 23rd District
[William Sowerby](#) (D) 31st District

[Joy Brewer](#), Committee Clerk
517-373-8474

Pause and identify your political landscape

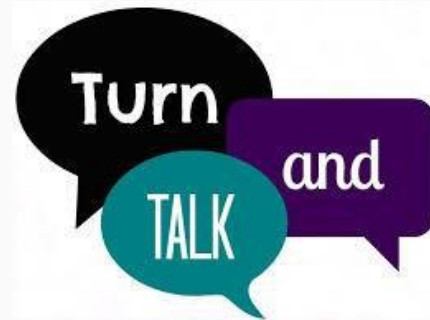
Who is your state rep? Who are the aides?

Who is your state senator? Who are the aides?

Who is on your education house committee? Who is the chair?

Who is on your education senate committee? Who is the chair?

Who are your governor's ed policy advisors?



Utilize all three lanes

1:1

Preemptive
coffee

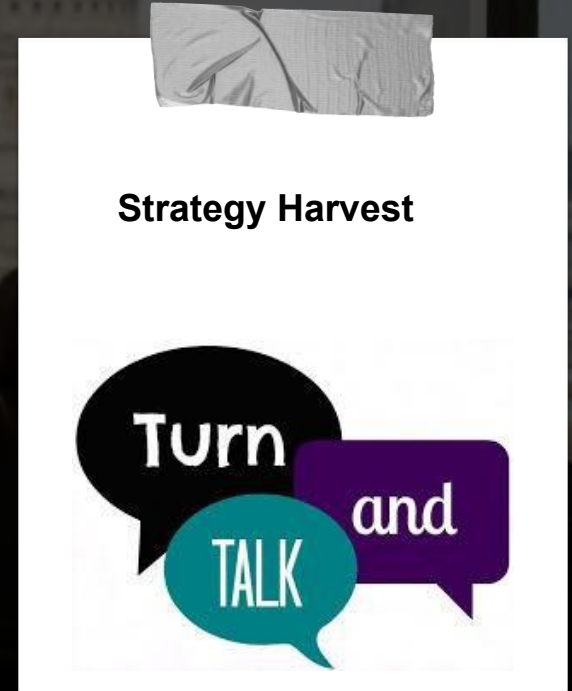
Event

Luncheon
Board Meeting

Mass

Email, social
media, friends

Mobilize the educational community.



teachplus.org/teachplusonline

“We envision a day
when excellent
teachers drive the
transformation of
our education
system.”



- Watch short video segments (about 5 minutes each) interspersed with activities
- Practice through assessments and checks for understanding
- Decide how much time you need - the course is self-paced

Sign up now and get started!

Sign Up!



Access the Classroom



Course Content

- **Teachers as Policy Influencers:** What are the pathways for teacher impact in policy and what does it take for teachers to become bilingual in practice and policy? Understand the obstacles to making change and the strategies to succeed.
- **Policy 101:** What is policy, and how is it made and changed? Who makes it, and how can teachers play a role in shaping it? Explore why policy matters and what levers teachers have to influence policy.
- **Storytelling for Impact:** How can teachers develop the voice needed to influence policy? Learn the power of storytelling and public narrative as tools for effective advocacy.
- **Advocacy 101:** How do teachers make things happen in the complex world of policy and politics? Understand the importance of goals, relationships, root cause analysis, and power mapping.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act:** How will the law affect assessment, accountability, resource equity, and teacher leadership in states and districts? Learn what the law says and how to get involved in your community.
- **From the Source: Conversations with Policymakers and Policy Influencers:** Why is it important for teachers to meet with policymakers? What's the best way for a teacher to have an impact during a meeting? In this series, we present policymaker perspectives that get to the heart of how education policy is made and teachers' role in shaping it.

Current School Districts Represented

- Avondale
- Berkeley
- Brandon
- Clawson
- Farmington
- Fraser
- Flat Rock
- Garden City
- Grand Rapids
- Huron Valley
- Lake Orion
- Northville
- Novi
- Plymouth
- Schoolcraft College
- Utica
- Waterford
- Wayne RESA
- West Bloomfield
- Woodhaven Brownstown



Current Legislative Focus



<https://www.fundmischools.org/>



Let the Marketing Campaign begin!

EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Leading Change



A few years ago, Jarod McGuffey sat in the staff lounge at his school in Fraser discussing Michigan's broken school funding system, over-testing, declining enrollment at teacher prep programs in state universities, and other growing concerns. Then he took it to the next step.

The 21st-Century literacy teacher at Disney Elementary School decided to get involved in finding solutions by becoming a fellow in a teacher leadership program—Oakland University's EdLites Teacher Leadership Consortium. Now he's clearing a path for other educators to follow.

McGuffey co-founded a grassroots effort that aims to connect teacher advocates with legislators and other policymakers in dialogue and partnerships. He's hoping to recruit two teachers from every school in Michigan to join Gallileo's "Trusted Voices" campaign.

"One thing we know in these problems won't fix themselves," McGuffey said. "It takes extraordinary individuals who are highly skilled, passionate about their profession, and willing to be the change agents our students need. In other words, it takes teachers!"

Many school employees feel helpless and voiceless against a tide of bad public policy, so this initiative is about empowering educators to claim a seat at the table. He said, "Training and resources are provided.

Educators who join the effort are connected to their local elected representatives and senators as expert voices on education policy matters. Lawmakers are encouraged to consult with Trusted Voices leaders on education bills under consideration.

In his advocacy work through the campaign, McGuffey is focusing on garnering attention and action on a recent study by a coalition of state business and education leaders that showed Michigan is underfunding public education by nearly \$1,000 per student.

"This is the perfect time to get out there and make some changes," he said.

Visit TrustedVoicesEd.com to learn more and sign up. ■

16 • OCTOBER 2014

Whitmer: An Advocate for Public Education

By Brenda Ortega
MEA Voice Editor

High school educator Jill Laurin-Maxwell had a special guest tagging along when she went shopping for school supplies this year.

The sign language teacher took gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer with her to buy tissues, paper pencils, Sharpies, paper clips, binders and more—an \$84 excursion that Laurin-Maxwell said was the start of classroom spending likely to top out at \$430 for the year. "She wanted to know what I was going through," said Laurin-Maxwell, president of the Northwest Education Association in Jackson County. "I was happy for public education—happy for my colleagues—that a candidate cared enough to listen. It was very touching and uplifting."

At the outset of a video of the shopping trip, Laurin-Maxwell tells Whitmer: "If my students throw out their binders at the end of the year, I put them out of the trash if they're not bad."

Whitmer noted that Laurin-Maxwell's experience is not unique: "It shouldn't be as teachers to get the supplies that students need to be successful. But here we are, because we don't have leaders who are supporting the work that is so important that is happening every day in our schools."

Last year, Laurin-Maxwell spent \$85 buying lunch for all of her students so they could go on a field trip related to a unit on courts. She shelled out nearly \$200 for a fresco art project related to class learning on Renaissance



Gretchen Whitmer visited with members at the MEA Leadership Conference in August. (L-R) Amy Urbanowski-Nowick of Birch Run, Whitmer, Jill Laurin-Maxwell of Jackson Northwest, and Charles Miller of Penton.

ing-impaired artists, which students look forward to doing, she said. "Our legislators expanded the evaluation system, but they don't want to pay for teachers to make their classrooms more innovative," Laurin-Maxwell said.

The shopping trip was not the first time Laurin-Maxwell felt heard by Whitmer. She was at the state Capitol in 2012 when Republican leaders rushed passage of so-called "right to work" legislation without hearings—locking the building at one point with 12,000 protesting outside.

Laurin-Maxwell recalls Whitmer—then Senate Democratic leader—coming outside with other legislators to talk with the protesters. "She listened to us back then, educators, auto workers, SEIU members. I knew it was real then."

Whitmer proudly notes a lifelong history with public education. She is the daughter and granddaughter of educators, the product of public schools in Michigan, and the mother of two teenage daughters attending East Lansing Public Schools.

"A generation ago, Michigan led the world in public education," Whitmer notes in her education plan. "This was the state families packed up and moved to because parents knew their children could get a quality education and the skills they needed to get a good-paying job."

Her education plan, *Get it Done: Better Schools Now for Michigan Students*, focuses on stabilizing school funding, improving compensation and working conditions for school employees, phasing in universal preschool, and investing in wraparound services through partnerships and increased counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

"Education shouldn't be a partisan issue, but Republicans in Lansing have consistently sided with Betty DeVos to push an education agenda that includes skimming school funding, expending unaccountable for profit charter schools, over-emphasizing standardized tests, attacking hard-working educators and adopting a one-size-fits-all approach to education," she wrote in her plan.

www.TrustedVoicesEd.com



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What questions might you have?

