MDE update: Flora Jenkins reported on No Child Left Behind. The MDE has been holding regional meetings, as well as individual meetings, for K-12 schools regarding NCLB. All information regarding future meetings are on the MDE website. Michigan is well ahead of most states on testing and reported data.

A flow chart on qualifications for NCLB was distributed. The Michigan definition of “highly qualified teacher” was also highlighted. This was approved by the State Board of Education in April.

A question and answer session regarding NCLB followed.

It was reiterated that a person can teach with a minor if the appropriate test has been passed. Group majors and minors can be problematic for high school specialty areas (i.e., group science/chemistry or group social studies/history).

The DI minor will not be pursued for secondary but will for elementary. No programs in the future will be approved for Rx minor for secondary students.

Frank Ciloski stated that the Federal Government has no authority to supersede the Michigan definition of “highly qualified”. Michigan actions are perfectly in line with other states’ actions. The regional meetings have been well attended.

Regarding Special Education: There is an amendment in the House version that takes some of the burden off Special Education (especially secondary special education teachers).

Only Title I schools must notify parents that their children are being taught by unqualified teachers.

Michigan certification and “highly qualified” are two separate issues (especially K-8 certified all subjects).

Regarding double counting: A person could “bump up” the history concentration with an Rx major to 30 hours and/or take the history test and be considered “highly qualified” under NCLB, yet still not have a history endorsement on their Michigan certificate. Double counting for this purpose is MDE permission under guidelines.

Clarification on middle school: A student who majors or minors (and passes the MTTC) can teach middle school. If language arts, science or social studies group majors/minors have passed test, they can teach in those areas. By definition, middle school starts at grade 6 by federal definition. The label of the course does matter. “Eighth grade US History” would be a problem...
for Rx major/minor. The Rx minor for secondary will no longer be allowed after September 1. Those already nearer completion in the Rx secondary will be permitted but should be advised they might have difficulty meeting “highly qualified” in a secondary school.

A person cannot just take the test and add an endorsement. Exception--K-8 – 7/8 all subjects can take a test and be “highly qualified” but not endorsed.