

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM: **April 2016**

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF
DEBORAH SIEBERN-DENNIS, 2015-2016 MISSOURI'S MILKEN EDUCATOR

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:

Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.

SUMMARY:

The Milken Family Foundation recently announced Deborah Siebern-Dennis, seventh and eighth grade honors science teacher at Bode Middle School in St. Joseph, as Missouri's Milken Educator for 2015-2016.

Mrs. Siebern-Dennis has been teaching for 11 years and has been in her present position at Bode Middle School since 2006. Missouri's Blue Ribbon panel nominated four Missouri educators for consideration by the Milken Family Foundation for this honor. From these highly qualified educators, Mrs. Deborah Siebern-Dennis was selected.

Mrs. Siebern-Dennis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle School Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Science/Educational Leadership: Secondary from Northwest Missouri State University.

Mrs. Siebern-Dennis was recognized by the Milken Family Foundation at an all school assembly on February 11, 2016. Along with this honor, Mrs. Siebern-Dennis was presented with a \$25,000 cash award from the foundation.

PRESENTER:

Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education adopt the proposed resolution.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution

Whereas, Deborah Siebern-Dennis has been selected as Missouri's Milken Educator for year 2015-2016 and will represent more than 67,000 classroom teachers in Missouri's public schools; and

Whereas, Deborah Siebern-Dennis, a 7th and 8th grade honors science teacher at Bode Middle School, St. Joseph School District, has been recognized by students, parents, colleagues and community leaders as a superior teacher who builds strong relationships, acts as a role model for her peers, and is an active community volunteer; and

Whereas, Deborah Siebern-Dennis is a leader and advocate who believes in giving students the tools for exploration so that they can learn by doing, looks for new activities to bring into the classroom, provides real-world experiences for her students, and sets high expectations while holding students accountable; and

Whereas, Deborah Siebern-Dennis is passionately committed to service and public education, is genuinely excited about science and her students, leads her students to become problem solvers and critical thinkers, mentors student teachers to improve their practice, and is instrumental in leading other faculty members to enhance classroom lessons through technology and to improve student engagement; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Missouri State Board of Education formally commends Deborah Siebern-Dennis on her selection as Missouri's Milken Educator for 2015-2016 and extends its congratulations to Mrs. Siebern-Dennis, her students, and Bode Middle School; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board expresses its appreciation to Mrs. Siebern-Dennis for her exemplary service to students, the St. Joseph School District, and to public education in the State of Missouri.

Adopted April 19, 2016, at Jefferson City, Missouri



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Shields".

Charlie Shields, President
Missouri State Board of Education