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COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

Board Report — November 12, 2026

- **Renovation Update and Bid Approvals:** The remodeling and renovation work at the Administration Building is well underway and slightly ahead of schedule. Work will continue into Q1 of 2027. Initial design meetings with Pure Architects continue as plans for an on-campus ranch home to serve certain Transitions students develop. This project is expected to bid in Q1 of 2027 with a completion timeline pending following the approval process. The desire would be project completion by Q4 of 2027.

- **Out of State Travel Approval Procedures:** Per discussion at last month's board of education meeting, we have an action item on this month's agenda in regards to our staff out-of-state travel procedures. Current policy requires Board approval for all employee out-of-state travel. Routing routine ground-travel requests through scheduled Board meetings potentially creates unnecessary administrative delays. Our recommendation is to authorize the superintendent or designee to approve out-of-state ground travel (without student participation) while retaining Board approval for all air travel, student out-of-state trips, and exceptional expenses.

- **Legislative Update:** On November 3**,** Michigan voters elected a new Governor, chose representatives for state and federal offices, and decided two statewide ballot proposals Tuesday in an election that will bring significant leadership changes in both Lansing and Washington. Democrats won the Governor's race, regained control of the Michigan House and retained their majority in the state Senate. The party also won Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat. Voters rejected a proposal to call a constitutional convention and approved new campaign finance restrictions affecting certain utilities, government contractors and political communications. The results will return Michigan to unified Democratic control of state government in January, following two years in which Republicans held the House and Democrats controlled the Senate and Governor's office.

  Current Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson defeated U.S. Rep. John James in the gubernatorial race to succeed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is completing her second and final term. Benson's running mate, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks of Grand Rapids, will become Lieutenant Governor and her departure from the Legislature will require Senate Democrats to select a new caucus leader.

  In the US Senate race, former Wayne County health director Abdul El-Sayed defeated former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers for the seat being vacated by Gary Peters. El-Sayed, who won the

Democratic primary against U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, will become the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate. Rogers previously represented Michigan's 8th Congressional District and was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in 2024.

Michigan's U.S. House delegation will also see changes following several competitive elections. In the 4th District, state Sen. Sean McCann of Kalamazoo defeated Republican incumbent Bill Huizenga. In the 10th District, Democrat Christina Hines defeated Republican Michael Bouchard Jr. for the open seat previously held by James. In the 7th District, Democrat William Lawrence defeated Republican incumbent Tom Barrett.

Republicans entered this election holding seven of Michigan's 13 Congressional seats, compared with six held by Democrats. Depending on certification of the remaining results, the new delegation could include nine Democrats and four Republicans. The changes will also affect Michigan's representation on Congressional committees, with assignments to be determined when the new Congress organizes in January.

This election will also change control of the Michigan House, where Republicans entered Tuesday with a 58-52 majority. It appears the democrats will now have a 63-47 majority. Among the notable House contests were the 86th District in Holland, where Democrat Joseph McClusky defeated Republican incumbent Nancy DeBoer. House Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri of Canton is considered a leading candidate to become Speaker when the new Legislature convenes. Current House Speaker Matt Hall of Richland Township will continue leading the House through the remainder of the current term.

In the Michigan Senate, Democrats retained their majority and increased their number of seats. All 38 Senate districts were on the ballot, and the unofficial results show a 23-15 Democrat majority, a net gain of four for that party. Brinks' election as Lieutenant Governor will require a leadership transition within the Senate Democratic caucus. The caucus will select a new Majority Leader to oversee its legislative agenda and internal operations. The current leading candidate is Sen. Darrin Camilleri of Trenton.

Democrats running for State Attorney General, Secretary of State and Supreme Court also won their races. Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit defeated Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd in the Attorney General's race. Savit will succeed Dana Nessel, who is leaving office after serving the maximum two terms. Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist defeated Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini in the race for secretary of state. Gilchrist will succeed Benson, who has held the office since 2019. On the Michigan Supreme Court, Chief Justice Megan Cavanagh and Justice Noah Hood won full eight-year terms. Both justices were nominated by the Democratic Party, although judicial elections in Michigan are nonpartisan. Their victories preserve the Court's current composition of six Democratic-nominated justices and one Republican-nominated justice.

In summary, beginning in January 2027, Democrats will control the Governor's office and both legislative chambers. Michigan previously operated under unified Democratic control during the 2023-24 legislative session, before Republicans regained the House in the 2024 election. The transition will mean new House committee chairs, changes in committee membership and leadership, and a different process for negotiating legislation between the chambers. The Governor and Legislature will also begin work on the FY2028 state budget during the first months of the new term.