

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
OCTOBER 21, 2003

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Orange County School Board Office, Orlando, Florida, at 1:15 p.m., October 21, 2003, with the following members present: T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Linda J. Eads; Charles P. García; Julia Johnson; and William L. Proctor.

Welcome

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Superintendent Ron Blocker, Orange County School District, welcomed the Board. Superintendent Blocker recognized two Orange County School Board members, Joie Cadle and Susan Arkin, who were present.

Member Comments and Observations

Dr. Eads reported that she had received information from Florida International University on its institution's doctorate program in nursing and stated that this was evidence that the meetings of the State Board are being followed. Dr. Eads also reported that she had visited St. Pete College as well as spoken with a number of other college presidents after the Board's previous discussion on baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges. Dr. Eads asked the Chairman if the topic will be coming back to the Board for a vote. After discussion, Vice Chairman Fair made the suggestion that in light of the concerns raised by Dr. Eads, the issue be brought back to the State Board as old business for further discussion. Dr. Eads stated that she would like to review it again, and Dr. Proctor asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board.

Chairman's Report

Resignation of Ms. Sally Bradshaw. Chairman Handy acknowledged Ms. Bradshaw's service to the Board and her recent resignation from the Board.

Public Information/Outreach Program. Chairman Handy requested that members review and provide comments relating to the public information/outreach program and stated that a plan is being implemented to re-institute the Florida Education Foundation. Commissioner Horne and Mr. Fred Mattingly will be contacting each member concerning this board and related issues.

School Visits to Provide School Recognition Money. The Chairman shared with the Board that he had visited schools in the Orange County District to deliver their school recognition money acknowledging their success. He encouraged Board members that may not have had this opportunity to do so.

Commissioner's Evaluation. Chairman Handy led the discussion relating to the Commissioner's Evaluation with the seven-step process and the ten-page evaluation

form. Mr. Garcia made the motion to amend section 1E of the evaluation form to include "while continuing to raise standards." Dr. Proctor seconded this motion with the statement that he wanted to go on record with comments relating to this evaluation process. Dr. Proctor said that in regard to the evaluation of the Commissioner, his concerns were the timeliness and accuracy of information provided to the Board, the quality of the policies recommended by the Commissioner, and the effectiveness with which the Board's policy decisions were implemented. He added that the Commissioner should also be held responsible for the quality of the services under his direct control. Commissioner Horne provided a brief explanation of the six areas included on the evaluation form: Organizational Direction, Human Resource Excellence, Resource Management, Communication and Advocacy, Performance Report, and Responsiveness/Action. Ms. Johnson made the motion to approve the evaluation process for the Commissioner with a second from Mr. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously. Further discussion was lead by Vice Chairman Fair concerning the next step in the evaluation process. Vice Chairman Fair stated that Commissioner Horne should outline what he is going to do specifically toward meeting the goals in terms of policies and percentages. Commissioner Horne agreed to present at the next meeting a work plan that will correspond with the legislative work plan.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the September 16, 2003, State Board Meeting. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Commissioner's Report.

Activities. Commissioner Horne reported that he had been invited by the National Governors Association to speak on the Danish Vocational Education Model and whether it would work in America and by the US DOE to speak on the status of American high schools in regard to accountability involving the use of data and data-driven decision-making. Then he related to the Board that he had participated in the Milken Awards involving presentations in Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami. He concluded this update by reporting to the Board that both he and Chairman Handy spoke at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Charter School Conference in Orlando delivering the message that the direction of charter schools must include elevating their mission and staying focused on the children.

Scholarship Programs. Commissioner Horne reported that he had a press conference to unveil the comprehensive reform package for scholarship programs.

#### Personnel Updates.

Dr. Larry Wood, Chief Operating Officer for the Department, has resigned.

Dr. Alex Penn-Williams will assume the role of Special Advisor to the Commissioner.

Dr. Theresa Klebacha will assume the role as Executive Director for Independent Education.

Dr. Bonnie Marmor has accepted the position as the Director of Workforce Education.

Teacher Certification. The Department is ahead of schedule in processing applications.

Governor's State of Education Address. The Governor's State of Education Address will be held on November 13, 2003, at 8:30 a.m., at the Contemporary Hotel in Orlando.

Special Session of the Legislature. A special session began on October 20, 2003, with the focus on economic development.

Recognition. Commissioner Horne recognized Linda Wiltz, who has been an educator for over twenty-five years, for her efforts in training reading teachers.

Just Read Florida!

Mary Laura Openshaw provided the following updates relating to the Just Read Florida! initiatives:

The US DOE has selected the Florida Center for Reading Research to serve the Eastern Seaboard for technical assistance for Reading First.

State Farm has extended its partnership in education by participating in a program in Polk County to work with six high schools which have ninth graders with difficulties in reading. More than thirty State Farm associates have committed to spending one-half day a week in the classrooms working with the students.

Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to accept the Commissioner's report with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Consideration of Recommendation for School Improvement Plans for "F" Schools. Chancellor Warford requested a recommendation for approval of all of the school improvement plans as presented with a further recommendation that the Department bring back to the Board a mid-year review of all approved school improvement plans. Dr. Proctor made the motion that the Board accept the recommendation of staff with the provision that the Commissioner report to the State Board no later than February 28, 2004, on the progress of the schools concerning the improvement plans. Vice Chairman Fair seconded the motion. Following further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Vice Chairman Fair moved that items 1 – 8 of the consent agenda be approved with a second by Ms. Johnson. Dr. Proctor requested that Chancellor Armstrong address Item 3, Polk Community College – Designation of a Northeastern Center in Polk County. Dr. Proctor expressed the concern that resources would be redirected to a new site when students are being turned away from existing programs. Mr. Armstrong explained that this approval is to begin the planning process and that in the next three to five years the Board would see this proposal again in the budget recommendation process. The Board would then have the opportunity to vote on the allocation for funds for the site. The motion passed unanimously. (See attached agenda for list of consent items.)

## Presentations

Orange County District Academic Performance-Based Charter District. Superintendent Ron Blocker, Orange County School District, reported on the progress of the district as an academic performance-based charter district. Mr. Blocker's presentation included information on what the changes are in school performance and what they are doing differently now that they are a charter district. Dr. Eads requested that there should be a review of rules that may be holding other districts back from the same success Orange County has experienced. Chairman Handy and Vice Chairman Fair concurred.

K-20 Data Warehouse. Deputy Commissioner John Winn reported to the Board that Florida is the only state in the nation to have an interactive, interrelational database of students, staff, facilities, academic information, and financial aid information, beginning with 1995-96 data. This database includes K-20 and graduate school data and consists of almost nine million students' records, as well as staff from all the public facilities in the state of Florida. The Department is currently working to develop an executive access system to allow users to conduct queries for analysis purposes. Vice Chairman Fair stated that one of the Board's mandates should be that since the database is now available, public policy debate be mounted in the data available. Mr. Winn closed by acknowledging that this project could not have been done without the funds appropriated by the Legislature.

## Reports/Updates

Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Chancellor Armstrong provided the following updates:

There were approximately twenty-two thousand students who could not get accepted into at least one course at the community colleges.

The community college presidents met with the Governor recently and were assured that he wanted to place a priority on community college enrollment funding.

Mr. Armstrong expressed his interest in the community colleges being involved in the Scripp Biotech initiative and reported that three community colleges have curriculum currently in place for technicians for biotechnology.

Mr. Armstrong provided the following information relating to questions asked previously about student success in community colleges. A database is being developed that will assist in determining what happens to community college students in regard to such matters as how many graduate or what percentage graduate, how many transfer, etc.

Mr. Armstrong summarized his discussions with community college presidents relating to the baccalaureate degrees at community colleges. Mr. Armstrong stated that the feedback was all positive and that the specifics will be presented at the next State Board meeting including follow-up of the legislation that is being drafted.

Mr. Armstrong concluded his report by answering questions asked by Dr. Proctor concerning the number of students who could not obtain or even get a partial schedule because of insufficient courses or available space. Mr. Armstrong responded by referring to the college-by-college matrix which was provided as a handout. Mr. Garcia inquired as to the dollar amount that would have been required to be included in the budget to have avoided the problem of too few classes. Mr. Armstrong responded that the budget approved by the Board for roughly a hundred million dollars for enrollment growth was based on last year's nineteen thousand FTE that did not get funded and an additional estimate of nineteen thousand. Thirty-eight thousand FTE equaled roughly a hundred million dollars requested for enrollment growth.

K-12 Public Schools. Chancellor Warford provided the following updates to the Board:

Due to the inconsistency of the current data collection and analysis of teacher vacancies, a year-long timeline of proposals has been recommended in the data collection process on the actual number of teacher vacancies to provide more accurate information. This new system will include the development of an online reporting system and a new monitoring process for districts to follow.

The No Excuses, Florida Conference, was conducted with the assistance plus efforts for all F-2 and F-1 schools. School-based teams from all of the F-1 and F-2 schools were in attendance, as well as district leaders. Also included in the conference were those schools that received the grade of F in previous years but are now showing improvement. Feedback from the conference has been outstanding.

Information was provided on the timelines for the implementation of the Florida Supplemental Educational Services which is now a requirement under No Child Left Behind.

Eight districts have presented applications for the BEST Project. This pilot project is to begin January 2004.

Mr. Garcia requested that Chancellor Warford inform him of the variety of state programs pertaining to the No Child Left Behind Act.

Dr. Proctor requested that we include in our legislative program the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind to ensure that the school is included in opportunities that are made available to school districts. At present, the school is not authorized to participate in the BEST Program. Dr. Proctor also reiterated his request that the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind have powers of eminent domain consistent with that of other educational institutions. Dr. Proctor concluded his comments by stating that it might be advisable to consider recommending the acceleration of the implementation of the class size amendment. He added that public reaction to the problems that will occur in the final stages of the amendment might prevent further waste of funds.

#### CEPRI Projects, 2003-2004

Dr. Bill Proctor provided updates on the activities of CEPRI as follows:

The recommendation of CEPRI relating to the contract study requested by the Legislature will be that the universities negotiate one-on-one with the Board of Governors for budget requests.

At the request of the Senate, CEPRI is reviewing workforce, workforce funding, and apprenticeship funding in particular. CEPRI is two-thirds of the way through and will provide an update when its recommendation is complete.

CEPRI will conduct a study of how other states compare in relation to No Child Left Behind. This comparison will include how well students in other states do on the NAPE and the SAT 9 compared to Florida students.

The next meeting of CEPRI is November 12, 2003, in Jacksonville.

#### K-20 Performance Accountability Task Force

John Winn stated that a full report, including the recommended measures, would be provided at the next State Board of Education meeting.

#### Educational Facilities Task Force

Ray Monteleone reported that the task force has met two times and will meet a third time next week. Subcommittees are looking at various alternatives in both the planning and budgeting processes. He stated that a memorandum would be sent to the State Board members before the end of the week which will provide a summary of actions completed at the two previous meetings and outline the projected activities for the third meeting. Chairman Handy suggested that Pre-K be added to the agenda for the Task Force.

#### Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be on November 18, 2003, in Tallahassee. The meeting will be a one-day session starting at 9:00 a.m. with the Independent Education Workshop. The meeting of the State Board will begin at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 16, 2003, and is tentatively planned for Miami or Southeast Florida beginning at 9:00 a.m. The workshop for December 16, 2003, will be on the interaction between federal and state, both funding and regulations.

Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

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F. Philip Handy,  
Chairman

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Lynn Abbott,  
Corporate Secretary