

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CHILES HIGH SCHOOL, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Chiles High School, Tallahassee, Florida, at 1:05 p.m., November 18, 2003, with the following members present: T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Linda J. Eads; Charles P. García; and William L. Proctor. Julia Johnson participated via telephone.

Welcome

Superintendent Bill Montford, Leon County School District, and Dr. Alan Coxe, Principal of Chiles High School welcomed the Board.

Member Comments and Observations

Dr. Eads reported that after the Governor's State of Education Address, she visited Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne. Dr. Eads stated that she felt the visit was beneficial in that visiting schools and meeting with educators provides information both for the schools and for her as a policymaker in her role as a State Board of Education member. Dr. Eads concluded her comments by reporting that she had met with Chancellor Armstrong concerning the baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges. Dr. Eads stated that she wanted to make three points relating to these programs. One, she expects to see clear criteria for submitting baccalaureate degree programs and that the expectations of those programs are clear. Two, that clear evaluation criteria is being established to ensure fair and consistent evaluations of institutions. Lastly, the Department's staff will ensure that institutions are deterred from making changes in the programs without State Board of Education approval.

Chairman's Report

Commissioner's Evaluation. Chairman Handy presented the outcome from the discussions relating to the Commissioner's evaluation.

Governor's State of Education Address. Chairman Handy reported on the Governor's State of Education Address and stated that it was the culmination of five years of dedication on the subject of student achievement. He stated that this is the first time in Florida's history it has exceeded the national average for fourth grade reading.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the October 21, 2003, State Board Meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Dr. Proctor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report.

Recognition. Commissioner Horne recognized Ms. Ruth Moody and Mr. Dilworth Vinzant. Ms. Moody has been an educator for over 50 years and has been described by her superiors and colleagues as the behind the scenes guiding force at Gilchrist Elementary School in Leon County. Mr. Vinzant has been with Leon County Schools for

over 40 years. He has been promoted to positions of increased responsibility and authority and currently is the technical maintenance supervisor for the Paint Department.

Just Read Florida! Mary Laura Openshaw further discussed the results of the NAEP tests for 4th and 8th grade reading. Ms. Openshaw stated that the flat scores in 8th grade were even more evidence of the need to replicate the elementary school model at the middle and high school levels. In closing she emphasized that while we are excited about the promise of the progress as shown by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores, the Department is in no way suggesting that efforts shouldn't be doubled in the middle and high schools.

#### Activities.

Center for Education Reform. Commissioner Horne reported that he attended the Center for Education Reform Gala in Washington, D.C., where Florida was recognized as the leading state in education reform. While in Washington Commissioner Horne also briefed Florida's congressional delegation on educational initiatives in the state.

District/Charter School Contacts. Commissioner Horne updated the Board on his participation in bi-monthly telephone calls with superintendents and charter school officials of schools designated as failing. This effort is to ensure that schools are receiving the support and resources to assist them in making changes to meet the educational needs of the students.

State of Education Address. Commissioner Horne stated that as a result of the State of Education Address he believes business executives are now aware of the progress of education reform and how this can become a recruiting tool to bring new businesses into Florida.

Teacher Certification. Commissioner Horne reported that the number of teacher certification applications processed by the Department has doubled with the existing workforce.

Divisions of Blind Services and Vocational Rehabilitation. Commissioner Horne reported that the Department leadership is currently reviewing processes and customer service for both divisions. A plan will be developed to provide services to more customers and improve the services currently provided.

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

#### Action Items

Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements. Mr. Garcia expressed to the Board that he has strong concerns about not being aggressive in raising the scores for the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT), referring specifically to the third grade reading score. Mr. Garcia further stressed to the Board that by raising the bar for reading, the effect would be an increase in resources and incentive for students and educators to emphasize

reading. Dr. Proctor stated that while he agreed with Mr. Garcia's concerns we need to evaluate the progress of the third graders who were retained last year to determine the effectiveness of retention. In addition, Dr. Proctor stated he would like to see the progress of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who did not pass the FCAT last year. Dr. Eads stated that while she would also like to raise the bar, she is concerned with ensuring that we continue the support for the children who are struggling under the current FCAT scores. Dr. Eads further stated that raising the bar now may have a devastating effect on the morale and professional development efforts of the teams of people in the field currently. Dr. Eads would prefer to review the results of further testing before taking further action. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the rule as presented with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed with Mr. Garcia as the opposing vote.

Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability. Dr. Cornelia Orr provided clarification of how students currently enrolled in exceptional student education and limited English proficient programs will affect school grades in the proposed amendment. Dr. Orr stated that after one year, the students must take the FCAT but will not have learning gains until they have taken the test twice. Dr. Proctor stated his concerns relating to exceptional student education students whose Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) do not specify them as eligible to be included in the FCAT testing. Dr. Orr clarified that if a student's IEP does not address this eligibility, the school may use an alternative assessment. Dr. Eads made the motion to approve the rule as presented with a second by Dr. Proctor. The motion passed with Mr. Garcia as the opposing vote.

Condemnation of Private Property Adjacent to the Campus of Florida A & M University. Dr. Proctor stated that Florida A & M University had already built buildings contingent upon approval by the State Board to exercise eminent domain and that in the future this type of issue should be presented to the Board in advance. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve this item with a second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of 2004 Legislative Agenda. The first half of the Legislative Agenda consisting of middle school reform, teacher bill, baccalaureate degrees at community colleges, Universal Pre-K Program, and scholarship programs and accountability measures was presented to the Board.

Scholarship Program and Accountability Measures. David Foy provided an overview of the scholarship and accountability measure initiative. He stated that the proposal delineates scholarship funding organizations, private school and student eligibility requirements, and prohibitions for the corporate tax credit scholarship programs, as well as student assessment requirements.

Universal Pre-K Initiative. Chancellor Warford provided a presentation on the Universal Pre-K Initiative including an overview of the constitutional amendment, Senate Bill 1334, the establishment and recommendations of the UPK Advisory Council, and the Commissioner's recommendations. Dr. Proctor requested clarification on the availability of the use of funds currently available for school readiness services for four-year olds. Mr. Warford responded that the process would begin with negotiating with the federal government for a waiver and that this was a possibility. Mr. Garcia raised the question relating to the establishment of a Chancellor to oversee the program rather than establishing

the program as part of Chancellor Warford's area. Chairman Handy stated that the alternative would be an executive director reporting to the Chancellor.

Middle School Reform Initiative. Mr. Foy stated that this initiative was to focus on and identify policies and strategies to increase reading proficiency of middle school students. In addition, the State Board will conduct a study in consultation with Just Read Florida!, as well as other stakeholders on the essential components which are effective in middle school.

Teacher Bill. Mr. Foy presented an overview of the bill which includes the authority for the Education Practices Commission to take disciplinary action against teachers who have been sanctioned for criminal or code of ethics violations. The bill will also enable applicants to apply for certification on-line by eliminating a required notarized written oath and replacing it with an affidavit, either by original signature or electronic authentication. In addition, the bill would expand the alternative certification program to allow community colleges, colleges, and universities the ability to offer alternative certification programs to individuals who are considering a second career in education. Finally, the bill would add the passport certificate issued by the American Board of Certification of Teacher Excellence as another alternative method for obtaining initial teacher certification. Dr. Proctor inquired as to whether the Board would have the opportunity to see more detail on this proposal and specifics relating to the alternative certification programs. Chancellor Warford assured Dr. Proctor that additional information and detail would be provided.

Dr. Proctor made the motion to approve the 2004 Legislative Agenda with a second by Mr. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously with a statement by Mr. Fair that he objected to the creation of a new Chancellor for the Universal Pre-K Proposal.

### Consent items

Dr. Eads moved that items 1-5 of the consent agenda be approved with a second by Mr. Garcia. Dr. Proctor, in reference to item 1 of the consent agenda, requested further discussion on exceptional student education teacher certification. Dr. Proctor stated that there are a number of disabilities grouped into one certification coverage and that we may need to broaden the spectrum. The motion passed unanimously.

### Reports/Updates

Class Size Amendment. Ms. Blomberg reported that school districts are now in the process of submitting their current year class size data. The database will be closed on November 27, 2003. Ms. Blomberg concluded her update by stating that the data will be presented as part of the agenda for the State Board on December 16, 2003.

Community Colleges. Mr. Armstrong provided the following updates:

Broward Community College has appointed Dr. Larry Calderon as their new president. Dr. Calderon replaces Dr. Willis Holcombe who recently retired.

Enterprise Florida is working with community colleges to develop a strategy for developing new programs based on the businesses and industries currently being recruited.

Concurrent use programs in public and private universities have increased by 70 percent since the initiative was started four years ago.

State University System Activities. Chancellor Austin provided the following updates:

Dr. Nancy McKee has accepted the position of Vice Chancellor for Educational Policy and Research.

Dr. Bernie Machen has been selected as the new president of the University of Florida to begin on January 5, 2004.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors is December 3, 2003. The agenda will include a discussion on strategic planning for the university system, accountability measures, and legislative activities.

Florida's New Return on Investment System (ROI). Ms. Blomberg demonstrated the newly-created comprehensive website which presents student, staff, and financial measures at the school, district, and state levels.

CEPRI Projects, 2003-2004. Dr. Bill Proctor provided updates on the following:

The Board of Governors on December 3, 2003, on the results of the contract study recently completed by CEPRI.

CEPRI is continuing to focus on the workforce education funding as requested by the President of the Senate.

The next CEPRI meeting will be held on December 10, 2003, in Orlando. CEPRI continues to work on the No Child Left Behind.

### Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be on December 16, 2003, at Nova Southeastern. The meeting will be a one-day session starting at 9:00 a.m. with a workshop on federal funding and programs. The meeting of the State Board will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Board will continue to meet every third Tuesday of the month. The established dates for the first six months are: January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

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. Philip Handy,  
Chairman

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Lynn Abbott,  
Corporate Secretary