

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 16, 2003

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at 1:00 p.m., December 16, 2003, with the following members present: T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Charles P. García; and William L. Proctor. Julia Johnson participated via telephone. Dr. Linda J. Eads was absent.

**Welcome**

Dr. Wells Singleton, Provost of Graduate School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University, and Dr. Don Riggs, Vice President of Information Services and Libraries, welcomed the Board.

**Member Comments and Observations**

Mr. García requested a copy of the teacher survey data as released by Ava Byrne, Bureau of Educator Recruitment and Professional Development.

**Chairman's Report**

Symposium on Pre-K. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Handy spoke to Mayor Pinellas and David Lawrence's Symposium on Pre-K. He reported that he had assured the participants of the Symposium that the private sector is very much a part of the Board's view of Pre-K.

University of Florida. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Handy met with the President, J. Bernard Machen, University of Florida, and spoke about the Pre-K through 20 system.

Seabreeze. Chairman Handy spoke to the Board of Seabreeze and made a pledge that there would be better communication with the coordination of their research and the State Board's work.

Audit by Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher. Chairman Handy reported that he received a letter from Tom Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer, about the administration of the voucher programs, which would be further discussed by Commissioner Horne. Chairman Handy further stated that he invited Tom Gallagher's participation in the process and oversight.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the December 16, 2003, State Board Meeting. Mr. García stated that the minutes did not adequately present or articulate the arguments he raised at the previous meeting about why the Board should act to raise the FCAT cutoff scores and said he could not

approve them without an amendment. Mr. García made the motion to amend the minutes which failed. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Dr. Proctor. The motion passed with Mr. García as an opposing vote.

### **Commissioner's Report.**

Educational Leadership Council. Commissioner Horne was elected as Chairman of the Educational Leadership Council in Washington, DC.

Education Fair. On December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. García, Mr. Fair, and Commissioner Horne received an award at the Education Fair that was held in Miami. The purpose of the fair is to celebrate the success of the Spanish students who are aspiring to post secondary education and consider ways to maximize access for minorities.

Personnel Updates. Commissioner Horne announced the following changes in staff: John Winn is the new Chief of Staff; Ray Monteleone's duties have expanded to include Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Bonnie Marmor is the Director of Workforce reporting to the Chancellor of Community Colleges; and Dr. Nancy McKee has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor for Education Policy reporting to the Chancellor of Division of Colleges and Universities.

Audit Conducted by Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher. Commissioner Horne reported that the material issues in the audit report had already been addressed by the Department through implementation of policy or by developing proposed legislation for this legislative session. Commissioner Horne outlined the various steps taken at the Department level as it affects the scholarship programs. The steps he outlined include the notice to develop rules, new leadership in the Independent Education and Parental Choice Office, creation of the compliance forms in order to obtain data from the SFOs, expansion of data bases, and establishment of policies and procedures.

Scholarship Programs. Commissioner Horne reported that December 15, 2003, was the deadline for the schools that were participating in scholarship programs to comply with their action plans. There were 2 categories. Category 1 schools were those that fully complied. Category 2 consisted of 21 schools that failed to complete the compliance forms. These schools have now been deemed ineligible for vouchers. In addition, there were 100 schools that completed the compliance forms but were found not to be in compliance. These schools were given a deadline of December 15, 2003, to be in compliance. As of December 15, 2003, the schools that were not in compliance are on warning probationary status and their payments are officially suspended. All schools must be in complete compliance by May 1, 2004, if they wish to participate the following year. Commissioner Horne stated that there are 1,042 schools in compliance.

Just Read Florida! Mary Laura Openshaw updated the Board on the progress in the area of reading during the past year.

Family Building Better Readers. Ms. Openshaw reported on training provided to parents in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. She stated that in Palm Beach 1,950

parents were trained. In Miami-Dade there were 75 parents trained. The training will continue over the next six months in strategic areas of the state in order to train as many trainers in districts so more parents may be trained. Vice-Chairman Fair requested that additional training be offered in Miami-Dade and that Greater Miami be included in order to mobilize parents.

Reading Coaches. There are approximately 520 state and/or federal funded reading coaches trained in the state.

Teachers. Approximately 8,000 teachers have been trained through the teacher academy in the summer of 2003.

Dr. Proctor inquired as to whether there is adequate funding for the staff that is required in K-12. Ms. Openshaw responded that the desire is to put one reading coach in every middle school which would cost approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 per coach. Dr. Proctor stated that he would like to focus on K-12 until we have reached our goals before focusing on community colleges and universities on the presumption that students shouldn't be in college unless they can read. Mr. García asked if the ratio of teachers versus reading coaches had been evaluated. Ms. Openshaw responded that state funding provides a ratio of one reading coach per 40 teachers.

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

### **Legislative Agenda.**

Study on Acceleration Programs. David Foy, Director of Governmental Relations, introduced Heather Sherry, the Director of Articulation and Student Services with the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education to review the Study on Acceleration Programs. At the request of the State Board, the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) conducted this study with the assistance of the Task Force on Acceleration Policies. Mr. Foy summarized the recommendations of the ACC as they related to the legislative recommendations submitted for State Board of Education approval. The recommendations included: authorizing the State Board to review and develop state guidelines that address minimum requirements for participating in acceleration mechanisms; aligning state GPA weighing policies for high school graduation across the various graduation options; authorizing the State Board to develop a common set of general education courses that will maximize credit transfer for dual enrollment students; deleting the 18 credit career prep accelerated graduation option; and increasing academic standards for the 18 credit college prep accelerated graduation option.

Dr. Proctor moved the motion with a second by Mr. Fair. Chairman Handy asked to have time frames set for the first three recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

K20 Education Performance Task Force Report. Jay Pfeiffer provided information on the K-20 Education Performance Task Force Report as it relates to the legislative initiatives for the State Board of Education. These initiatives include identifying performance measures, authorizing the Commissioner to find and collect data about performance based on the measures, and authorizing learner based assessment for post secondary education. This assessment would have multiple uses including the evaluation of general education programs, the use as a counseling placement tool, and use as a measurement for learning gains achieved since the last FCAT assessment.

Vice Chair Fair made the motion to approve the legislative recommendations with a second by Mr. García. Mr. Handy stated that he wanted to echo concerns raised by Dr. Proctor relating to the implementation of a 12<sup>th</sup> grade assessment or high school graduation assessment and the definition of under-served. Mr. García expressed concerns with the governing law itself and whether it is possible to condition 10% on a performance basis to K-12. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda.**

Chairman Handy asked to take up the Consent Agenda and move the Legislative Agenda for the Class Size together with the presentation on Class Size.

Dr. Proctor moved the motion with a second by Mr. Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentations.**

Class Size. Mrs. Blomberg discussed the data for the past year. She reported that presently, there are 71% of the class room periods in K-3 over the cap, almost 56% in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> over the cap, and 50% over the cap in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. There are 35 districts that are in compliance at all three levels. There are 32 districts that are not in compliance. Mrs. Blomberg presented a quick overview for the districts that were not in compliance.

Dr. Proctor asked if the Department knows why districts are not complying. Ms. Blomberg stated that the reasons provided were a lack of teachers, facilities, and growth. She stated that the next step required in law would be for the Department to calculate the penalties. The penalty would then be verified and agreed upon with the FEFP Allocation Conference and funds would then be transferred from district operations to capital funds.

Superintendent Rogers of Santa Rosa County briefed the State Board on the progress his district had made in implementing the class size reductions and the ramifications of implementing the class size reductions for his district. Mr. Foy completed his presentation stating that part of the legislative initiative included the position of the State Board taken on August 4, 2003, to amend the class size reduction amendment. Dr. Proctor made the motion that the State Board supports the repeal of the class size amendment with the provision that it would apply for K-3 computed on a district-wide average. Mr. Handy clarified that this motion is in addition to action taken by the State

Board in August, the addition being the computation formula on a district average versus a school classroom average. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

CEPRI Projects, 2003-2004. Dr. Bill Proctor said that the Board received a copy of the contract study that was presented to the Board of Governors, on December 3, 2003. Dr. Proctor stated that CEPRI has a preliminary study on No Child Left Behind and Annual Yearly Progress. The Board will receive copies as soon as it has been finalized. Dr. Proctor closed by stating that CEPRI is going to adopt a funding model for career education/workforce education and that the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement's next meeting will be on January 14, 2004, at FAU campus in Boca Raton.

### Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be on February 17, 2003, unless further notified about a meeting in January. Mr. García requested a point of order concerning the procedure to correct inaccuracies in the minutes of the State Board. He would like to have clarification on the proper procedure in correcting inaccuracies in the minutes. He stated that his concern was that the minutes excluded his viewpoint. 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