

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
August 17, 2004

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Capitol, in the Cabinet meeting room, in Tallahassee, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., on August 17, 2004, with the following members present: Linda J. Eads; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Charles P. Garcia; Julia Johnson; William L. Proctor; and Linda K. Taylor.

**Welcome**

Chairman Handy welcomed members and participants.

**Member Comments**

Mrs. Taylor requested that a moment of silence be observed for those affected by Hurricane Charley.

Dr. Eads requested, for her review and analysis, data on the number of students per year suspended from the 67 school districts by race and gender.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Handy began his report by emphasizing that assisting districts affected by Hurricane Charley will be a high priority for the both the Board and the Department.

Chairman Handy requested that a motion be offered to accept the resignation of Commissioner Horne. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to accept the resignation of Commissioner Horne with regrets which was seconded by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to appoint John Winn as Commissioner of Education effective September 1, 2004. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Dr. Proctor. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Taylor stated that the Board should adopt specific criteria to be used in the evaluation of incoming Commissioner Winn and the evaluation period should be six months. Ms. Johnson agreed with the evaluation process and stated that the timing should be such that there is no interference with the upcoming legislative session.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the June 15, 2004, State Board meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mr. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Horne congratulated the Board on the appointment of John Winn as Commissioner and stated that there was no one more deserving.

Commissioner Horne invited the Board to attend the kick off for Partners in Education. Commissioner Horne stated that Partners in Education is an internal initiative to recognize and acknowledge all of the employees in the Department and their role in education.

Commissioner Horne reported that the investigation of the transfer of students in Polk County is still ongoing.

Recognition. The Commissioner recognized the 2005 Teacher of the Year, Kerri Ann Walukiewicz. Ms. Walukiewicz teaches seventh grade at-risk students in St. Lucie County. Commissioner Horne congratulated Ms. Walukiewicz for her many accomplishments including the creation of a reading program that pairs students with first graders and the design of a curriculum to target boys with reading and discipline problems and pair them with the excitement of basketball and reading.

Update on Compliance by School Districts with the Assistance Plus Plan. Shan Goff, Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement, and Mary Jane Tappen, Bureau Chief for School Improvement, gave an overview of the status of school districts' compliance with the Assistance Plus Plan as approved by the State Board on June 15, 2004. Ms. Tappen reported that districts will continue to improve their plans specifically in the areas of community involvement and overall quality. The final report will be made to the Board at the September 21, 2004, meeting including recommendations for actions, if any, the Board should consider.

Projection of Teacher Demand/Availability. Jeanine Blomberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, reported the preliminary data on the projection of teacher demand and availability for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Ms. Blomberg reported that for 2004-2005, it is projected that 22,542 teachers will be needed. Ms. Blomberg continued her report with an overview of the three components which are included in this projection: the number of vacancies due to terminations, retirement, resignation, or death, student growth, and the constitutional requirement for class size reductions. Dr. Proctor requested information on the number of teachers teaching out of field. Ms. Blomberg stated that the number of teachers in-field was approximately 89 percent.

Dr. Eads requested a copy of board policy for state universities and colleges related to teacher education programs. She urged the board to demonstrate flexibility and delegation while seeking accountability without mandating excessive core classes through schools of education. She also identified the inconsistency in teacher education certification requirements for alternative certification versus traditional certification. Dr. Eads requested that this topic be addressed with the deans of education. Chancellor Austin stated that discussions will begin with the deans of education programs to find the best solution to meet the shortage of certified teachers.

Just Read, Florida! Mary Laura Openshaw, Director, Just Read, Florida!, reported to the Board on the Department's new data management system, Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network. This software was developed to track all the data pieces that are required through the Reading First Grant, which includes four progress monitoring measures, throughout the year. It has been expanded to cover grades K through 5, at no cost to the districts, and will include middle grades for the '05/06 year.

Strategic Imperatives. Commissioner Horne gave an overview of accomplishments consistent with the strategic imperatives approved by the Board. Commissioner Horne reported that the Department had eliminated the backlog in processing teacher certification applications which increases the number of eligible candidates seeking teaching positions. Commissioner Horne stated that one of the most difficult challenges relating to teachers is retaining experienced teachers in the classroom. Commissioner Horne emphasized the importance of developing a professional pay plan to compete with salaries of other professions.

Commissioner Horne reported that there was improvement in student achievement. He stated that NAEP scores have increased, the rates of high school and post secondary completion have increased, and the retention of students in Florida community colleges and universities has increased. Commissioner Horne stressed that in order to continue improvement in student achievement there must be a financial commitment to providing reading coaches and reading resources for students. Commissioner Horne reported that 8,000 teachers have been trained, and it is anticipated that an additional 8,000 will be trained this year. Mr. Garcia stated that increasing standards are necessary if financial resources are to continue to be provided for enhancing reading programs. Dr. Proctor stated that an intense reading program should be an integral part of the alternative certification programs as well.

Chief of Staff John Winn reported that there are 54 management objectives that are proposed for the strategic imperatives and that a detailed presentation would be given at the September Board meeting.

Chief of Staff John Winn reported on the damage to school districts caused by Hurricane Charley. Mr. Winn reported that ten districts had areas without power and seven districts had very limited power. Mr. Winn stated that assistance was being provided to the affected districts by the Department, the National Guard, FEMA, and education related organizations in the state.

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

### **Reports/Updates**

School Grades Final Report. Christy Hovanetz, Director, Office of School Grading and Accountability, updated the Board on school grades, adequate yearly progress, and school recognition. Ms. Hovanetz reported that in the past six years the number of A and B schools has increased while the number of D and F schools has decreased. This year approximately 23% of Florida schools made AYP compared to 17% last year. For 2004-2005, standards for meeting AYP and standards for earning school grades have been raised based on the accountability plan. Ms. Hovanetz concluded her report by stating that 1,425 schools will receive school recognition funds.

State University System. Chancellor Debra Austin reported on recent activities of the Board of Governors and actions taken since the last State Board of Education meeting. The Board of Governors approved the 2005-2006 Legislative Budget Request based on accountability and performance funding. Chancellor Austin stated that the Board of Governors is currently formulating an approach to make appropriate recommendations on behalf of the universities to implement a 10% performance funding mechanism. The next Board of Governor's meeting is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

Community College and Workforce Education Activities. Chancellor David Armstrong reported that the community colleges were very fortunate in that limited damage had resulted from Hurricane Charley. Chancellor Armstrong reported that he had started dialogue with the community college presidents relating to the development of the strategic plans. Chancellor Armstrong asked that a task force be appointed by the Commissioner to consist of community college presidents, trustees, and a wide range of professionals to begin the process. This task force will report to the Board as the Strategic Planning Committee. Chancellor Armstrong stated that upon approval of the strategic plan by the Board, each community college would then

submit its own local version of the plan in response to the initiatives. Chairman Handy responded that to be effective the strategic plan should be in place for the next budgeting cycle.

K-12 Activities. Shan Goff updated the Board on NCLB and the districts' status on implementation of consequences of not making AYP. School districts had a timeline of July 1 to submit a draft of choice options and to provide information relating to the options. September 22, 2004, is the deadline to submit final choice plans. Ms. Goff reported that the preliminary projection for district Title I funds to be set aside to operationalize all of the different components in school choice is \$75 million. Ms. Goff stated that this projection is very positive as it reflects the implementation of quality choices for Florida students.

Middle Grades Reform. Dr. Kim McDougal, K-12 Deputy Chancellor for Policy Development and Special Projects, reported on the progress of the middle school reform initiative as passed by the 2004 Legislature. Dr. McDougal stated that the key elements for the reform will be rigorous academic instruction, challenging curriculum, highly qualified teachers, outstanding leadership, engaged and informed parents, and to have students ready for success. Dr. McDougal reported that a task force of 29 members has been formed to make recommendations to the Commissioner based on their research and knowledge. Public input will be widely solicited including the availability of an interactive site on the Department's website. The Commissioner will report to the State Board who will in turn submit a recommendation to the Legislature.

Charter School Performance. Dr. Theresa Klebacha, Executive Director of the Office of Parental Choice and Independent Education, provided an overview of the 2002-2003 Annual Accountability Charter School Report. Dr. Klebacha reported that in 1996 there were only 5 charter schools in Florida; in 2003 there were 222. Additionally, the number of students in 1996 – 574 -- grew to 53,000 in 2003. Dr. Klebacha introduced Dr. John Hughes, Research Specialist in the Office of Accountability, Research and Management, to present an overview of the grades for charter schools and performance of students in the charter schools compared to public school grades and student performance.

Dr. Hughes reported to the Board on the study by the Department which consisted of a comparison of how students in charter schools perform over time, their learning gains, and the rate of growth in comparison to that of public school students. This comparison was completed for the FCAT reading and math, developmental scale scores, and the Norm Referenced Test using multi years rather than a year to year comparison. Dr. Hughes stated that it is critical to use a multi year analysis because charter schools typically have a much higher proportion of students who have been retained. Dr. Hughes completed his report by stating that, based on all issues of equity, charter schools are performing well across the board and are either comparable to traditional public schools or are adding value in comparison to traditional public schools.

Dr. Eads stated that now with indicators of progress in charter schools and the identification of the students most likely to attend charter schools, policies should be developed to ensure that new charter schools are prepared at a higher level to meet the needs of the students. Chairman Handy stated that the expectations of charter schools by the school districts in meeting these needs should begin with the charter school application process.

CEPRI. Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director, Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI), reported on the status of the final report by CEPRI on Career and Professional Education which will be submitted to Lieutenant Governor Jennings for her consideration. Dr. Proctor completed his report by stating that other projects in progress are studies of Pre K through 3 and the effectiveness of current K-8 models.

### **Action Items**

Charter School Appeal. MESTA Charter School vs. the School Board of Orange County. Mike Olenick represented the Orange County School Board. MESTA Charter School did not have representation at the meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to deny the charter school appeal with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

2005-2006 Legislative Budget. Highlights of the proposed 2005-2006 Legislative Budget Request was provided by Commissioner Horne, K-12 Deputy Chancellor Shan Goff; Director of Just Read, Florida!, Mary Laura Openshaw; Community College Chancellor David Armstrong; and Colleges and Universities Chancellor Debra Austin; with a brief closing by Chief Financial Officer Raymond Monteleone.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the budget with a proposed supplement relating to UVPK to be brought back to the Board. Dr. Eads made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Rule 6A-14.076, FTE Calculation for Community College Program Fund. Dr. Proctor made the motion to approve the rule as presented with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Consent items**

Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve items 1 through 5 with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held September 21, 2004, at the Advanced Technology Center in Daytona Beach. 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