

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MIAMI, FLORIDA  
October 19, 2004

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Miami-Dade Public School Board Office in Miami, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., October 19, 2004, with the following members present: Linda J. Eads; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Charles P. Garcia; Julia Johnson; and Linda K. Taylor. William Proctor joined the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m. and participated via telephone.

**Welcome**

Chairman Handy welcomed members and participants. Superintendent Rudy Crew welcomed the Board.

**Member Comments**

Dr. Eads reported that she had met with deans of colleges of education regarding matters relating to educator training and certification. Dr. Eads stated that there is a separation in the process of governance for teacher training and certification process. Dr. Eads requested the Department review the current processes and consider placing both operations under one authority. Dr. Eads asked for an update on the request.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Handy stated that the focus of future State Board meetings would be policy driven to provide more opportunity for Board involvement.

Chairman Handy congratulated Commissioner Winn and the Department on the rapid response in providing assistance to school districts, community colleges, and universities affected by the recent hurricanes.

Chairman Handy distributed a timeline for the purpose of the Commissioner's performance evaluation. Chairman Handy requested that each Board member make recommendations on the initiatives to be included in this evaluation. Mr. Garcia stated that he would prefer that the measures be objective rather than subjective. Chairman Handy stated that this process would be discussed further in detail after receiving recommendations from Board members.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the August 17, 2004, State Board meeting and the September 29, 2004, telephonic State Board of Education meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition --** Chairman Handy presented a resolution recognizing the contributions and dedication of all maintenance personnel throughout the state during the recent hurricanes. Shawn Dennis, Associate Superintendent for Operations in the Escambia County School District, accepted the resolution on behalf of the maintenance employees.

## **Commissioner's Report**

**Miami-Dade School District Partnership** -- Commissioner Winn stated that Superintendent Rudy Crew has taken bold action to assist students who are not performing satisfactorily. He asked that the Department and the Board continue to support Superintendent Crew as he implements innovative strategies to improve student performance in Miami-Dade.

Commissioner Winn recognized Chancellor Jim Warford to provide an overview of the proposed partnership between the Department of Education, Miami-Dade School District, and the University of Miami. Chancellor Warford stated that the new partnership will provide resources and financial support to develop a continuous model of improvement to be comprised of leadership development and teacher training tools. Chancellor Warford stated that the model will be transportable to be utilized statewide.

Chancellor Warford introduced Superintendent Crew to further discuss the challenges of improving student achievement and the strategy for doing so. Superintendent Crew stated that new benchmarks had been established for improved performance, and the low performing schools were targeted for concentrated efforts to ensure improvement. Superintendent Crew further explained that in the majority of the low performing schools, students speak a language other than English and a determination must be reached as to how best assist these students. Superintendent Crew stated that the Continuous Improvement Model and the training and tools to be provided to both teachers and principals will play a large part in the improvement of student achievement. Superintendent Crew completed his comments by stating that his goal is to have all students reading on grade level in a relatively short period of time.

Mr. Fair urged Superintendent Crew to involve Florida International University, as well as the University of Miami. Superintendent Crew responded that the partnership will be expanded to include Florida International University and Florida Memorial. Mrs. Taylor asked Superintendent Crew when he expected to see an improvement in student achievement and what long-term goals had been established. Superintendent Crew stated that his hope was to have every school show at least one grade change every year. Dr. Eads congratulated the system for being on track to provide quality education.

**Hurricane Update** -- Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the activities relating to the four hurricanes which had affected the K-20 education sectors across Florida. Commissioner Winn reported that the Department became involved in procuring and arranging the setup of portable classrooms, arranging for school buses, supplying food, and ensuring that fuel was available. Commissioner Winn reported that assistance was provided to the education entities through many organizations, including the National Guard, Red Cross, FEMA, local community groups, state agencies, and individuals, not just locally, but nationwide.

Commissioner Winn introduced Superintendent Jim Paul of Escambia County School District to provide a report of the damage sustained during the hurricanes and the status of the schools in the district. Superintendent Paul stated that because of the extensive damage to the facilities, one of the largest challenges was to provide instruction to students without having a physical classroom for them. Superintendent Paul reported that this challenge was met by having lessons and assignments specific to the student's grade level for every student to complete while at home. During this time, a center was established with board certified teachers and telephones to provide assistance to parents and answer questions as they arose relating to the assignments.

Shawn Dennis, Associate Superintendent for Operations, reported on Superintendent Paul's behalf, on the specific damage to the educational facilities. Mr. Dennis stated that all 74 educational sites had been damaged. Thirty of the sites were categorized as major damage, 19 were categorized as moderate damage, and 25 categorized as minor damage.

**District Cost Differential** -- Chairman Handy recognized Superintendent Crew in acknowledgement of a letter received by the Board from the Superintendent relating to a study of the District Cost Differential (DCD) and the district's desire that another study be conducted. Superintendent Crew stated that the letter was sent to the Board to obtain its support in requesting this additional study.

Vice Chairman Fair asked Superintendent Crew what the current dollar impact of the DCD study had on Miami-Dade School District. Superintendent Crew responded that the impact was approximately 28 million dollars and reported that the subsequent year impact would multiply by a considerable amount with the next year being double that. Superintendent Crew completed his comments by stating that this issue was not just for his county or this state, but was an issue throughout the country.

Chairman Handy requested that Commissioner Winn be prepared to discuss the issue of DCD, as well as provide an overview of the concept of DCD. Vice Chairman Fair requested that Commissioner Winn take into consideration the recommendations of Superintendent Crew as part of the Department's review.

**Administration of FCAT** -- Commissioner Winn continued his report with an update on the administration of the FCAT due to school days missed relating to the hurricanes. Commissioner Winn stated that most districts had taken the initiative to make up the missed school days. Commissioner Winn reported that 256 requests for waivers had been received which include requests to delay implementation of FCAT, reduce the number of required school days, waive third grade and high school promotion policies, waive school grading and No Child Left Behind policies, and hold harmless for FTE. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department has granted approximately 200 waivers at this time. Commissioner Winn reported that waivers on school grades would not be granted. However, school grades could be appealed if a determination was made that the students' rate of learning was hindered by the impact of the hurricanes which in turn hindered progress. Commissioner Winn stated that for the schools that must administer the FCAT later than originally scheduled, the results will be received later which will cause a delay in the release of school grades.

**Legislative Special Session** -- Commissioner Winn recognized Paula Shea, Director of Governmental Relations, to provide information relating to the anticipated legislative special session. Ms. Shea reported that the week of November 16 has been designated as organizational by the Legislature, with committee meetings scheduled for the weeks of November 29 and December 13. Ms. Shea stated that it is anticipated the special session will begin during the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for the special session will include actions necessitated by the hurricanes and also Voluntary Universal Pre-K (VUPK). Ms. Shea reported that details will be provided at the November Board meeting. (Dr. Proctor joined the meeting at this time.)

**Status of FCAT Science Test** -- Commissioner Winn reported that because most students in the tenth grade have not had the opportunity to take biology, physical science, and/or chemistry courses which are assessed on the FCAT, he had recommended to the Legislature that students not be tested until the 11<sup>th</sup> grade on the science portion of the FCAT. Commissioner

Winn stated that the superintendents and Science Teacher's Association were in full support of this recommendation.

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Legislative Request Related to Settlement of ESE Rule Challenge --** Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the Legislative Request Related to the Settlement of the ESE Rule Challenge with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of 2005-2006 K-20 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request --** Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the K-12 and Community Colleges Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed New Rule 6A-1.094222, Standards for Mid-Year Promotion of Retained Third Graders --** Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve as amended proposed new rule 6A-1.094222, with a second by Mrs. Taylor. Dr. Proctor requested that data be provided by district on the number of students who are promoted based on standardized test scores and the number promoted based on a portfolio assessment. Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read Florida!, reported that data is collected and would be provided.

Mr. Garcia stated that he would like a proposal developed for an incentive plan which would reward teachers who successfully improve student achievement to the degree that retained third graders could be promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Garcia also stated that, as it relates to Assistance Plus, he would like the opportunity to review the reading plans submitted by the districts, and have further discussion on the process of requiring schools districts to present these plans to the Board.

The motion to approve the rule made by Vice Chairman Fair and seconded by Mrs. Taylor passed unanimously.

**Consideration of Request for Waivers by Volusia County School Board --** No action, item withdrawn at the request by Volusia County School Board.

### **Consent Items**

Mr. Fair made the motion to approve items one and two with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Policy Issues for Concurrence**

**Educator Preparation Institutes --** Chancellor Warford briefed the Board on the Guidelines for Educator Preparation Institutes which were developed in compliance with Section 1004.85, Florida Statutes. Chancellor Warford stated that Educator Institutes may be created to provide professional development opportunities to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification requirements, instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties, instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training requirements, and instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified

teachers through competency-based alternative certification programs specifically described in the law, in order to increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were not education majors. Dr. Eads requested that an overview of the curriculum and expectations for colleges of education be made available to her, as well as an overview of the alternative certification options. At Chairman Handy's request, Dr. Proctor provided a chronology relating to the current prescriptive curriculum for colleges of education. Dr. Proctor stated that the requirements for educator certification, whether it is through alternative certification or through the traditional colleges of education, must be consistent. Chairman Handy stated that the subject of educator certification, including the colleges of education, should be placed on a future agenda for further policy discussion. Mr. Garcia requested a Board workshop to include an expert in the field.

**Recommendations on Higher Education Funding** -- Chancellor Debra Austin provided an overview on recommendations on tuition and fee policies to be discussed at the October 21, 2004, Board of Governors' meeting. The recommendations included a ceiling on combined tuition and fees for residents, discretion over mix of tuition and fees below ceiling, 25% tuition and fee surcharge for hours beyond 110% of requirements, block tuition and fees, discretion to set tuition and fees for many students, and accountability for tuition policy. Chairman Handy stated that the more controversial issue is the measurement of student achievement in relation to accountability. Dr. Eads inquired as to the impact the proposed recommendations may have on community colleges. Chairman Handy responded that the State Board would, at some time, review the tuition and fees at community colleges and make recommendations to the Legislature. Dr. Eads requested that a workshop on the subject be held in the near future.

**CEPRI Recommendations** -- Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director, Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI), provided a summary of the six recommendations included in CEPRI's report: "Career and Professional Education: Preparing Florida's Students for the Knowledge Economy." Dr. Eads stated that one option not included in the report was that of implementing a career component as part of the core classes. Board Member William Proctor asked to what extent CEPRI had considered the issues of competing priorities and how the approach recommended in the report would be implemented. Dr. Proctor stated that CEPRI was working with the Career Education Study Task Force to further develop recommendations.

### **State Board Study Groups, Advisory Councils, and Task Forces**

**Overview of Advisory Bodies to State Board** -- Chairman Handy called to the attention of the Board the list of Study Groups, Advisory Councils, and Task Forces currently associated with the Department. Chairman Handy stated that Board members could request an update by any of the advisory bodies and encouraged them to do so.

**Career Education Task Force** -- Bonnie Marmor, Vice Chancellor, Workforce Education, provided a brief overview of the work of the Task Force to date. Dr. Marmor reported that due to the hurricanes and the necessity of canceling several meetings, the final report will be approximately two months behind the original timeline. Updates will be provided to the Board on future actions and meetings of the Task Force.

**Middle School Reform Task Force** -- Chancellor Warford provided an overview of the work of the Task Force since the last update of August 17, 2004. Chancellor Warford stated that a full report would be forthcoming at the November meeting to include recommendations for the State Board's consideration and submission to the Legislature.

## **Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions**

**Domestic Security Briefing** – Chancellor Warford gave a brief overview of the training and resources offered by the Department to school districts. Chancellor Warford recognized Ms. Shan Goff to provide information on the activities of the K-20 Security Task Force of which Dr. Eads is a member. Ms. Goff stated that the Task Force has had 4 meetings to consider school site assessments and that updates will continue to be provided to the Board.

## **Strategic Planning**

**Imperative 1—Supply of Teachers** -- Chancellor Warford provided an overview on Imperative 1—Supply of Teachers. Chancellor Warford stated that one of the goals is to encourage students to seek education as a career; as a result, the national ad campaign has been strengthened and expanded. In addition, Chancellor Warford stated that there is also work in progress to determine how to improve the teacher retention rate. Chairman Handy stated that a measure should be the quality of educators and the characteristics which define a quality educator. Chairman Handy further stated that the Department has one of the best data bases in the nation and it should be utilized for measuring progress for this imperative. Mr. Garcia agreed with Chairman Handy and stated that data on the Department’s website should be detailed specific. Mr. Garcia further stated that the Department’s website should allow parents access to statistical data for every teacher.

**Imperative 2—Academic Standards** -- Ms. Jeanine Blomberg, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, provided an overview of Imperative 2—Academic Standards. Ms. Blomberg reported that a primary goal for this strategic imperative is to eliminate the gap in the percentage of students scoring level one and the percentage of students retained and to eliminate social promotion. Ms. Blomberg stated that any school with fewer than 75% of the students scoring level 3 must have the rigorous reading requirements in their school improvement plans.

**Imperative 3—Rates of Learning** -- Ms. Shan Goff provided an overview on Imperative 3—Rates of Learning. Ms. Goff stated that all the measurement objectives relate to how proficient students are in reading. Ms. Goff reported that the Department is now utilizing the DIBELS as the monitoring evaluation mechanism to track student performance.

**Imperative 4--School Leadership** -- Chancellor Armstrong provided an overview on Imperative 4--School Leadership. Chancellor Armstrong reported that leadership criteria is being developed to include the definition of leadership beginning at the office level to the president of the college, how training should be provided, and how to assess the outcomes.

**Imperative 5--Education Options** -- Dr. Theresa Klebacha, Executive Director, Office of Parental Choice and Independent Education, provided an overview on Imperative 5--Education Options. Dr. Klebacha reported that accountability and compliance for both new and existing providers of education options was critical to this imperative. Dr. Klebacha stated that ensuring accountability and compliance will be accomplished by requiring all providers to report requirements by establishing deadlines for reporting.

**Imperative 6-Workforce Skill Requirements** -- Ms. Bonnie Marmor provided an overview of Imperative 6—Workforce Skill Requirements. Ms. Marmor reported that curriculum has been restructured for Florida’s workforce skill programs to ensure consistency in the programs and

the expectations of employers. Ms. Marmor reported that the next objective is to expand the program offerings to high skill and high wages workforce education programs.

**Imperative 7--Financial Resources & Performance** – Ms. Blomberg gave an overview on Imperative 7--Financial Resources and Performance. Ms. Blomberg stated that options will be provided at the next meeting on the accountability measures and performance accounting based funding process. Ms. Blomberg reported that work is underway to develop sector measures for k-12, workforce education, community colleges, and colleges and universities.

**Imperative 8--Recognized Institutions** -- Chancellor Austin provided an overview on Imperative 8--Recognized Institutions. Chancellor Austin reported that this imperative addresses world-class nationally-recognized institutions of higher learning by improving access through funding performance and accountability. Chancellor Austin stated that the goal for minority students is to have the same percentage of minority graduates from the university system as are graduating from other colleges in Florida. Chancellor Austin concluded her review by stating that one of the goals is to have world-class academic programs ranked by the National Research Council in the top 25%; as of now there are currently 6 degree programs out of 62 programs, and all of those are at the University of Florida.

**Compliance by School Districts with Assistance Plus** Chancellor Warford reported that all school districts were in compliance with the requirements of the Assistance Plus Plan. An update will be provided to the Board no later than February 2005.

**Community College Study of Student Engagement** Chancellor Armstrong reported that the Community College Study of Student Engagement had been administered to more than 20,000 students in the 28 community colleges. Chancellor Armstrong stated that the survey will be administered every three years so that community colleges can analyze the data to determine if there is improvement in engaging students at the institution level, with the faculty, and at the classroom level. Chancellor Armstrong stressed that this analysis is critical as there is a direct correlation between student engagement and success.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held November 16, 2004, in Tallahassee. 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