

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
November 16, 2004

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida, at 9:00 a.m., November 16, 2004, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway; Linda J. Eads; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Charles P. Garcia; and Linda K. Taylor. Ms. Julia Johnson was not present.

Welcome

Chairman Handy welcomed members and participants.

Member Comments

Mr. Garcia stated he had requested information on several topics from the Commissioner and was pleased that all requests had been responded to in an expeditious manner.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy welcomed Mrs. Callaway and stated that Mrs. Callaway resigned as principal of Raa Middle School to join the Board.

Chairman Handy reported that the Board will not meet in December, but will resume meetings in January on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, skipping July and December. Chairman Handy stated that he would like to have a workshop in January relating to Strategic Imperative # 1, Supply of Quality Teachers.

Chairman Handy provided an overview of the process for the Commissioner's Evaluation and asked for Board feedback. Mr. Garcia stated that he wanted to see how the components of the evaluation are distributed to the managers of the Department and would like to review the evaluation of the managers. Mr. Fair stated, as a reminder, that this is a process not to evaluate John Winn but to evaluate anyone in the position of Commissioner. Mr. Fair moved that the process presented for the Commissioner's Evaluation be adopted with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the October 16, 2004, State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Garcia made the motion with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Winn reported that the Department had started an internal program for leadership development to be coordinated by Chancellor Armstrong. Senior managers in the Department identified a member of their staff who has the potential to become a senior manager to participate. The program will continue for the next four months.

Commissioner Winn reported that Mary Laura Openshaw and Mr. Garcia have been working together to identify reading research specialists across the United States to serve as members of a Reading Advisory Panel to Just Read, Florida!

Commissioner Winn stated that instructional supplies totaling approximately \$700,000 were donated by a variety of partners through the Florida Education Foundation. The supplies are being distributed to hurricane-affected districts across the state.

Commissioner Winn reported that the Reading First Program exceeded its reading goals in kindergarten through third grade and a third of its schools actually exceeded those goals in every grade level.

Commissioner Winn concluded his report by stating that for the fifth consecutive year graduation rates have increased.

K-20 Performance

Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the obligation of the State Board to report to the Legislature on a K-20 performance funding model. Commissioner Winn stated that this obligation requires linking 10 percent of appropriated dollars to performance in all delivery sectors to become effective next fiscal year.

Mr. Jay Pfeiffer, Director of Education Information and Accountability Services, updated the Board on the process and timelines for developing a proposed performance funding model. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that data is available to link performance and funding at all levels through the Department's Data Warehouse. This process continues to be strengthened to ensure that there is consistency across the K-20 education sector. Mr. Pfeiffer concluded his presentation with the following recommendations: (1) Don't endanger basic services to students by putting too much funding at risk; (2) Choose an approach that has demonstrated success; (3) Establish a system that will continue over time; (4) Build in a system of rewards for high performance, not just sanctions for low performance; (5) Implement a system that is fair and clearly communicates performance expectations; (6) Use high quality, accurate data; (7) Build an understandable system of public reporting that promotes informed consumers; and (8) Build a logical data access system of scalable measures with leading indicators to assist program managers in managing performance.

Chairman Handy clarified that these recommendations pertain to K-12 and Community Colleges. The Board of Governors' recommendations will be incorporated into the State Board recommendations after approval by the Board of Governors. Chairman Handy directed Mr. Pfeiffer, in his work with the Board of Governors and its staff, to encourage that the direction of the recommendations are consistent with student-centered learning and achievement rather than departmental or institutional.

Mr. Garcia moved to approve the recommendations as presented with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Agenda

Commissioner Winn stated that the proposed legislative agenda will flow from the Board's priorities and will be organized to link to the strategic imperatives. Commissioner Winn introduced Paula Shea, Director of Governmental Relations, to provide an overview of the issues to be considered in the legislative agenda. Ms. Shea presented the following issues as they relate to the strategic imperatives:

Strategic Imperative 1 –Methods of retaining and recruiting quality teachers.

Strategic Imperative 2 --- Establishing high expectations for all students, implementing middle school reform, and revisions to the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) for science in the 11th grade.

Strategic Imperative 3 – Creation of a reading categorical within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Strategic Imperative 4 – Implementation language for the Board’s budget request to use research-based principle leadership standards to incorporate continuous score improvement with student achievement as a primary focus.

Strategic Imperative 5 – Strengthening accountability for K-12 scholarship programs and development of a process to strengthen charter school success through accountability.

Strategic Imperative 6 – Alignment of workforce course curriculum with present workforce demand.

Strategic Imperative 7 – Community colleges -- student retention and graduation, access to postsecondary education for low-income students, and enrollment and utilization of facilities. In addition, amendments to K-20 performance funding statute will be presented for the Board’s consideration.

Strategic Imperative 8 -- Recommendations for amendments relating to Board of Governors’ governance statutes.

Mr. Garcia made the motion to accept the Commissioner’s Report with a second by Dr. Eads. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Legislative Agenda for Anticipated Special Session— Vice Chairman Fair made a motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to amend the Board's position to have the Department drive the quality, standards and assessment, curriculum and accountability, but not the day-to-day operation with Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) retaining responsibility for the day to day operation. Vice Chairman Fair further amended his motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway to be inclusive of assurance that the administrative functions are tied to success and performed to the Commissioner's satisfaction prior to entering into the relationship. Both the amendment and the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Taylor concluded the discussion with the request that yearly evaluations of programs be conducted.

Hurricane Update--Ms. Blomberg stated that over 200 waivers have been approved relating to hurricane damage. Ms. Blomberg reported that at least fourteen districts are anticipating cash flow problems related to a decrease in student enrollment. In addition, community colleges and universities have expressed concerns relating to the loss of tuition and fees due to a lower student enrollment than had been expected. Ms. Blomberg stated that the Department continues to work with K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities with facility-related issues. Ms. Blomberg concluded her update by reporting that it is expected that FEMA will cover up to 90% of costs not reimbursed by insurance. Mr. Garcia requested clarification of the expectation for concessions by the federal government in terms of AYP because of the hurricanes. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department is advocating the same policy on

AYP as for A-Plus and School Grading. A statewide blanket policy will not be adopted; schools will be considered individually based on their circumstances.

Proposed Amended Rule 6A-4.0012—Mr. Garcia made the motion to approved Rule 6A-4.0012 as presented with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Vice Chairman Fair made a motion to approve consent items one through eight with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy called to the attention of the Members item 5, Identified Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2005-2006. Chairman Handy stated that teacher shortage has become a larger issue and that the class size amendment will drive the need for more teachers. In addition, Chairman Handy further stated that the number of students graduating from colleges of education in the public universities continues to decrease. Chairman Handy concluded his remarks by stating that at the January State Board meeting a workshop would be held to address the need for teachers, the required qualifications, and the methods to acquire needed teachers.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Middle Grades Reform --. Chancellor Warford reported that presently there are 477 middle and junior high schools and over 35,000 teachers teaching grades six, seven, and eight throughout the state and that roughly half the students do not read on grade level which makes middle school reform critical. Chancellor Warford presented an overview of the Middle Grades Task Force and the process followed in developing recommendations for middle school reform. Chancellor Warford concluded his report with a summary of recommendations for the State Board of Education, Legislature, and school districts to address the critical needs of middle school students.

Grading Alternative Schools – Chairman Handy recognized Dr. David Mosrie, Florida Association of District School Superintendents, and Superintendent Joe Joyner, St. Johns County School District. Dr. Mosrie and Dr. Joyner presented the findings from the task force formed by the Association to study the grading of alternative schools. Dr. Joyner summarized the findings by stating that superintendents are supportive of grading alternative schools provided that the methodology incorporates the variance of students enrolled in alternative programs.

Chairman Handy recognized Christy Hovanetz, Director of Evaluation and Reporting, to provide an overview of the process for grading alternative schools and the various factors involved. Ms. Hovanetz stated that in 2004 there were 258 schools identified as alternative. Detailed information relating to the percent of students in alternative programs and FCAT scores was presented, as well as the process followed in the past to include the alternative schools in the accountability plan without designating a grade. However, Commissioner Winn stated that in keeping with goal of holding all schools accountable, the current position was to include schools defined as alternative. Dr. Eads stated that she agreed alternative schools should be graded; however, factors such as the definition of alternative, the eligibility criteria, teacher performance in alternative schools, and whether or not the assignment of a student to an alternative school was voluntary or not should be a consideration. Mrs. Callaway stated that behavior and academic problems should not be equated and that every student, regardless of the school they attend, should be held to a high achievement level. Mr. Garcia stated that he too agreed

schools should be graded; however, good leadership at the school level is essential to improving student performance. Commissioner Winn summarized the position of concurrence of the Board to move forward on the current policy to include alternative schools in school grading.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

School District Pupil Progression Reports – Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read Florida!, stated that the '04/'05 Appropriations Act requires superintendents to certify that they were implementing the student progression law. Ms. Openshaw stated that in addition to the certification, districts were required to submit their pupil progression plans. All plans were reviewed by Department staff to ensure that the districts would incorporate the requirements of Rule 6A-1.094222 - Standards for Mid –Year Promotion of Retained Third Graders, as adopted by the Board. Ms. Openshaw completed her report by stating that districts will report to the Department in March 2005, and the Board would receive an update when the Department's review is completed.

Baccalaureate Degree Annual Report -- Chairman Handy recognized Dr. Judith Bilsky, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Division of Community Colleges, to provide an overview of the baccalaureate degree programs offered at community colleges including the partnerships and the related FTE. Mr. Ed Cisek, Vice Chancellor for Financial Policy, Division of Community Colleges, provided the overview from the funding perspective and stated that community colleges can offer baccalaureate degree programs at a lower cost due to the nature of their faculty compensation and their workload. Mr. Garcia requested information on successes or challenges of the community colleges. Chancellor David Armstrong responded that information is provided annually and more defining outcomes in terms of production of graduates from the programs should be available at the end of next year.

Community College Strategic Plan Update -- Chancellor Armstrong reported that recommendations from all 28 institutions have been received. Chancellor Armstrong, in partnership with Dr. Bill Law, President of Tallahassee Community College, will be engaging over 100 trustees from the 28 institutions in development of the strategic plan. Chancellor Armstrong stated that a website will be developed to allow for interaction and feedback.

Chairman Handy stated that the model for the strategic plan should be consistent with the models developed for the universities and K-12 public schools. Chairman Handy recommended that consideration be given to engaging a consulting firm to ensure that the measures all reflect the strategic plan.

Mr. Garcia stated that the use of terms and vocabulary in the community college and university strategic plans should be consistent. Mr. Garcia concluded his comments with the recommendation that the strategic plan should be reviewed every three years rather than five as proposed.

CEPRI Report on November 9-10, 2004, Meeting - Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director of Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI), reported on the November 9-10, 2004, Board meeting. Dr. Proctor summarized the discussions and outcome of the meeting which included recommendations on the need to develop additional residency programs for medical students, recommendations relating to Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and requests for baccalaureate degrees at Daytona Beach Community College.

Adjournment

Dr. Eads thanked the Chairman for the last four years and stated that it was her last official meeting. Dr. Eads also thanked the Commissioner and wished him good luck in his new endeavors.

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held January 18, 2004, in Tampa. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary