

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TAMPA, FLORIDA
January 18, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus, in Tampa, Florida, at 10:30 a.m., January 18, 2005, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Julia Johnson; Roberto Martínez; Phoebe Raulerson; and Linda K. Taylor.

Welcome

Chairman Handy welcomed new Board members Mr. Martinez and Mrs. Raulerson and all participants. Dr. Gwen Stephenson, President of Hillsborough Community College, welcomed the Board to the Dale Mabry Campus.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Johnson nominated Philip Handy to remain as the Chairman of the State Board of Education and acknowledged Mr. Handy's commitment to education and compassion to ensure that a quality education is available for all students. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Handy made the motion to nominate T. Willard Fair to remain as the Vice Chair with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Ms. Johnson reported that she had attended the Florida African-American Education Alliance Awards Ceremony and wanted to extend congratulations to each of the winners. Ms. Johnson stated that a principal from Orange County was acknowledged for bringing a school from an F to an A in less than three years. She shared the success story of a student who had performed poorly on the FCAT and, through the efforts of his teacher and parents, improved his FCAT performance to a 4.5, as well as increasing his grade point average to a 3.2 in just one year. Ms. Johnson completed her remarks by thanking the Governor, Chairman Handy, Commissioner Winn, Chancellor Armstrong, and Chancellor Austin for their participation in the event.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy stated that a teacher workshop will be held on February 15, preceding the Board meeting. Chairman Handy reported that he had attended the Governor's press conference and that, consistent with the recommendations of the Board, the Governor included in his proposed education budget funding for reading as part of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Chairman Handy distributed the updated Commissioner's Evaluation criteria and requested that each Board member review the evaluation criteria for further discussion at the February meeting.

Chairman Handy reported that Commissioner Winn had recently received, on behalf of the Board and the Department, the Seven Seals Award. The Seven Seals Award represents all seven services of the Armed Forces in gratitude for the efforts during the hurricanes and commitment to continuing to assist children of military families.

Chairman Handy awarded St. Lucie County School District the Seal of Best Financial Management Practices. Chairman Handy stated this award was the result of an audit by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the Auditor General which recognized the numerous changes to improve efficiency and the establishment of mechanisms for teachers to access successful teaching strategies. Superintendent Michael Lannon of St. Lucie County accepted the award and thanked the Board for the recognition.

Chairman Handy concluded his report with a call for a motion on the minutes of the November 16, 2004, State Board of Education meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. Mr. Martinez and Mrs. Raulerson abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Winn stated that January has been recognized as Braille Literacy Month by the Governor.

Commissioner Winn announced personnel changes in the Department which included the appointment of Vivian Myrtetus as Director of Communications; Theresa Klebacha as Director of Strategic Initiatives; and Shan Goff as Director of Early Learning.

Commissioner Winn introduced Fred Mattingly, Office of Resource Development and Planning, to provide a brief overview of the activities of the Florida Education Foundation which included providing resources for the hurricane relief fund.

Commissioner Winn stated that he had the honor of joining US Secretary of Education Rod Paige in St. Lucie County where 60,000 books were donated to the school libraries to replace those lost in the hurricanes.

Ms. Johnson made the motion to accept the Commissioner's Report with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

2005 Legislative Agenda -- Mrs. Paula Shea, Director of Governmental Relations, provided an overview of the proposed 2005 Legislative Agenda. Initiatives and recommendations for reading, middle grades reform, high performing leaders and educators, career education, accountability for charter schools, scholarship/voucher programs, the administration of FCAT Science, the Capital Improvement Fee for Community Colleges, and the clarification of State Board of Education roles and responsibilities were discussed. Mrs. Callaway made the motion to approve the legislative agenda with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Implementation of Strategic Plan -- Dr. Theresa Klebacha, Director of Strategic Initiatives, reviewed the strategic imperatives as updated to include performance standards and measures for each of the eight imperatives. Mr. Martinez made the motion to approve the Strategic Plan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeal-Eastside Multicultural Community Charter School -- Mr. William Santana represented the Eastside Multicultural Community School. Donnie Evans, Chief Academic Office for the School District of Hillsborough County, represented Hillsborough School District. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to uphold the Charter School Appeal Commission's

recommendation to deny the appeal of Eastside Multicultural Community Charter School with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed with Vice Chairman Fair opposing.

Proposed Amended Rule 6A-1.0503, Definition of Qualified Instructional Personnel -- Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed New Rule 6A-4.02431, Specialization Requirements for the American Sign Language Endorsement -- Mrs. Taylor made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-4.003, Degrees, Programs, and Credits -- Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve consent items one through twelve with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Florida Education Leadership Standards -- Chancellor Jim Warford, K-12 Public Schools, reported that the State Board of Education has statutory responsibility for adopting standards for principal selection, training, and certification as a result of the repeal of the Management Training Act. Chancellor Warford gave a brief overview of suggested standards for the Board's consideration and deliberation. Chancellor Warford stated that these standards will be the basis for employing principals, as well as the tool for their evaluations. Chancellor Warford concluded his presentation by stating that the finalized standards will be presented as a proposed rule at a future meeting of the Board for its consideration.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, provided an update on the following:

First Year Implementation of Reading First – In 2003-2004 330 schools participated in the Reading First program, and 400 schools are participating in the 2004-2005 school year. The reported data for the participating schools indicates that more students are moving to grade level than before their participation. A major part of the monitoring relates to the correlation of the reading coaches and progress of students. Ms. Openshaw reported a determination can be made based on the data as to the effectiveness of the reaching coach and the necessity of additional training for the coaches.

Commissioner's Secondary Reading Advisory Panel – Mary Laura Openshaw reported that the Panel will convene in Tallahassee on January 24, 2004, to bring researchers with various experiences to address the issues and concerns related to secondary reading. Ms. Openshaw stated that she would provide a complete update of the activities of the Panel at the February 15, 2005, meeting of the Board.

Third Grade Progression Data – Ms. Openshaw reported that current data indicates that 60 percent of students who spent a second year in third grade progressed beyond Level 1. However, data shows that districts are promoting too many students who score Level 1 across

all grade levels. Ms. Openshaw suggested that the Board take a detailed look at the data on good cause exemptions and determine which ones had merit and which ones continued to harm children. She stated that she would bring that data to the February, 15, 2005, meeting of the Board.

Final Report on Career Education Task Force – Mrs. Bonnie Marmor, Director of Workforce Education, provided a presentation and review of the final report and seven recommendations of the Career Education Task Force as required by Section 11 of House Bill 769. Mrs. Marmor reported that included in the recommendations was that every middle and high school provides an instructional delivery system which draws on best practices models and incorporates rigorous academic standards for all industries relevant to career academies, institutes, and industry certifications.

Class Size Update – Jeanine Blomberg, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, gave an overview of the district class size averages and the projected 2005 compliance calculation. Ms. Blomberg reported that class size will be calculated on a district-wide basis for one additional year and then will be calculated on individual classes. Ms. Blomberg stated that the final class size calculations would be presented at the February State Board meeting.

Update on VPK Implementation – Shan Goff, Director of Early Learning, provided a timeline for the Board of the statutory deadlines for implementing the VPK program. Ms. Goff stated that the Commissioner would certify to the Board the districts' eligibility to provide VPK programs for the 2005-2006 school year at the February 15, 2005, Board meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held February 15, 2005, in Tallahassee. He stated that there will be a teacher workshop in the morning and the meeting will begin in the afternoon. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary