

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIAMI, FLORIDA
March 15, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Miami Northwestern Senior High School, in Miami, Florida, at 9:00 a.m., March 15, 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 the members and audience to the meeting of the State Board and recognized Superintendent Rudy Crew of the Miami-Dade County School District to provide an update on the progress of schools in Miami-Dade.

Superintendent Crew introduced Ava Byrne, Deputy for Professional Development; Dr. Irving Hamer, Deputy Superintendent for the School Improvement Zone; and Dr. Sonia Diaz, Deputy for Curriculum Instruction. Mrs. Byrne reported to the Board that since November 2004 restructuring of professional development had started with the creation of a framework and menu in the context of continuous improvement and the use of data from multiple sources to build the framework. Mrs. Byrne provided a brief overview of the progress made in the school improvement zone and a preview of action for the future.

Dr. Hamer reported that on January 18, 2005, Miami-Dade officially launched the school improvement zone which involved 39 schools, 44,000 students, of which 53% are performing at level 1 or 2. Dr. Hamer stated that literacy was a primary responsibility for these schools; as a result, a common reading program in elementary and a common reading program in secondary had been identified. In addition, a contract with United Teachers of Dade had been negotiated and signed which required 56 hours of professional development for every teacher in the zone, a 20% increase in basic compensation for teachers in the zone, an extended day by one full hour, and the addition of ten days to the school year. Dr. Hamer reported that the role of psychologists and social workers had been aligned to one of prevention rather than treatment. Dr. Hamer concluded his report by stating that each school in the zone has been preparing for exhibitions to involve students identified as being below standard, but who have extraordinary ability in their talents. This exhibition is to reach out to parents and the community.

Dr. Diaz reported on two major initiatives relating to curriculum and instruction which address zero to 20 grade continuum. Dr. Diaz stated that the curriculum had been aligned with the state performance in curriculum standards, ensuring that the assessment is accurate, and that materials to supplement the work of the teachers are in place. Dr. Diaz reported that Miami-Dade has closely monitored the implementation of the Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) Program to ensure a strong connection between pre-k and kindergarten exists. In the area of secondary school reform, an intense review of the secondary and high school curricula is ongoing. Partnerships are being developed with higher institution representatives. Miami-Dade is reaching out to colleges, universities, and business partners to ensure that courses offered serve as a gateway to both college and the workforce.

Superintendent Crew also recognized Joseph Garcia, Chief Communications Officer, to provide an update on the proposed parent academy which provides core courses to assist parents in navigating the educational process and provides information on how they can assist their students. In addition, the academy will offer courses aimed at the personal growth of the

parents themselves. This academy will be part of the adult education program and will be offered in three languages at many campuses. Dr. Garcia completed his update by stating that the plan will be presented for approval to the Miami-Dade County School Board in May.

Superintendent Crew completed the report by stating that while there are still questions and tension about the changes, the parent and business communities have been extremely supportive and see this as an opportunity to demonstrate what is possible in Miami-Dade.

Chairman Handy opened the floor for questions and/or comments by the Board. In response to Chairman Handy's question relating to anticipated changes in the zone, Superintendent Crew said there would be changes, but he was hopeful there would not be additional schools.

Mrs. Raulerson inquired as to the consideration of literacy concentration across academics in the secondary schools in the zone. Superintendent Crew responded that one of the obstacles at this time is literacy in the content area, across the content area, which underscores the need for professional development.

Mr. Martínez requested clarification as to who would be teaching at the parent academy. Superintendent Crew responded that there will be six regional centers and, in some cases, university staff will teach the courses in addition to staff of Miami-Dade. Mr. Garcia clarified that when the Board reviews the plan for the parent academies in May, the plan will consist of the first year of coursework, where the courses will be taught, who will teach them, and what the cost will be in terms of the district staffing the academies.

Mrs. Callaway asked if there were other incentives for the parents attending the academies at the end of the courses. Superintendent Crew responded that a second goal for the academies is to encourage parents into a career path that takes advantage of what they know, their experiences, and their understanding, and provide collegiate preparation and training which could lead to their entering the teaching field.

Ms. Johnson requested clarification of the extension of the school day by one hour and the addition of ten schools days to the school calendar. Dr. Hamer responded that the extra hour provided an opportunity for remedial and enrichment work for students in the zone. Students in the twelfth grade who have been identified as Level three, four, or five, have the option of remaining for the extra hour. The ten school days are to be utilized for professional development, remediation, and additional enrichment.

Mrs. Taylor requested clarification relating to the VPK program and how families who do not understand the importance of readiness and a pre-k program, would be encouraged to have their children participate. Superintendent Crew responded that this initiative would have to begin by working directly with the communities and identifying their needs and providing education to the parents on the importance of school readiness and the link between pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade.

Vice Chairman Fair thanked Superintendent Crew and his staff for his report and thanked the Board for meeting in Miami-Dade. Mr. Fair stated that the issue of not preparing kids to be competitive is not a new issue in the community, but a long part of destruction. In the past, Vice Chairman Fair stated, there were certain assumptions on behalf of the superintendent and the school board that certain students could learn and certain students could not. Vice Chairman Fair stated that Governor Bush had made it very clear that all children can learn and began to establish accountability. Vice Chairman Fair stated that for the first time, Miami-Dade had a comprehensive holistic plan and that the challenge to improvement student achievement can be

conquered with dedication. Vice Chairman Fair commended Superintendent Crew and his staff for their dedication and hard work and encouraged Superintendent Crew to involve the Urban League, as well as the Department of Education, in their efforts.

Commissioner Winn expressed a strong commitment to assisting Superintendent Crew and his staff by providing guidance and technical assistance, partnering in all aspects of their programs including principal training, teacher training, and in selecting strong reading programs.

Member Comments

Mrs. Raulerson commented on the recognition of the district of the importance of the transitions in sixth and ninth grades, as this is the point where changes can be made in students' lives with the appropriate support. Mrs. Callaway stated that she was excited about the Superintendent's report and the plans for improvement. Mrs. Taylor commented that if the dedication and enthusiasm shown by Miami-Dade is present in all districts, education is on the right path.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy reported that he had requested that the Community College Constituency take a leadership role in many issues including governance, the issue of four-year baccalaureate degrees, and issues related to higher education funding.

Chairman Handy reported that the Gates Foundation has provided \$30 million in grant funds and has challenged the National Governance Association to put more money into high school reform.

Chairman Handy distributed to the Board the proposed mission statement and membership for the Access Task Force and requested that Board members provide their feedback to the Commissioner prior to the next meeting of the Board.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005, State Board meeting. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Winn announced that Hanna Skandera has accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner for Assessment, Research and Measurement, and Virginia Gentles has accepted the position of Executive Director for Independent Education and Parental Choice in the Department. Commissioner Winn stated that Daniel Woodring was resuming the position of General Counsel for the Board and the Department on a full-time basis and that Jeanine Blomberg has accepted the position of Chief of Staff.

Commissioner Winn reported that he and Governor Bush met with Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on the issue of Florida's No Child Left Behind plan. Commissioner Winn reported that the Department is working on an amendment based on additional data to the current plan prior to the calculation of current year school adequate yearly progress.

Commissioner Winn announced that the Department has launched an internal and external communications plan relating to the strategic imperatives, "Eight to be Great." He stated that this will provide employees and others with the awareness and knowledge of the eight strategic

imperatives to be incorporated in internal professional development and planning, as well as employee performance appraisals.

Commissioner Winn provided an update on the status of the Request for Information (RFI) and reported that a complete update will be provided at the next meeting of the Board.

Commissioner Winn reported to the Board that all of the Board's legislative priorities have bill sponsors, and the Department will continue to work with the House and Senate.

Chairman Handy requested on behalf of the Board that Commissioner Winn prepare a reconciliation of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and A+.

Commissioner Winn recognized Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, to present recent data on enrollment of middle and high school students in reading courses. Ms. Openshaw stated if the proposed A++ bill is adopted by the Legislature, it will include the requirement for an intensive reading course for all Level 1 and 2 students entering sixth grade, with the probability of a phase-in for seventh and eighth grade over the next few years. Ms. Openshaw reported that since 2001 there has been steady growth in the numbers of students being served in a reading course. For this current year, over half of Level 1 and 2 sixth and seventh grade students are served, with a drop-off in eighth, ninth, and tenth grades.

Ms. Openshaw reported that for the 2003-2004 school year, there were approximately 4,150 certified middle school reading teachers across the state, with only 104 certified in high school. A focus for the last three years has been to require teachers to have the reading endorsement if they wish to teach reading, and the state has been providing free training for that endorsement.

Ms. Openshaw concluded her report by providing an overview of a study of reading testing conducted by John Guthrie of the University of Maryland. The research involved the analysis of how different reading tests correlated to each other, actual performance on the different types of exams, and how coursework is presented (how much time is spent on instruction and reading, format practice, and on building background knowledge).

Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's report. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Learning Curve, Inc. vs. the School Board of Lake County – Attorney Kathleen Schoenberg represented Learning Curve, Inc. School Board Attorney Stephen Johnson represented the Lake County School Board. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to accept the Charter School Appeal Commission's recommendation to accept Lake County School Board's decision with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed with a vote of no by Vice Chairman Fair.

Mrs. Raulerson expressed a concern relating to the failure of school districts to follow the timelines relating to charter school applications and the appeals process. Commissioner Winn responded that proposed legislation would separate in some cases the notice requirements or the technical requirements from the appeal process. This separation would allow the Board to address the lack of compliance with procedures as outlined in Florida Statute. Commissioner Winn stated that the legislation would be provided to the Board for their review.

Life Skills Center Hillsborough County, Inc. vs. School Board of Hillsborough County – Attorney Mike Olenick represented Life Skills Center Hillsborough County, Inc. School Board Attorney

Thomas Gonzalez represented Hillsborough County School Board. Mrs. Callaway made the motion to accept the Charter School Appeal Commission's recommendation to grant the charter school with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed with a vote of no by Vice Chairman Fair.

Standards for Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program (VPK): Child Performance Standards, Curricula Standards, and Emergent Literacy Course Standards – Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning, presented an overview of the proposed standards for performance, curricula, and emergent literacy courses for the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program. Mrs. Goff stated that the recommendations were the outcome of meetings and deliberations with representatives recognized for their expertise in early childhood and those in the field of emergent literacy. In addition, the recommendations were reviewed by stakeholders and made available through the internet for anyone to comment on and/or make recommendations. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the standards as presented. Mrs. Callaway made the motion to approve the standards with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Winn clarified for the Board that every district is not required to participate in the VPK program and must meet the class size requirement in elementary schools before they can implement the VPK program in their district.

Consent Items

Chairman Handy stated that the Volusia County School Board requested that item 4 relating to their request for waivers be withdrawn. Chairman Handy requested a motion to approve the remaining items of the consent agenda. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies Issues for Concurrence

Meeting the Need for Educators – Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, presented an overview of methods to meet the demand for educators. The presentation included the identification of current sources and strategies to obtain and retain qualified educators; current sources that can be further developed and the identification of new sources; and new strategies for obtaining and retaining effective teachers. Mrs. Stewart concluded her report by stating that the Department is partnering with the Florida Education Foundation to gain funding and assistance for a campaign on awareness of the need for teachers throughout the state; collecting input from educators and principals on methods to retain highly effective educators; conducting research on mentoring teacher support programs; and analyzing the collected data to determine better strategies to implement recruitment and retention.

Recommendations by Dr. Richard C. Kunkel, Dean of the College of Education, Florida State University – Dr. Kunkel presented an overview of recommendations he had provided to Commissioner Winn based on his meetings with Chancellor Austin, deans and directors of public and private teacher education programs, and community college leadership. Dean Kunkel reported that five principle issues were identified as critical: the specific three course requirement for teachers, general education requirements, prerequisites, the timing of national accreditation and state reviews, and colleges and universities commitment to the future.

Chairman Handy requested that Mrs. Stewart work with the Deans of Colleges of Education to determine what impact the recommendations presented would have on the need for educators.

Commissioner Winn stated that information will be provided to the Board on what the potential yield may be in the supply of teachers through the various categories including goals and strategies. Commissioner Winn reported that avenues for attaining a teaching certificate include competency based programs, alternative certification programs, educator preparation institutes, as well as the colleges of education. The Department will review the rules governing the teacher education programs and be prepared to make recommendations to the Board.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Presentation on Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees. Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director of the Council for Education Policy, Research, and Improvement, gave an overview of the types of Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Degrees and the institutions that offer them.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy requested that the Commissioner be prepared to address the following at the April 19, 2005, State Board meeting: status report on the RFI; proposed legislation affecting timelines governing the charter school application and appeal process including penalties for not adhering to the law; goals, frameworks, and financial need to provide intensive reading classes for level 1 and 2 students in grades 6-10; relationship of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) calculations; request of Daytona Beach Community College and Edison Community College to approve Bachelor of Applied Science Degree programs; assessment and screening for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program; suggested rule amendments to incorporate recommendations by Dean Kunkel relating to Colleges of Education; and an implementation strategy for recruiting and training effective educators.

Chairman Handy recognized Dr. Gallon, Principal of Miami Northwestern Senior High. Dr. Gallon thanked the Board for meeting at their school and expressed his commitment to continued improvement in student achievement.

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held April 19, 2005, in Tallahassee. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary