

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
April 19, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Florida Department of Education, in Tallahassee, Florida, at 9:00 a.m., April 19, 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.

Member Comments

Mrs. Raulerson reported that she attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Middle and Secondary Schools Literacy meeting in Washington, DC., and was very pleased at the progress Florida is making in meeting the needs of students, especially compared to other states.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy awarded Lake and Hillsborough County School Districts the Seal of Best Financial Management Practices. Chairman Handy stated the awards are the result of audits by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the Auditor General which recognizes the numerous changes to improve efficiency and implement best financial management practices. Superintendent Anna Cowin, Vice Chairman Jimmy Carter and Kathleen Thomas accepted the award for Lake County. Superintendent Earl Lennard and Chair Candy Olson accepted the award for Hillsborough County.

Chairman Handy stated that Carolyn Roberts, Chair of the Board of Governors, and John Dasburg, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, have agreed to serve on the Access Task Force. Vice Chairman Fair has agreed to represent the State Board. Chairman Handy stated that a complete list of members, which will include two members from the Legislature, will be distributed at the May Board meeting.

Chairman Handy stated that an initial review of FCAT grades will be available for the May State Board meeting and that school grades should be available by the June meeting.

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

Commissioner's Report

Voluntary Prekindergarten Program--Commissioner Winn reported that school districts found to be compliant with class size requirements in the current year had been determined to be eligible to offer pre-k programs under the Voluntary PreKindergarten Program (VPK). Commissioner Winn stated that each eligible school district will make its own decision about offering prekindergarten programs.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)--Commissioner Winn stated that a letter had been sent to Margaret Spellings, Secretary of the US Department of Education, identifying the uniqueness of Florida's individual schools due to size and diversity and the relationship of Florida and NCLB. In addition, Commissioner Winn reported that Secretary Spellings has announced a new approach to the implementation of NCLB which includes more flexibility for states who demonstrate the four principles of NCLB. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department will be providing to USDOE an outline explaining how Florida meets these four principles with the anticipation of having more flexibility to better align the A-Plus Plan and NCLB.

Meeting the Needs for Educators--Commissioner Winn stated that an RFI had been released for the purpose of determining what businesses, companies, or institutions have the capacity or interest in managing a school that has been unable to show significant student improvement. Chancellor Warford reported that to date four responses have been received. In addition, Commissioner Winn reported that a survey had been sent to the Deans of Colleges of Education to obtain their input relating to training and retaining educators. The survey also includes questions relating to State Board rules and recommended amendments. Commissioner Winn stated that rule development workshops were beginning to receive public input on recommended changes to the rules of the State Board relating to the teacher education programs.

Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards--Commissioner Winn reported business partners and volunteers of the year had been recognized for their contributions to education. The contributions included providing books for students and assistance for the hurricane recovery process.

2005 Legislation Update--Commissioner Winn distributed the proposed Charter School legislation which will provide consequences for school districts not following the process outlined in law relating to the application and appeal procedures. Mrs. Jeanine Blomberg, Chief of Staff, reported that the House and Senate have passed their budgets and would now begin to work together to approve one budget. Commissioner Winn reported that there is a separate bill calling for a special election to give voters the opportunity to revisit the class size and to vote on the joint resolution. Commissioner Winn reported that if this special election passes it will save millions of dollars in meeting the class size mandates and would redirect that funding to upgrading teacher pay.

Davis Productivity Awards--Commissioner Winn reported that the Department of Education received 21 awards.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Requested Approval of Bachelors of Applied Science for Daytona Beach Community College--Mr. Martinez made the motion to grant authority to Daytona Beach Community College to offer a Baccalaureate Degree in Applied Sciences with the understanding that prior to applying for approval for additional baccalaureate programs, the community college shall demonstrate the effectiveness of this program pursuant to the Baccalaureate Degree Proposal Evaluation Guidelines adopted by the State Board in February 2002 with the approval contingent upon the receipt of confirmation from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees that the Board has affirmed its commitment to the mission of community colleges with a second by Mrs. Callaway.

Mr. Ken Sharples, President of Daytona Beach Community College, spoke on behalf of the community college and expressed his commitment to create access to students. Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director, CEPRI, gave an overview of the Council's recommendations. David Harrison, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses at University of Central Florida (UCF), spoke in opposition of approving the program on behalf of UCF.

Mrs. Taylor amended the motion to specifically reference the proposed degree to be that of a bachelors of applied science in supervision and management. Mr. Martinez accepted the amendment with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Requested Approval of Bachelors of Applied Science in Public Safety Management for Edison College--Dr. Ken Walker, President of Edison College, spoke on behalf of Edison College and thanked the Board for its consideration. Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director, CEPRI, gave an overview of the Councils recommendations.

Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve the baccalaureate degree with a second by Vice Chair Fair. Mrs. Taylor requested that the minutes show the motion was made in the same context as the motion for action item 1. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Emergency Rule 6AER05-1, Course Requirements-Grades 6-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs-2005 Standards--Commissioner Winn reported that the rule is proposed in response to data showing that 80 percent of the 6th grade students reading on level 1 will never progress beyond level 1. Commissioner Winn stated that the rule incorporates by reference reading course descriptions to provide intensive reading courses in middle and high school grades to include suggested time allocations and instructional activities, as well as alignment to instruction grounded in scientifically-based reading research. The course descriptions will be adopted in a permanent rule following the rule amendment process outlined in Chapter 120, Florida Statutes. Vice Chair Fair made the motion to approve the emergency rule with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to accept the consent agenda with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies Issues for Concurrence

Recruiting and Training Effective Educators--Chancellor Jim Warford, K-12 Public Schools, provided a brief overview on the different methods for recruiting and training teachers. Chancellor Warford reported that the Department is currently collecting data to determine what type of assistance is needed most by districts and will address the needs as identified. Mrs. Callaway expressed concern in regard to the schools and districts that failed to respond to the surveys and requested that staff follow-up to obtain responses.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Update on the Board of Governors Activities--Chancellor Debra Austin, Colleges and Universities, reported on the upcoming Board of Governors meeting. Chancellor Austin stated that the Board will have a continuation of the Strategic Planning, and discussion on the 2006-2007 budget request will begin.

Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count--Chancellor David Armstrong, Community Colleges, reported on the Achieving the Dream project supported by the Lumina Foundation. Chancellor Armstrong stated that five states, including Florida, had been selected to participate.

Relationship between NCLB, AYP and FCAT --Christy Hovanetz, Director of Evaluation and Reporting, provided an overview of the relationship of No Child Left Behind, Adequate Yearly Progress, and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Ms. Hovanetz included in her report a summary of the six components for calculating school grades, including the three performance measures and three components of learning gains. Ms. Hovanetz stated that for a school to receive a grade of an A or B they must make learning gains with at least 50% of their students in one of the last two years. Ms. Hovanetz reported that NCLB requires annual testing of all public students in both reading and mathematics, a high quality teacher in every public school, an annual report on student performance and school performance, that every child can read by third grade, and 100% proficiency by 2014. Ms. Hovanetz stated that AYP is defined by federal law and is based on the reading and math proficiency for all subgroups.

Hanna Skandera, Director of Accountability, Research and Measurement, provided an overview of the new approach to the implementation of NCLB which includes more flexibility for states demonstrating the four principles of NCLB.

Just Read, Florida!--Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, gave an overview of the staffing and funding needed to provide intensive reading instruction to all level 1 and 2, 6th-10th grade students. Ms. Openshaw stated that currently 192,000 students are being served, but to provide instruction for all level 1 and 2 students, 3,100 teachers would be required. Ms. Openshaw stated that teachers providing reading instruction are required to have the reading endorsement by June 30, 2006. It is expected that 70% of students enrolled in education programs will have received the reading endorsement by the fall of this year.

Commissioner's Secondary Reading Advisory Panel --Mary Laura Openshaw reported that the Reading Advisory Panel had met for the second time and their recommendations will be provided at the June State Board meeting.

Voluntary PreKindergarten Program --Shan Goff, Director of Early Learning, gave a brief overview of the pre-and post-assessment requirements relating to school readiness. Ms. Goff reported that the Department has adopted a statewide screening to assess kindergarten readiness of each student based upon the performance standards adopted by the Board in March 2005. Ms. Goff reported that every parent whose child participates in the Voluntary PreKindergarten Program (VPK) must have their child participate in kindergarten screening.

David Lawrence provided the Board with recommendations relating to the use of assessment for four-year-olds to identify strengths and weaknesses to ensure success in school.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held May 17, 2005, in Tallahassee, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary