

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
May 17, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education in the Knott Building, in Tallahassee, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., May 17, 2005, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Julia Johnson; Phoebe Raulerson; and Linda K. Taylor. Mr. Roberto Martinez was not in attendance.

Welcome

Chairman Handy welcomed the members and audience to the meeting of the State Board.

Member Comments

Mrs. Taylor congratulated the Chairman, Commissioner, and Governor for the partnership which is being formed with the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and the successful approval of flexibility relating to No Child Left Behind. Mrs. Raulerson also congratulated the Chairman and Commissioner for their commitment and accomplishments relating to public education.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy reported that U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings had visited Florida, recognizing the national leadership position that the state of Florida has taken. Chairman Handy stated that flexibility has been approved in calculating the AYP, a clear indicator of the positive partnership between the USDOE and the state of Florida.

Chairman Handy stated that the Access Task Force will have a meeting prior to the next State Board of Education meeting and that membership is nearing completion.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2005, State Board meeting. Mrs. Callaway made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

US Secretary Margaret Spellings--Commissioner Winn reported that the visit to Florida by U.S. Secretary Spellings was very successful and provided an opportunity to highlight the improvement of student achievement in Florida. Commissioner Winn extended his appreciation to those involved in forming this partnership with the USDOE. Commissioner Winn stated that among the successes is that 70% of first time third graders scored at level 3 or higher in both mathematics and reading, and 62% of students who had been retained increased their FCAT scores. In addition, Commissioner Winn reported that last year 12% of 12th graders did not meet the FCAT requirement; this year only 7% did not meet the FCAT requirement.

Legal Activities--Daniel Woodring, General Counsel, reported that arguments in the Opportunity Scholarship case will be heard before the Florida Supreme Court on June 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Woodring stated that the oral arguments in the Miami-Dade and related counties lawsuit relating to the district cost differential method for distributing funding will be held on June 8th, 9th, and 10th. Mr. Woodring provided information on the ruling of the 5th District Court of Appeal relating to the three charter schools appealing the decision of Osceola County School Board in denying their charter school applications because they did not qualify for capital outlay

funds. Mr. Woodring reported that the District Court on one of the three cases agreed that not qualifying for capital outlay funds is not a good reason to deny the applications. The other two appeals are still pending.

Personnel --Commissioner Winn introduced Mr. Bill Palmer, the new Division Director for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitative Services.

Legislative Session—Commissioner Winn gave a brief overview of the 2005 Legislative Session and stated that the K-12 budget would increase by 8.8%. Commissioner Winn reported that a number of initiatives to meet economic development in critical job areas for Community Colleges and secondary institutions passed, as did funding for teacher education programs which will be critical for preparing for the new teacher demand. Commissioner Winn informed the Board that the joint resolution to revisit the class size amendment failed as did the A++ bill. Commissioner Winn reported that 89 million dollars in the FEFP for reading was approved, as well as funding for critical job areas, additional funding to continue statewide activities within reading, and the College Board partnership received additional funds.

Legislative Update Meetings—Commissioner Winn stated that the Department will have five regional legislative meetings to ensure school districts receive accurate and timely information to assist their budget planning for 2005-2006.

Commissioner Winn invited the Board to attend the Macy's Teacher of the Year event on July 26th and 27th in Orlando.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Alternative Standardized Reading Assessments—Commissioner Winn provided information on the statewide public school pupil progression law eliminating social promotion, which states that students who score a level 1 on the grade 3 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) may be promoted if they pass an alternative test. Commissioner Winn stated that last year the alternative assessment was the grade 3 reading Norm Referenced Test (NRT) portion of the FCAT or another form of SAT-9 or SAT-10 assessments. Commissioner Winn requested that the Board again approve the same alternatives. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the SAT/ACT Concordant Scores for the FCAT—Commissioner Winn provided the Board with information for the concordant scores equivalent to the FCAT in order to meet the graduation requirements. Commissioner Winn stated that the equivalent score on the SAT would be 410 in reading and 370 in math. Mrs. Callaway made the motion to approve with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Ms. Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Callaway referred to the Approval of Request for Waivers by Volusia County School Board and requested that rationale be provided to connect the request for waivers to improved student performance. Commissioner Winn assured Mrs. Callaway that all future requests for waivers will include this information.

Chairman Handy called for a motion on the amended agenda. Vice Chairman Fair made the

motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies Issues for Concurrence

State Board of Education Statutory Enforcement Authority—Commissioner Winn provided the Board with information on the school districts that have not followed the statutory procedures when denying a charter school application. Commissioner Winn reported that the State Board has the authority to enforce legislation to ensure that school districts follow state laws and requested consensus of the Board on how to respond to districts not following the statutory requirements. Mrs. Callaway and Mrs. Raulerson expressed a need for there to be sanctions for school districts that do not comply with the statutory requirements. Vice Chairman Fair stated that a very clear message should be sent to school boards not following the law that funds can be withheld as a penalty. Chairman Handy requested that the Commissioner contact the superintendents of the school districts found to be in noncompliance with governing charter school law to determine what procedures have been changed to ensure compliance.

Chairman Handy stated that another area of concern relating to noncompliance of school districts to statute is that of incentive pay. Commissioner Winn stated that a full report will be provided to the Board on the status of performance pay and the implementation thereof at the June meeting.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Update on the Board of Governors Activities--Chancellor Debra Austin, Colleges and Universities, reported on the activities of the Board of Governors. Chancellor Austin stated that the last Board of Governor's meeting included discussion on the draft missions for each one of the universities and continued discussion on the strategic plan. Chancellor Austin reported that the Board approved the policy guidelines for the legislative budget request for the '06/'07 year. In addition, the Medical Education Subcommittee of the Board approved support for 2.2 million dollars for the Medical Partnership between Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami. The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be June 9, 2005, at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Update on the Community College Strategic Plan—Dr. Bill Law, President, Tallahassee Community College, provided a brief overview of the strategic plan for community colleges which will clearly track the goals and assessments. Dr. Law stated that he will present the final plan to the Board at the August State Board meeting. Chairman Handy requested that the final report include the fiscal financial impact of four-year degrees at community colleges.

Update on District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plans—Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, thanked the Commissioner for opening the first "Boot Camp" for reading coaches. Ms. Openshaw reported that 300 reading coaches were trained during this week.

Ms. Openshaw stated that the final FEFP allocation was \$89 million for reading and that the Florida virtual school was included in the budget to receive FEFP reading funds.

Ms. Openshaw stated that while reviewing the school district K-12 comprehensive and summer reading camp plans, there is an increase of approximately 30 hours for more instruction included in summer camps this year

Ms. Openshaw completed her report with an overview of the reading first results. Ms. Openshaw stated that districts who had been unsuccessful previously in obtaining funding have continued to apply and improve their plans and will receive funding.

Florida's New Partnership—NCLB—Hanna Skandera, Director of Accountability, Research, and Measurement, reported that Florida is the first state to be granted flexibility relating to No Child Left Behind. Ms. Skandera gave a brief overview of the commitment and success under each of the four NCLB principles including the education policies which go above and beyond NCLB requirements.

Assessment Contract Management—Cornelia Orr, Director of Assessment and School Performance, provided an overview of the quality management practices implemented for the assessment program. Dr. Orr reported that currently there are 21 contracts totaling \$300 million managed through the Assessment and School Performance Office. Dr. Orr outlined the procurement process and contract management activities including an overview of the RFP process and the evaluation of proposals received.

Update on DOE/Microsoft Partnership and "Sunshine Connections"—Theresa Klebacha, Director of Strategic Initiatives, reported that Release One of Sunshine Connections will be available to teachers for the upcoming school year. Lynn Silver, Academic Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation, provided an overview to the Board on the Sunshine Connections and stated that Florida is the only state using the power of Microsoft at this magnitude.

Strategic Imperative Four: Improve the Quality of Instructional Leadership—Theresa Klebacha, Director of Strategic Initiatives, introduced Chancellor David Armstrong to provide an update on the progress of implementing Strategic Imperative Four: Improve the Quality of Instructional Leadership. Chancellor Armstrong provided information on the leadership training provided to K-12 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders, as well as community college leaders and potential community college presidents. Chancellor Armstrong stated that plans have been made to develop leadership in the Commissioner's cabinet, as well as for statewide leaders in the workforce training area, school district leaders in Vo-Tech centers, and workforce personnel who work in community colleges and adult education. Chancellor Armstrong reported that while DELTA did not successfully pass the 2005 Legislature, plans were being made to implement some of the components including training for school leaders, middle school principals, and assistant principals.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program Update—Shan Goff, Director of the Office of Early Learning, provided the Board with an overview of information related to district participation in the school-year VPK program and activities to increase the capacity to meet projected need. Ms. Goff reported that registration had begun for Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) providers, as well as for children wanting to participate in VPK Programs. Ms. Goff stated that the Department and the Agency for Workforce Innovation have partnered to work with school districts to increase the capacity for offering VPK programs. Ms. Goff reported that currently 10,000 additional providers are needed to ensure that there will be space for all students. Mrs. Raulerson requested that transportation for children in the rural areas be included as part of the planning process, as well as in the budgeting process for the future.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held June 21, 2005, in Sanford, at the Seminole County School Board office 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