

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SANFORD, FLORIDA
June 21, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at the Seminole County School Board Office in Sanford, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., June 21, 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. Superintendent Bill Vogel welcomed the Board to his district.

Member Comments

Mrs. Raulerson reported that she attended the National Association of State Boards of Education's Middle School Literacy event and made a presentation on the progress Florida is making in reading gains and meeting the need for highly qualified principals and teachers.

Mrs. Taylor congratulated the Chairman on the success of the first Access Task Force Meeting.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy presented the Board with copies of recent national articles on school choice. Chairman Handy highlighted the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal which stated that no state in America is closing the achievement gap faster than Florida. Chairman Handy stated school choice has played an important role in closing the achievement gap.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2005, State Board meeting. Vice Chair Fair made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

School Grades—Commissioner Winn reported that schools continue to show improvement which is evidenced by the recently released school grades. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department is reviewing the techniques and strategies of schools which have shown great improvement and are performing exceptionally well to assist low performing.

2006 Legislative Session -- Commissioner Winn stated that the 2005 Appropriations Bill transferred 62 positions from the Department to the Board of Governors effective July 1, 2005.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)—Commissioner Winn gave a brief overview of the partnership with the U.S. Department of Education allowing Florida to identify schools graded as A or B as provisionally meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Commissioner Winn stated that Florida had been chosen as the pilot for this designation.

Commissioner Winn reported that the Education Commission of the States has awarded Florida and Utah a joint award of the 2005 Frank Newman Excellence in Policy for the United States. The Commission specifically noted Florida's K-20 approach to solving education problems and deemed the articulation system as the best in the United States.

Hurricane Update—Commissioner Winn invited the Board to attend the hurricane emergency workshop at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), hosted by the Department for school superintendents. The workshop will include an overview of the processes and procedures followed when coordinating services in the event of a hurricane.

Mrs. Raulerson thanked the Commissioner and the Chairman for their diligence in ensuring that all students, especially those in exceptional student education (ESE) classes, limited English proficient (LEP) students, and those from a low socio-economic home receive an excellent education and are not left behind. Chairman Handy noted that Vice Chairman Fair had also been an outspoken proponent for having one set of standards for all students.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09412, Course Requirements – Grades 6-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs—Ms. Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, reported that this rule is the same as the emergency rule adopted at the April Board meeting which will be implemented in the '05-'06 school year to include course requirements for intensive and scientifically based reading courses. Vice Chair Fair made the motion to approve the rule with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-2.0010, Educational Facilities—Jeanine Blomberg, Chief of Staff, reported that approval of the rule as amended will align class space requirements with the class size reduction requirement. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve the rule with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Blomberg provided a brief overview to the Board on co-teaching which is utilized as an instructional strategy and as a means to meet the class size requirements. Ms. Blomberg stated that the Constitutional Amendment requires a sufficient number of classrooms to meet the caps as designated in the constitutional amendment.

Vice Chairman Fair made a motion to disallow co-teaching to be included in calculation of class size compliance for the 2006-2007 school year and disallow the expansion of co-teaching in 05-06 with a second by Mrs. Callaway. An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Fair with a second by Mrs. Callaway to clarify that the original motion was in order to have strict compliance with the constitutional amendment. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Approval of State Board Statutory Enforcement Authority Relating to Charter Schools—Virginia Gentles, Director of Independent Education and Parental Choice, provided information on procedural issues relating to charter school appeals which have occurred in the past. Ms. Gentles stated that there were four districts identified by the Charter School Appeal Commission which had procedural violations relating to the charter school appeal process. Ms. Gentles reported that all four districts reported that steps had been taken to ensure these violations would not occur should there be future appeals. Ms. Gentles stated that a survey had been sent to every charter school to gather information on other issues that may be occurring with charter schools and districts. The findings from the survey will be made available to the Board. Vice Chair Fair made the motion to accept the report with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Equivalent Credentials for VPK Education School-Year Instructors—Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning, presented recommendations for the Board's consideration to approve credentials for Associate and Bachelor degrees that are considered equivalent to the

current VPK provider credentials as authorized in statute. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve the recommendations for equivalent credentials for VPK Instructors with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2005-2006 Assistance Plus Implementation Plan and Recommended Action for Multiple F Graded Schools—Jim Warford, K-12 Chancellor, and Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, provided information on the continuous improvement model which provides intensive tutorials during the school day hours for struggling students, as well as after school. Ms. Tappen reported that schools must report student data on a quarterly basis. Ms. Tappen stated that conference calls are scheduled to include Department staff, superintendents, and principals to ensure that clear communication continues.

Mr. Bellamy, Principal, Matthew Gilberts Middle School in Duval County, gave an overview of the progress of Matthew Gilberts Middle School and recognized the importance of the continuous improvement model. Ms. Johnson commended Mr. Bellamy for his efforts and commitment to improving student achievement.

Ron Blocker, Superintendent for Orange County School District, reported on the struggling schools in his district and gave an overview of the strategies implemented to improve the achievement gap in the struggling schools.

Chairman Handy noted that the contract for Orange County School District as a charter district would expire on June 30, 2005. Superintendent Blocker stated that the district would request an extension of this date in order to submit a new contract for the Board's consideration. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to extend the contract period until the August 16, 2005, State Board meeting with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fair made a motion to accept the district action plans for repeating F schools with a second by Mrs. Callaway. Vice Chairman Fair amended his motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway to include that for repeating F schools receiving more than 2 Fs in the past four years, showing no improvement in 2005 school grades, school boards would adopt social promotion policies which would not allow level 1 students to be promoted into those schools. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chairman Fair offered a second amendment with a second by Mrs. Callaway to implement amendment one to the motion with the 2006-2007 school year. The second amendment to the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2005-2006 College Reach-Out Program Funding Recommendations—Monica Hayes, Director of Equity and Access, gave an overview of the College Reach-Out Program (CROP) and the number of students participating in the program that had entered and completed postsecondary programs. Mrs. Raulerson made the motion to approve the recommendations for funding the College Reach-Out Programs with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Budget Preparation Guidelines 2006-2007--Vice Chair Fair made the motion to approve the budget guidelines for preparing the Legislative Budget Request for 2006-2007 with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve items 1-3 on the consent agenda with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Discussion of a Plan to Assist School Districts With Full Implementation of the Statutory Requirements for Performance Based Pay -- Chancellor Warford reported on the status of recommendations for revising rule 6B-4.010, FAC., to more clearly address statutory issues for performance appraisal systems and the relationship to the portion of every teacher's' salary that must be based on individual performance.

Recommendations of the Commissioner's Reading Advisory Panel -- Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read!, Florida, provided an overview of the Commissioner's Secondary Reading Advisory Panel's recommendations relating to reading instruction and professional development, content area teachers, and assessment. Ms. Openshaw stated that there will be a Just Read Teaching Academy which will provide training for teachers who teach K-3 in addition to training for teachers of fourth and fifth grades. Ms. Openshaw completed her report by noting that the panel recommended the development of a screening assessment for middle and secondary students to identify needs at the beginning of the school year.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Report on Efforts To-Date and Expansion Plan for Teacher Training in Reading — Ms. Openshaw provided an overview on the number of teachers trained to teach elementary reading currently and plans to increase the number over the next year. Ms. Openshaw stated that while elementary teachers due to the support provided through their teacher prep programs, instructional materials, and the structure of an elementary school can be taught the skills necessary to teach reading in approximately 4 days, it is much more difficult to prepare secondary teachers. To become highly qualified in teaching reading at the secondary level, teachers must complete the Reading Endorsement, which takes approximately two years to complete.

Educator Quality Update – Teacher Retention Activities and Teacher Preparation -- Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor, K-12 Educator Quality, reported that 1800 candidates have pre-registered for the Great Florida Teach In and 53 districts will participate.

Ms. Stewart reported that, based on the division's recent survey, 77 percent of teachers rated principal support as a reason to leave teaching while 95 percent rated support of the principal as a reason to continue teaching. As the role of the principal is clearly an important factor in retaining teachers, training for principals to develop strong support and leadership skills will be included in professional development. Ms. Stewart reported that the Department had coordinated meetings with district personnel directors to determine what type of assistance can be provided and how to best address the issue of teacher retention.

Ms. Stewart reported that surveys had been sent to 38 colleges of education and that to date 10 responses had been received. The purpose of the survey was to solicit input on the direction the deans felt the colleges should take to address the teacher shortages. The recommendations included follow-up with graduates, mentoring during the first year of teaching, salary increases, and better coordination with school districts to identify and address needs.

Presentation by Volusia County School District on How State and Local Waivers Have Improved Student Performance—Margaret Smith, Superintendent for Volusia County School District, presented information to the Board on the initiatives the District had successfully implemented as a result of having the flexibility of a charter district. Superintendent Smith's presentation included highlights on the performance based pay which is offered to teachers who

successfully remediate higher risk, level one students and the Plus One Program which extends the school day by one hour and focuses on academics.

Report on Status of Educator Preparation Institutes and Succeed Florida! Funding—David Armstrong, Chancellor, Community Colleges, updated the Board on the status of the proposed Educator Preparation Institutions (EPIs). Chancellor Armstrong stated that St. Petersburg College's program has been approved, a proposal has been received from Florida Atlantic University, and 25 community colleges have formed partnerships and have developed a proposal which has received provisional approval by the Commissioner.

Discussion of the Cost for Community Colleges Offering 4-Year Degrees – Chancellor Armstrong provided an overview of the baccalaureate degree programs which have been funded by the Legislature and stated that until this past year there has not been a pattern of consistency relating to funding. Chancellor Armstrong reported that policy is now established to fund community college credit hours at a specific rate to ensure consistency for all community colleges.

Chairman Handy reported that the Daytona Beach Community College Board of Trustees had voted to remove “community” from the name of the College. Chairman Handy stated that, based on his conversation with President Sharples and from correspondence received from President Sharples, this decision was based on concern that the College would not receive accreditation from SACs. Chairman Handy expressed his concern that changing the name of the College was inconsistent with the direction provided by the State Board at the April meeting when approval of the baccalaureate program was granted. After lengthy discussion, a consensus was reached to request that Commissioner Winn report back to the Board on the criteria for accreditation and begin communication with SACS to determine the necessity of dropping “community” from a community college that is offering a baccalaureate degree program.

VPK Update: VPK Standards/Benchmarks and Presentation by Local Coalition on Recruitment of Providers and Collaboration with School Districts—Shan Goff, Director of Early Learning, provided an update on the development of the benchmarks for the VPK standards. Gladys Wilson, Executive Director of the Office of Learning Education and Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), reported that to-date 55,274 children are registered for the VPK program with the expectation that the number will continue to increase. Ms. Wilson stated that there are 3000 providers, with an anticipated need for 8,000.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be held August 16, 2005, in Tallahassee, in the Capitol 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