

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
August 16, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education in the Cabinet Room of the Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., August 16, 2005, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway; T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Julia Johnson; Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson; and Linda K. Taylor.

Welcome

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

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy distributed copies of the Commissioner's evaluation and stated that Commissioner Winn will be scheduling individual meetings with each board member during the next two weeks. Chairman Handy stated that evaluations must be completed by Labor Day.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2005, State Board meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Teacher of the Year - Commissioner Winn reported that he, Mrs. Raulerson, and Mrs. Callaway had the opportunity to meet with Florida's outstanding teachers at the annual Florida Teacher Roundtable. Commissioner Winn stated that the exchange of information relating to concerns and recommendations of the attending teachers was invaluable. Commissioner Winn introduced Samuel Bennett as the 2006 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year.

Plans to Release Selected FCAT Test - Commissioner Winn announced plans to release selected FCAT tests. Commissioner Winn stated that the release of test items is limited due to the limited number of test items.

Jessica Lunsford Act - Commissioner Winn provided an update on the Jessica Lunsford Act, indicating that the Department is actively assisting school districts with the implementation of this law. Commissioner Winn stated that technical assistance memorandums had been distributed and that staff was working directly with the districts to ensure everyone had a clear understanding of the requirements.

Co-Teaching - Commissioner Winn stated that the practice of co-teaching cannot be utilized as a method to meet Constitutional class size requirements. Jeanine Blomberg, Chief of Staff, reported that co-teaching has increased by 260% since the implementation of the class size amendment.

School Grade Appeals – Commissioner Winn reported that 49 appeals were received relating to the release of school grades. Commissioner Winn stated that this is a major reduction in the number of appeals received compared to two years ago when 400 appeals were received. Commissioner Winn stated that data errors are the major reason for the appeals and that the Department will continue to work with school districts to resolve these errors.

PTA Summer Conference. Commissioner Winn reported that he had been given the opportunity to speak at the PTA Summer Conference. Commissioner Winn stated that he challenged the PTA to join the Department in determining how to improve teacher retention rates and encouraging parents and teachers to work as a team to ensure continued improved student achievement.

Sunshine Connections. Commissioner Winn reported that Sunshine Connections will be released to four districts on Friday, August 19, 2005. Commissioner Winn stated that Sunshine Connections is an interactive on-line tool that enables administrators and teachers across the state to easily access student performance data and diagnostics, curricular materials, and communicate with other teachers.

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 K-20 2006-2007 Legislative Budget Request. An overview of the proposed 2006-2007 Legislative Budget Request was provided by Commissioner John Winn; Shan Goff, Director of the Office of Early Learning; Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen, K-12; Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read; Florida!, Chancellor David Armstrong, Community Colleges; Bill Palmer, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation; Craig Kiser, Director of Blind Services; Linda Champion, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Operations; and Chancellor Debra Austin, Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Martinez made the motion to approve the budget with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeal – Future Leaders Academy for Arts & Sciences vs. Marion County School Board – Future Leaders Academy for Arts & Sciences was represented by Eugene Poole, Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Marion County School Board was represented by Attorney Mike Olenick. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to support the decision of the School Board with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2005-2006 District Action Plans for Repeating F Schools – Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen provided an overview of the action plans submitted by the affected school districts. Superintendent Crew from the Miami-Dade School District and Superintendent Ron Blocker from the Orange County School District provided additional information to the Board on their initiatives to improve student performance. Ms. Johnson made the motion to approve the action plans as submitted, with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Extension of the Orange County School District's Charter Contract and Report on 2nd year as a District Charter. – Superintendent Blocker provided an overview of the progress of improving student achievement and stated that Orange County is now in the second phase of reform. Vice Chair Fair made the motion to accept the approval with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Mrs. Taylor made the motion to approve items 1-4 on the consent agenda with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Baccalaureate Proposal Approval Process for Community Colleges – Judy Bilsky, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, presented recommendations of the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education, Division of Colleges and Universities, and the Office of Articulation, Research and Measurement for the review of proposals submitted by community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs. Dr. Bilsky reported that the new process would include analysis, feedback, and recommendations by a cross-functional review team to be presented to the State Board for final consideration. The Board concurred with the process.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Educator Quality Update – Teacher Retention – Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, provided information on the number of terminations, retirements, and resignations of teachers for the 2003-04 school year. Ms. Stewart reported that 2,400 teacher vacancies have been reported for the first day of school for the current school year. Mrs. Raulerson requested that an update be provided on the number of vacancies for the same positions still existing at the end of the first semester. Mrs. Callaway requested that an update be provided based on the vacancies at the end of twenty days as well.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) – First Days – Shan Goff, Director of Early Learning, and Gladys Wilson, Agency for Workforce Innovation, reported that all 67 counties have VPK programs, and it is anticipated that additional programs will open as the school year progresses. Ms. Goff stated that the Department and the Agency for Workforce Innovation are continuing with public awareness campaigns to ensure that parents are aware of their option to enroll their child in a VPK program.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be September 20, 2005, at the Pinellas County School Board beginning at 8:30 a.m.; the October 18, 2005, meeting will be at Broward Community College in Ft. Lauderdale.

Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary