

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Davie, Florida
October 18, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Broward Community College at 8:30 a.m., October 18, 2005, with the following members present: Vice Chairman T. Willard Fair, Donna G. Callaway, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, and Linda K. Taylor. Julia Johnson was unable to attend.

Welcome

Chairman Handy welcomed the members and audience to the meeting of the State Board. President Larry Calderon welcomed the Board to Broward Community College.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy reported that the Access Task Force had met on October 17, 2005, and anticipates presenting its report to the State Board in January 2006.

Chairman Handy stated that he would be speaking, along with the Governor and Commissioner, at the Annual Charter School Conference on November 3, 2005.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2005, State Board meeting. Mr. Martinez made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner's Evaluation - Commissioner Winn thanked the Board members for their participation in his evaluation. Commissioner Winn reported that the impact of the evaluation as it relates to the strategic plan was most helpful and that senior staff have been given goals, benchmarks and objectives relating to the Strategic Plan. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department has developed a customer survey to be sent to all of the Department's customers.

2005 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership – Commissioner Winn and Mrs. Donna Callaway attended the Commissioner's Summit for Principals where awards for principals and assistant principals from elementary, middle and high school were presented.

Double F Palm Beach Charter Schools - Commissioner Winn reported that a waiver of the 90 days in which the State Board must hear the appeals has been requested. The Charter Schools and School District have been involved in mediation and are entering into an agreement to serve as alternative schools.

Personnel Issues – Commissioner Winn announced that Mr. Mark Walsh has been appointed as the Governmental Relations Director, and Ms. Paula Shea has been appointed as the Director of Domestic/Homeland Security, Emergency Management.

FCAT – Commissioner Winn reported that since the release of the 10th grade FCAT in September, there have been 44,796 web hits. The letters and e-mails from the public have been very positive. Commissioner Winn stated that the 4th and 8th grade FCAT tests are now being released.

Governor's Statewide Reading in Arts Contest – Commissioner Winn recognized Carolyn Vega of Just Read, Florida! to provide information on the Governor's Statewide Reading in Arts Contest. Ms. Vega reported that the contest is based on "The Lion, the Witch, and the

Wardrobe," which will soon be released as a movie. Elementary, middle, and high school students may compete in the contest.

High School Reform Task Force –Commissioner Winn completed his report by stating that the membership of the High School Reform Task Force has been completed and meeting plans are underway.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Charter School Appeal: Imhotep-NGUZO SABA Charter School vs. School Board of Palm Beach County. Janice Jennings, Attorney, was recognized to represent Imhotep-NGUZO SABA, and Denise Sagerholm, Attorney, represented the Palm Beach County School Board. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Commission to overturn the decision of the School Board. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. After lengthy discussion of the finding by the Charter School Appeal Commission that the School Board did have competent, substantial evidence to support its finding that the Appellant's existing charter school is fiscally non-compliant and that this finding was statutory good cause for denial, the motion failed unanimously.

Charter School Appeal: Mandela-NGUZO SABA Charter School vs. School Board of Palm Beach County. Janice Jennings, Attorney, was recognized to represent Imhotep-NGUZO SABA, and Denise Sagerholm, Attorney, represented the Palm Beach County School Board. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Commission to overturn the decision of the School Board. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion failed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fair stated that he was concerned that the Charter School Appeal Commission's recommendation was not consistent with its findings. Vice Chairman Fair requested that Commissioner Winn address the Commission and express his concerns that the Commission act responsibly in its recommendations.

Chairman Handy asked Commissioner Winn to brief the Board at the next meeting on the response of the Charter School Appeal Commission and the appeals process.

Approval of District Actions Plans for F Schools and F School Improvement Plans – Dr. Cheri Yecke, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, provided an update on F and double F schools. Dr. Yecke stated that all districts are in compliance. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the district action plans. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Contract Extension for Palm Beach County Schools as a Charter District – Dr. Cheri Yecke provided a brief overview of the status of Palm Beach as a charter district. Dr. Yecke recommended that the Board accept the report as submitted by Palm Beach County and approve the extension through July 1, 2007, with the following conditions: 1) Palm Beach will implement more aggressive strategies at the secondary school level to increase subgroup participation and performance in Upper Level Mathematics and Science classes, SATs, and AP programs and graduation rates, and 2) Palm Beach will encourage progress monitoring and assistance from the District to charter schools. In addition, Dr. Yecke reported that the request of Palm Beach to extend the continuation of the deregulated public schools pilot program was not possible as the program has statutorily ended. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the contract extension with the recommended conditions. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Strategic Plan for Community Colleges - Chairman Handy recognized President Bill Law to provide an overview of the Strategic Plan for Community Colleges. Chairman Handy requested that action by the Board be deferred to the November State Board meeting. Chairman Handy stated that additional time was required in order to ensure that each Board member had been adequately briefed on the policy issues in the Plan. Chairman Handy requested that Chancellor Armstrong be prepared at the November State Board meeting to provide more indepth information to allow the Board to have extensive discussion before taking action.

Consent Items

Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to approve items 1-6 of the consent agenda with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issue for Concurrence

Issues Relating to Selecting a Kindergarten Screening Instrument – Shan Goff reported that the Kindergarten Screening and Readiness Rate Workgroup met on September 1-2, 2005, and made recommendations for the selection of a kindergarten screening instrument. Ms. Goff reported that an RFP will be developed for kindergarten screening and the Board will be briefed on the results. Mr. Martinez expressed his interest in the Department considering recommending, as part of its legislative package, a supplement to the VPK program to use assessments, appropriate for the age of the child, cultural background, and language, done at the beginning and the end of the "school year," to help a pre-K provider show what specific progress the child has made while in the prekindergarten program and how the child can be further helped to meet the child's potential. Each child should be evaluated on current performance vis-à-vis prior performance, not in comparison with other children. Ms. Goff stated that the RFP for kindergarten screening could also request the tools to implement the VPK assessment objective.

Raising the Bar: Options and Opportunities – Agenda item was deferred to the November meeting.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Reading First: Year Two Results - Mary Laura Openshaw, Director, Just Read, Florida!, reported on the 2nd year results for Reading First. Ms. Openshaw provided an overview of the progress monitoring and the skills measured at the end of the school year. In addition, information was provided on the percent of students meeting state reading first goals, and strategies to ensure improvement. Ms. Openshaw stated that the 2005-06 instructional focus for first grade is targeted professional development of phonics; for second grade, targeted professional development on fluency; and for third grade, focus on vocabulary and comprehension. Ms. Openshaw completed her report by stating that consistency in moving forward in kindergarten is crucial for improvement.

Comprehensive Plan for Teacher Recruitment and Retention – Dr. Yecke reported that 31,791 teacher vacancies are anticipated for the 2006-2007 school year. Dr. Yecke provided an overview of strategies to address this need including using class-size dollars for teacher pay, implementation of performance-based pay, providing more flexibility and performance accountability in teacher preparation programs, promoting a variety of paths to certification, stepping up recruitment and targeting support, building partnerships to improve retention, and supporting research-based teacher programs. Mr. Martinez expressed his interest in the Department incorporating increased teacher compensation as part of its strategy in recruiting and retaining teachers. Mrs. Taylor requested that the board be provided with the survey

previously conducted of Florida teachers concerning teacher compensation, and Commissioner Winn stated that the survey results would be made available to the board.

Charter School Survey and School District Responses – Virginia Gentles, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, reported that administrators of charter schools operating in 2004-2005 were surveyed to determine what issues may have arisen with school district sponsors which could involve significant violations of state or federal statutes or State Board of Education rules. Based on the information provided in the returned surveys, 32 schools in 15 districts reported possible violations. These violations included 21 allegations involving funding, 18 allegations relating to their charter and/or contract, and 8 allegations which included both funding and charter/contract issues. Ms. Gentles reported that while the survey did not reveal documented incidents of noncompliance, the findings show areas of legitimate concern that must be addressed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of Florida's charter schools. Ms. Gentles stated that technical assistance papers and other means of communication were being developed to assist both the charter school operators and school district staff to better understand the regulations and laws which govern the operation of charter schools.

Educator Preparation Institutes – Dr. Judith Bilsky, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education, reported that 14 community colleges have received full approval for Educator Preparation Institutes and 12 institutions have provisional approval. Dr. R.E. LeMon, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Division of Colleges and Universities, reported that three four-year institutions have been approved as well.

Succeed Florida Grant Awards - Gloria Spradley, Director of Grants Administration, Division of Community College and Workforce Education stated that the purpose of the grant awards are to increase capacity at public and private postsecondary education institutions for teaching and nursing, as well as to implement career and professional academies. Ms. Spradley, gave a brief overview of the grant awards for each area including career education, nursing, teacher certification, Jobs for Florida, and community college proposals.

e-Personal Education Planner on FACTS.org - Connie Graunke, Executive Director, Florida Center for Advising & Academic Support provided a demonstration of the newly developed online tool, e-Personal Education Planner (ePEP). Ms. Graunke reported that the e-Personal Education Planner will allow students to choose the type of high school diploma they wish to pursue, choose courses available at their specific school, and review evaluations of their transcripts showing progress toward meeting requirements for graduation, Bright Future scholarships, and state university admissions.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be November 15, 2005, at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, 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