

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jacksonville, Florida
November 15, 2005

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Florida Community College -- Jacksonville at 8:30 a.m., November 15, 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. Dr. Steven Wallace, President, welcomed the Board to Florida Community College.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy reported that the Access Task Force would meet at Florida Community College on Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

Chairman Handy reported that the Articulation Rules approved by the State Board on October 18, 2005, will be considered in the form of a resolution by the Board of Governors on November 17, 2005.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2005, State Board meeting. Mr. Martinez made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Co-Teaching – Commissioner Winn reported that he had met with the School Boards Association, Central Florida Coalition, and others to discuss the position of the Board on co-teaching. Commissioner Winn stated that he would report in January on which districts are meeting class size requirements based on the calculations from the October FTE count.

Legislative Meetings – Commissioner Winn reported that legislative committee meetings for the 2006 Legislative Session had started and that the budget priorities approved by the Board are consistent with those discussed by legislators. Commissioner Winn reported that the organizational structure of the Department was not consistent with statute. Discussions are ongoing to amend the statute to provide more flexibility for the Department. Commissioner Winn stated that the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee would be reviewing all agency rules and that the Department had not had an objection filed by the Committee to any rules approved by the Board.

Hurricane Update – Commissioner Winn stated that waivers are to be granted providing flexibility on required school days and extensions for administering FCAT. Districts will have additional flexibility to address missed days provided they maintain the required minimum of 900 hours of instruction time. In addition, Paula Shea presented an update on the progress being made in Mississippi.

High School Reform Task Force – Commissioner Winn stated that the High School Reform Task Force had met and agreed upon the major issues to address which included increasing the rigor and relevance of high school and providing more focus on career academies and small learning communities. The Task Force will meet on November 18, 2005, in Jacksonville.

Commissioner Winn concluded his report by stating that Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, was recently honored with the Merrill Baumgardner Award from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Strategic Plan for Community Colleges: David Armstrong, Chancellor, Community Colleges, provided an overview of the strategic plan proposed for Community Colleges. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion to defer action on the Strategic Plan, as he did not receive his agenda in advance and had not had sufficient time to review the information. With a second by Mr. Martinez, the motion passed.

Charter School Appeal: Wilbesan Charter School vs. Hillsborough County School Board: Mary White, Charter School Operator, was recognized to represent Wilbesan Charter School, and Thomas Gonzalez, Attorney, recognized to represent the Hillsborough School Board. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Commission to approve the decision of the School Board to deny the appeal. Mrs. Raulerson made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. With Vice Chairman Fair abstaining from the vote, the motion passed.

Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2006-2007 – Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, presented the critical teacher shortage areas for 2006-2007. Ms. Stewart noted that the shortage areas have remained the same since 2002-2003. The critical teacher shortages were identified as middle and high school level mathematics, middle and high school level science, reading, exceptional student education programs, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), foreign languages, school psychologists, and technology education/industrial arts. As part of the presentation, Ms. Stewart provided an update on the Department's initiatives relating to teacher recruitment and retention. Chairman Handy requested that the Commissioner be prepared at the January meeting to present a bold plan for meeting the needs for the critical shortage areas and to meet the demand for teachers relating to the class size amendment. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the critical teacher shortage areas for 2006-07 as presented. Mrs. Raulerson made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve items 1-5 of the consent agenda. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Proposals for 2006 Legislative Agenda –Mark Walsh, Director, Governmental Affairs, provided a brief overview of the issues to be included in the proposed 2006 Legislative Agenda. Mr. Walsh stated that the 2006 Legislative Agenda will be consistent with the agenda for 2005. A detailed presentation will be provided at the January 2006 State Board Meeting.

Florida School Music Association's (FMEA) Proposal for Assessment – James Perry, Executive Director, FMEA and Florida Educators Music Association (FEMA), introduced Lucinda Balistreri, FMEA President and Fine Arts Supervisor, Sarasota County; Dr. Timothy Brophy, Chairman of the Task Force on Assessment; Deborah Fahmie, Elementary Music Teacher, Osceola County, and President, FEMA, to provide an overview of their proposal to implement a system of assessment for students involved in music in K-12. Mr. Perry reported that professionals in the Fine Arts areas want to ensure that student achievement can be measured to accurately reflect the quality of the programs. After lengthy discussion and a demonstration of the proposed assessment instrument, members of the Board encouraged the Commissioner and the Department to work with the Task Force to further pilot the project and obtain baseline data.

Raising the Bar: Options and Opportunities – Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement, presented options for Raising the Bar consistent with the Board's commitment to the principle that each student should gain a year's worth of knowledge in a year's worth of time. Options for consideration included: including Writing Multiple Choice Items in Writing Component, changing A-F grade point distribution, increasing participation rate to 95%, including all retakes of grade 10 FCAT, rescaling Developmental Scale Score expected learning gains, and including Alternate Assessment in school grades. Commissioner Winn stated that science was to be included in the calculation of school grades beginning in 2006. Commissioner Winn reported that a rule development workshop would be advertised and a proposed rule would come before the Board in February. Commissioner Winn concluded the discussion by stating that detailed analysis of the impact that changes to the current assessment and measurement system may have would be provided to the Board.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

College Goal Sunday –Beverly Sermons, Director of Outreach and Access, Division of Community Colleges, presented a brief overview of the efforts to assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Ms. Sermons reported that on February 19, 2006, volunteers from K-12, community colleges, and universities will work directly with students in twenty counties to assist them in completing the application.

Update on Secondary Reading Efforts – Dr. Evan Lefsky, Director of Secondary Reading, Just Read, Florida!, presented information on current research and state initiatives targeted at improving reading achievement for middle and high school students. Dr. Lefsky concluded his presentation by stating that in order to increase the reading proficiency of secondary students, instructional and infrastructure improvements are critical.

Update on the Assistance Plus District Action Plans Compliance Report –Dr. Cheri Yecke, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, reported that two new areas are now included as part of the Assistance Plus Action Plans. Information will now be collected relating to changes in principals to determine how student performance may be affected. In addition, information will be collected on partnerships between businesses and schools to determine how partnerships may impact increasing student achievement.

Voluntary Prek Update – Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning, provided updates on the standards for the development of the Emergent Literacy Course, planning for the 2006 Summer VPK Program and the RFP for 2006-07 Kindergarten Screening Instrument. Ms. Goff reported that the Emergent Literacy Course was developed via a grant to the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) in collaboration with early childhood experts and practitioners and experts in the field of emergent literacy and is now available free of charge in various formats. Ms. Goff stated that the Summer Planning VPK Workgroup had recently met to provide a forum for discussion of details relating to the implementation of the summer VPK program. Ms. Goff completed her report by stating that the RFP for the 2006-07 Kindergarten Screening Instrument was being developed for release in November/December 2005.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be January 17, 2006. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary