

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Orlando, Florida
January 17, 2006

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education at Valencia Community College at 10:00 a.m., January 17, 2006, with the following members present: Vice Chairman T. Willard Fair, Donna G. Callaway, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda K. Taylor.

Welcome

Chairman Handy welcomed the members and audience to the meeting of the State Board. Ms. Shanahan was welcomed by the Chairman as a new member of the Board. Dr. Sanford C. Shugart, President, welcomed the Board to Valencia Community College.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Handy reported that the Access Task Force would hold its final meeting at the Hyatt Regency Airport in Orlando on Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

Chairman Handy stated that the Community College Strategic Plan was being deferred to the February meeting as the report from the Access Task Force Committee will be finalized at that time.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Chairman Handy stated that the ruling by the Supreme Court on Opportunity Scholarships was very disappointing.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2005, and December 23, 2005, State Board meetings. Mr. Fair made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy recognized Lee County School District for its accomplishments and success in qualifying for the Seal of Best Financial Practices. Mrs. Greta Campbell, Director, Financial Accounting Department, accepted the certificate.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Winn recognized Sam Bennett, Florida's Teacher of the Year, as one of four finalists for the 2006 National Teacher of the Year.

Charter School Appeal Commission – Commissioner Winn reported that he had recently re-appointed two Charter School Appeal Commission members and appointed six new Commission members. Three of the new members are principals from high performing charter schools and three represent school districts.

Year in Review: Highlights from 2005 – Commissioner Winn reported that the results of the 2005 FCAT reveal an increase in student achievement with the greatest improvements in reading among elementary grades. Two-thirds of Florida's public schools are high performing. The percent of third through fifth graders scoring at or above grade level has risen remarkably since ending social promotion, with 69 percent of all third through fifth graders reading at or above grade level. Florida's education budget reached record levels in 2005, an increase of 7.7%. Record numbers of Florida students took the SAT and AP exams, with an increase of minority test-takers. Florida's high school graduation rate increased from 60.2 percent in 1998-99 to 71.9 percent in 2004-05.

Recognitions – Commissioner Winn recognized Jay Pfeiffer, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement, for receiving the Merrill Baumgardner Award from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. In addition, Commissioner Winn

recognized Judy Conlin, State Supervisor for Health Science Education, for receiving recognition as the Outstanding Vocational Educator in the Health Science Education Division by the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

Letter to Superintendent Rudy Crew – Commissioner Winn reported that the Miami Herald had recently published an article alleging that employees of the school district have encouraged students who have failed the FCAT to attend private schools and receive diplomas without receiving any educational instruction from the schools. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department has extended the offer to provide assistance to Superintendent Crew in his investigations. Commissioner Winn assured the Board that he would keep them informed of the situation.

National Education Data Summit – Commissioner Winn invited the Board to attend the National Education Data Summit on February 2-3, 2006, where Florida will be featured as a model state. Secretary Spellings and Governor Bush, as well as representatives from 30 states, will be in attendance.

Paper Reduction Task Force Update – Commissioner Winn reported that the final conference call will be held prior to the February 1 date established by the Task Force to approve the final report and recommendations to be forwarded to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Governor.

Commissioner Winn concluded his report by stating that the Department celebrated accomplishments and awards of employees in December. Commissioner Winn reported that attendance at this event was the largest in the history of the Department and that over 100 employees had been recognized for their performance and accomplishments.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2006 Legislative Agenda: Mark Walsh, Director of Governmental Relations, provided an overview of the Legislative agenda for 2006 which included topics on Teacher Retention and Recruitment, Reading initiatives, and School Grading. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the 2006 Legislative Agenda. Chairman Handy stated because of the Supreme Court ruling on Opportunity Scholarships, the legislative agenda should include ensuring that students currently enrolled in private schools through the Opportunity Scholarship Program continue to receive the same services. Mr. Martinez requested that the legislative agenda be amended to request the Legislature to take the necessary steps to reinstate the Opportunity Scholarship Program by proposing an amendment to the Florida Constitution that addresses the constitutional concerns expressed by the decisions of the Florida Supreme Court and the First District Court of Appeal en banc in Bush v. Holmes. Chairman Handy called for motion on the amended 2006 Legislative Agenda. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2006 Strategic Plan: Theresa Klebacha, Director, Strategic Initiatives, provided an overview of the 2006 Strategic Plan including "lessons learned" from last year and ideas for consideration. The members requested that the Department return with data, goals, and benchmarks. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the 2006 Strategic Plan. Mrs. Raulerson made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to the Amendment of Rule 6A-5.066, Approval of Preservice Teacher Preparation Programs: Dr. Cheri Pierson-Yecke, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, presented to the Board an overview of the proposed rule including the amendment to the amendment. Chancellor Yecke stated that the rule was initially amended to set forth the requirements and

implementation of the approval process for each type of educator preparation program offered by a Florida postsecondary institution or public school district. The amendment to the amendment was to ensure that institutions not part of ICUF are eligible to apply for program approval. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the amendment. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Transfer Calculation for Non-Compliance with Class Size Amendment:

Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the process for determining which districts were in non-compliance with the class size amendment. Commissioner Winn stated that, after factors were considered, St. Lucie County was the only county found not to be in compliance. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the transfer. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Sunshine Review and Revision Cycle: Dr. Yecke presented an overview of the proposed Six-year Cycle to Review Sunshine State Standards which included Standards Revisions, Instructional Materials Adoption, and Assessment Alignment. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the Sunshine Review and Revision Cycle. Mrs. Taylor made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Transfer of Statutory Responsibilities for Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida: Chairman Handy called for a motion to defer the approval of the Transfer of Statutory Responsibilities for Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida to the February Board meeting. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeals:

Students are for Education vs. School Board of Jackson County: Chairman Handy informed the Board that the appeal was withdrawn by the applicant.

West Brevard Charter Elementary vs. School Board of Brevard County: Chairman Handy informed the Board that the appeal was withdrawn by the applicant.

Good Start University, Inc. vs. School Board of St. Johns County: Good Start University, Inc. was without representation at the meeting. Michael Olenick was available on behalf of St. Johns County School District to answer questions. Chairman Handy stated that Board procedure has been that the Chairman calls for a vote when either side is not represented. Chairman Handy called for a motion to uphold the Charter School Appeal Commission's recommendation to deny the appeal. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Wales Charter School, Inc. on behalf of Edward W. Bok Academy vs. School Board of Polk County: Mr. Robin Gibson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Lake Wales Charter School, represented Lake Wales Charter School, Inc. Wes Bridges, School Board Attorney for Polk County School District, represented the district. Chairman Handy called for a motion to uphold the Charter School Appeal Commission's recommendation to overturn the decision of the school district. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Condemnation of Private Property on the Campus of Florida State University: Dennis Bailey, Associate Vice President for Facilities, Florida State University, provided information on the condemnation of the property and the desire of FSU to obtain the property through eminent domain. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the request. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed 6-1 with Ms. Shanahan as the opposing vote.

Consent Items

The Chairman asked that item 6, Institutional Licensure, be removed from the consent agenda. Mrs. Callaway requested that item 1, Educational Media Specialist Certification Requirements, be deferred to the February Board meeting. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve items 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 of the consent agenda. Mrs. Taylor made the motion with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Issues for Concurrence

Plan for Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Dr. Yecke, presented the proposed aggressive plan to meet the needs for highly effective teachers in Florida. Included in the plan were strategies for maintaining the quality of Florida's teaching force while increasing the quantity of our teaching force; increasing the number of teachers; and a recruitment action plan public awareness campaign to include People Recruit People, Seamless e-Transition into Teaching, and Expanding Opportunities.

FCAT Science Assessment: Cornelia Orr, Director, Assessment and School Performance, provided an overview for discussion of the standard-setting process and the recommended achievement level standards. Dr. Orr stated that these recommendations would be included in the amendment to State Board Rule 6A-1.09422, FAC., Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements, to be presented at the February State Board of Education meeting.

Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Florida Community College at Jacksonville Baccalaureate Degree Proposal - Dr. Steve Wallace, President of Florida Community College, provided an overview of the process and the proposal for the Baccalaureate Degree in Fire Science. Chairman Handy stated that the proposal will be included on the Action Agenda for the State Board in February.

2006 Middle School "Break the Record" Reading Initiative – Mary Laura Openshaw, Director, Just Read, Florida!, announced that three reading events have been planned for 2006. Ms. Openshaw reported that there is clearly a correlation between the promotion of reading and improved student achievement. Ms. Openshaw stated that the planned events for 2006 would build on the success of the Governor and First Lady's Statewide Reading in the Arts Contest "Florida's Journey Into Narnia." The 2006 events are: Commissioner Winn's FCAT Reading Scores Challenge, Chancellor Yecke's Summer Book Reading Challenge, and the Governor and First Lady's Statewide Reading in the Arts Contest.

VPK Update: Current Status and Summer VPK Program – Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning, provided an overview of the difference between the school year program and the summer program, as well as an overview of the progress of the programs. Ms. Goff reported that 55% of the targeted goals are currently being served in the VPK program.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that the next Board meeting will be February 21, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. at the University of Miami. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

F. Philip Handy, Chairman

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary