

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tallahassee, Florida
March 21, 2006

Chairman F. Philip Handy welcomed the members to the State Board of Education meeting in the Cabinet Meeting Room of the Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida, at 10:30 a.m. on March 21, 2006, with the following members present: Vice Chairman T Willard Fair, Donna G. Callaway, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, Linda K. Taylor, and Roberto Martinez.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Handy reported that he met with members of the House of Representatives to discuss the State Board's legislative agenda. Chairman Handy stated that the State Board's action related to Performance Pay may be viewed as the most provocative and important initiative. Chairman Handy reported that a Court Order had been issued ratifying the Agreement in the case of Floridians for Constitutional Integrity, Inc. vs. State Board of Education. Chairman Handy stated that the position of the Board of Education continues to be disagreement that the Board of Governors has any authority over 4-year degree programs outside the state university system

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. Mr. Martinez abstained because he was unable attend the February 21, 2006, meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Winn reported that he had appointed 23 members to comprise the E-comp Advisory Committee. The membership includes 11 teachers from a variety of subject areas. Commissioner Winn reported that an email was sent to teachers providing the website address and information on E-comp including a question and/or comment component. The first meeting of the advisory committee will be on April 6, 2006.

Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the PECO Estimating Conference which projected \$480 Million in potential facilities revenue. Commissioner Winn stated that he was withholding formal action on the recommended allocation from Community Colleges, K-12, and State University Systems in order to meet the funding requirements to meet the mandated constitutional amendment for Class Size Reduction.

Commissioner Winn concluded his report by stating that the Department was awarded 25 out of 26 nominations for The Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Amendment to the Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability.

Chairman Handy provided an overview of the amendment to the amendment. Chairman Handy stated that the amendment would leave the writing criteria at 3.5 and would include multiple choice questions, include science as a seventh component, include math learning gains for the lower 25%, and provide bonus points and school grades for 11th and 12th grade students who retake the FCAT. Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement, provided additional details on each of the above changes. Ms. Skandera also provided information related to research done in other states and their systems of accountability to Mr. Martinez. Ms. Skandera stated that there is a decrease in the number of D and F schools and an increase in A and B schools in Florida. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the amendment to the amendment. Mr. Fair made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Miami Dade College Baccalaureate Degree Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management.

Dr. Judith Bilsky, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education, provided information on the review process of the Department, as well as the efforts by Miami Dade College to work with all private and public universities in South Florida to determine if there was an interest in a partnership or articulating a degree in Safety Management. In addition, Dr. Bilsky reported that the review committee reviewed the proposed curriculum for this degree. Dr. Jose Vicente, President, North Campus, and Mr. Ron Grimming, Director, School of Justice and Homeland Security, Miami Dade College, provided an overview of the proposal and the anticipated need for a degree program in public safety management. Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the Baccalaureate Degree Proposal as submitted. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Vice Chairman Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE:

Intervention Policy for Repeating F Schools

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, K-12 Student Achievement, provided an overview of the proposed four components of the intervention policy for repeating F schools. Ms. Tappen stated that if student achievement improves, the districts will be able to keep the schools open, but would have to revise and submit to the State Board a school-specific assistance and intervention plan, dedicate district funding for extending learning opportunities, and provide school-specific, year-long professional development programs for staff specific to the needs of students in that school. Additionally, the district must submit a monitoring plan that includes dedicated site-based district staff or contracted consultants who are specialists in the content areas

at the grade levels the school serves and a valid and reliable benchmark assessment system to provide quarterly reports on student progress.

For schools that have not shown improvement, Ms. Tappen proposed that the district would have to take one of four actions: 1) Reopen the school as a public school of choice where all parents are given the opportunity to send their children to a minimum of two or more higher performing schools with district transportation provided and replace all or most of the school staff, including the principal. 2) Enter into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company with a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school and provide parents the choice to send their children to a minimum of two or more higher performing schools with district transportation provided. 3) Restructure the school so that the lowest grades are considered a new school with a new faculty, new principal, and new curriculum. This new school will develop a new culture and identity separate and apart from the original school. The original school will lose a grade every year to the new school until it is phased out and no longer exists. While the new school is being incrementally built, the old school must continue to comply with all requirements for student improvement. 4) Turn the school into another type of school: magnet, career academy, etc. – with new faculty, new students, and new focus. These schools, although reconstituted, will start out with a grade of F.

Commissioner Winn stated that the Intervention Policy for Repeating F schools would be presented to the Board for their consideration at the April meeting. This policy would be contingent upon the release of school grades and for implementation prior to the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

Sunshine State Standards—Reading/Language Arts

Cheri Yecke, Chancellor for K-12 Schools, provided an overview of the proposed Sunshine State Standards for Reading and Language Arts. Chancellor Yecke reported that the Sunshine State Standards will now include standards for all students including those with special needs. Chancellor Yecke stated that the proposed standards are currently on the Department's website for public input and comment. The final document will be presented to the Board for approval at the June meeting.

Reports, Updates, and Discussions

Assistance Plus and Use of Title I Funds

Mary Jane Tappen provided an update on the status of districts' compliance with Assistance Plus Plans and the use of available Title I Funds. Ms. Tappen stated that several of the districts continue to have teacher vacancies in critical areas. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department will continue discussions with school districts with potentially repeating F schools to propose a framework for a solution or a model for a solution should improvement not occur. This proposal will be presented at the April State Board meeting.

Ms. Tappen provided an update on the use of Title I funds and an overview of the criteria for receiving these funds. Ms. Tappen stated that the federal cutoff, for a school-wide program is that 40 percent or more of the students qualify for free and

reduced-price lunch and that federal law allows districts to serve schools with 35 percent or more of the students on free and reduced-price lunch with Title 1 funds. Ms. Tappen explained that school districts establish their own percent as the cut off with the low of 35 and the high of 75. Ms. Tappen concluded her report by stating that the Department is working diligently to ensure that every student that is eligible to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES) through Title 1 funds, is aware of the service and offered the opportunity through their school district to receive these services.

Update on Teacher Recruitment and Retention Implementation

Chancellor Yecke provided an update on efforts by the Department to continue to recruit teachers. Chancellor Yecke stated that the Department has had representatives at various conferences and will continue to work with teachersteachers.com, which provides access to over 300,000 certified teachers. In addition, Chancellor Yecke stated that the Department now has a contractual agreement with careerbuilders.com, which promotes Florida to over 400,000 individuals.

VPK Update: Provider Improvement Process

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, provided an update on the provider improvement process. Ms. Goff stated that the State Board and the Governor's Recommendations for the 2006-07 Budget included a request for \$2M for implementing the first year of the VPK accountability system. Ms. Goff stated that Harcourt is currently reviewing its contract which should be signed by the end of the month.

Adjournment

Chairman Handy stated that deferred items would be considered at the next State Board of Education meeting on April 18, 2006, in Tallahassee. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.