

**MINUTES**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Tallahassee, Florida  
April 18, 2006

Chairman F. Philip Handy welcomed the members to the State Board of Education meeting in Suite 1703/07 of the Turlington Building in Tallahassee, Florida, at 8:30 a.m. on April 18, 2006, with the following members present: Vice Chairman T. Willard Fair, Donna G. Callaway, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Roberto Martinez. Linda Taylor participated by phone.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to amend the agenda to reflect "Performance Pay Is Paying Off," rather than the "Teacher Pay Review Study," and to remove Policy Issue for concurrence item number two, "DOE Planning for Technology Tools for Teachers Initiative," to be presented at a later date. Vice Chairman Fair made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy recognized Representative Dennis Baxley, Education Council Chair. Representative Baxley commended the members on their efforts on Performance Compensation. Also joining the meeting and briefly addressing the Board were Representatives Ralph Arza and John Stargel.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman Handy reported that recently an article had been published stating that the State Board had banned co-teaching in Florida. Chairman Handy provided clarification that the Board did not ban co-teaching but stated that co-teaching could not be used as a means for reducing class size. Chairman Handy also reported that New York City Schools recently announced the implementation of a school grade system similar to Florida's system. Chairman Handy stated that on May 8, 2006, Commissioner Winn will present in Washington at the National Board of Education Sciences, and that Congress is currently considering reauthorizing NCLB and will consider information provided by the Education Sciences Board.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2006, State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Martinez made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner John Winn recognized the regional finalists for the School-Related Employee of the Year which recognizes non-certified, non-instructional educational support personnel. Each finalist receives an award check in the amount of \$500. The selected School-Related Employee of the Year receives a check for \$1,000. Commissioner Winn introduced the regional finalists: LaDtetre' McClain, Media Aid, Alachua County; Joey Williams, ESE Assistant for Autistic Students, Clay County; Kathy McCain, Pre-Kindergarten Lead Teacher, Levy County; Janet Gierhart, Paraprofessional in the Family Resource Center in Volusia County; and the winner, Sheila Byrd, ESE I Teacher Assistant in Pinellas County.

Jeanine Blomberg, Chief of Staff, provided an overview of School Districts' Compliance with Class Size Reduction Requirements. Mrs. Blomberg reported that districts not in compliance by the 2005-06 school year would be required to implement one of the following accountability measures: (1) year-round schools, (2) double sessions, (3) rezoning, or (4) maximizing use of instructional staff. If the district still has not met class size reduction requirements by 2006-07, it will be required to submit for approval a State Constitutional Compliance Plan. Commissioner Winn stated that the debate on Class Size is largely related to the cost of implementation.

Commissioner Winn provided an update on the FCAT Evaluator public records request made by Senate Democratic Leader Les Miller and Senator Walter "Skip" Campbell which requested that the Department release the names and qualifications of all temporary graders used under the contract to evaluate the essay portion of the FCAT. Commissioner Winn reported that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under the Florida Public Records Act.

Commissioner Winn reported that the E-Comp Steering Committee had its first meeting on April 6, 2006. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Winn stated that Florida's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) "growth model" proposal is among eight of thirteen state applications to advance to the second tier in the application process.

Commissioner Winn concluded his report by stating that the Department is currently reviewing which school districts have not taken advantage of the use of Supplemental Educational Services funds. Commissioner Winn reported that 26 districts reported no usage of these funds and 44 districts reported some usage of these funds.

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

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Approval of Intervention Policy for Repeating F Schools.**

At the Commissioner and Chairman's request representatives were present to provide information on the progress of the schools in their districts which appear to remain in failing status. Dr. Marcia Beldonza, Verda Farrow and Dr. Catherine Blasik were present on behalf of the Broward County School Board, Dr. Kriner Cash and Dr. Daniel Tostado represented Miami-Dade County School District, MaryEllen Elia, Superintendent represented the Hillsborough County School District, and James Lawson, Area Superintendent, represented Orange County School District.

Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen and Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided an outline of the options for schools that continue to fail which include: (1) Reopen the school as a public school of choice, (2) Contract out with an entity such as a private management company with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, (3) Restructure the school by grade level and replace all or most of the staff including the principal, and (4) New programs such as a magnet school, career academy, or one that emphasizes academic rigor. Chancellor Yecke reported that there are currently 71 F schools in Florida and 33 Title I schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Chairman Handy reported that Jones High School was the only school in Florida that had a school grade to drop.

Chairman Handy called for a motion for the Commissioner to present action plans for repeating F schools at the May State Board of Education meeting to be presented for action at the June State Board of Education meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Corrective Action for Districts and Restructuring for Schools (No Child Left Behind).**

Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen provided an overview of the District Corrective Action Plans. Ms. Tappen stated that 67 school districts are identified as needing improvement out of a total of 76 schools. The total of 76 includes lab schools, Dozier School for Boys, and the School for the Deaf and the Blind. These districts will fall into school improvement status unless performance is improved. Ms. Tappen reported that five districts

met 100% AYP, two 90% to 99%; 18 80 percent to 89 percent; 27 70 percent to 79 percent; 14 60 percent to 69 percent; and four 50 percent to 59 percent; and six less than 50 percent.

Ms. Tappen reported that Leon, Wakulla, and Broward Counties are good examples of districts that show the success that Florida is having improving student performance and meeting state and federal requirements.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to grant the Commissioner the authority to require school districts to reallocate a percentage of the Title I administrative funds. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Ms. Raulerson. The vote passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Fair with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

### **POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE:**

#### **Improving the Transition from High School to Postsecondary Education.**

Chancellor Cheri Yecke and Chancellor David Armstrong provided an overview on closing the gap between high school graduation and college readiness. Chancellor Yecke provided findings from a report by Clifford Adelman of the US Department of Education which found that high school curriculum with high academic intensity and quality has a positive impact on the degree completion for African-American and Latino students more than any other pre-college indicator of academic success. Chancellor Armstrong reported that only 17 percent of students that take remedial courses ever complete a degree or certificate and stated that community colleges are working diligently to improve this percentage. Mrs. Taylor commended the efforts of Chancellors Yecke and Armstrong on their presentation. Mrs. Taylor also commended the Department on addressing student successes and not boundaries.

### **RESEARCH UPDATE:**

Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Measurement, provided an update on the strategy of providing performance pay and how this strategy has already impacted Florida. Ms.

Skandera reported an increase in the number of teachers teaching AP courses in Florida. As a part of the presentation, Dr. Christy Hovanetz-Lassila provided an overview of the value neutral table used to measure student achievement and credit teachers for this achievement.

## **Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions**

### **Update on the Palm Beach Charter District**

Chancellor Yecke provided a brief update on the Palm Beach Charter District contract. Chancellor Yecke stated that the Board voted to extend the Palm Beach Charter District contract until July 1, 2007. The contract was conditionally approved if Palm Beach County implemented more aggressive strategies at the secondary level to increase participation in Upper Level Math and Science classes, SATs, AP programs, and graduation rates. In addition, Palm Beach County must also encourage progress monitoring and assistance from the district to charter schools. Superintendent Art Johnson was present on behalf of Palm Beach County School District and presented his justification that both of these conditions were being met.

### **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided an update on the efforts to address teacher recruitment and retention in Florida. Chancellor Yecke stated that approximately 200 recruitment contacts were made at the Minority Expo, approximately 52 recruitment contacts were made at the American Chemical Society, 75 recruitment contacts made at the New York Job Fair Circuit, and 108 recruitment contacts were made at the National Science Teachers Association. Chancellor Yecke reported that several internet opportunities are available by using Teacher-Teachers.com, Carrebuilders.com, and Yahoohotjobs.com

### **Update on 2007 Reading Adoption for Instructional Materials**

Mary Laura Openshaw, Director of Just Read, Florida!, provided an overview on the 2007 reading instruction material adoption process. Ms. Openshaw stated that in 2001 there were no submissions for grades six through eight or nine through 12 for developmental reading instructional materials because students were not required to take these courses. Ms. Openshaw reported that only five percent of students who were at level 1 in eighth grade were able to score a passing score by the time they reached 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Openshaw stated that the intensive reading course descriptions approved by the State Board in April are currently

being put in place and that students need to be taught by highly-effective teachers with strong materials and reading coaches.

Carolyn Vega provided an overview of the current reading initiative, "Shoot for the Stars." Ms. Vega reported teens can now share their favorite books at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels on the Just Read, Florida! website.

### **Update on VPK**

Shan Goff provided a brief update on the enrollment plans for the summer programs for VPK participants. Ms. Goff reported that districts are not enrolling as many students as they projected earlier for summer enrollment. However there is a large number of families enrolling for the fall VPK program. Ms. Goff reported that the supply of teachers is adequate to meet the needs of the VPK participants.

### **Public School Dropouts that Re-enter the Public Education System**

Hanna Skandera provided information on the number of students that dropped out of the public school system, the number of the students who re-entered public schools, and the highest level of education they completed. Ms. Skandera reported that in 1997, 70 percent of students returned in their first year. Ms. Skandera stated that after eight years, 70 percent of the students obtained a GED and approximately 17 percent obtained a standard diploma. Ms. Skandera reported that all students in grades nine through 12 are being tracked for the purposes of reporting the drop-out rate. Ms. Skandera stated that she would provide additional data at the next State Board meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Handy stated that the next State Board of Education meeting will be May 16, 2006, at the Hillsborough County School District Office in Tampa, Florida. Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

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F. Philip Handy, Chairman

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Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary