

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Miami Dade College, North Campus
August 15, 2006

Vice Chairman T. Willard Fair welcomed the members to the State Board of Education meeting at the Miami Dade College, North Campus at 9:00 a.m. on August 15, 2006, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda K. Taylor. F. Philip Handy was unable to attend, therefore, Vice Chairman Fair conducted the meeting on his behalf.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair recognized Miami Dade College President, Dr. Eduardo Padron to welcome the members of the State Board of Education to the Miami Dade College, North Campus.

Chairman Fair recognized principals who have been identified as "Turn Around Principals." The identified principals increased their schools' rating by two letter grades for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the June 20, 2006 and July 17, 2006 minutes. Mrs. Taylor made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Winn recognized Ms. Conney Dahn, the Macy's and Florida Department of Education 2007 Teacher of the Year.

Commissioner Winn stated that 19 school grade appeals were accepted for the 2005-06 school year, which included six school grade appeals and eight AYP appeals.

Commissioner Winn stated that Phase Two of the Workforce Education Public Awareness campaign is in progress. This phase includes television, radio, and printed materials spotlighting individuals who completed the Workforce Program enabling them to achieve their career goals.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of the Implementation Plan for A++: K-12 Components. K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided an overview of the Implementation Plan for A++. Mrs. Raulerson commended Chancellor Yecke and her staff on the Technical Assistance Paper provided to the districts on the implementation of A++.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Implementation Plan for A++. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amended Action Plans for Repeating F Schools. K-12 Chancellor Yecke provided an overview of the Amended Action Plans for Repeating F Schools and the expectations for state level support as well as district level support for the schools. Chancellor Yecke stated that the two biggest issues in the action plans were the lack of effective teachers and principals. Chancellor Yecke reported that the Department had completed an analysis to ensure that effective teachers were available in each area for the school district to reassign and, with the exception of Jefferson County, there appeared to be sufficient quality teachers from which to choose.

Miami-Dade -- Deputy Chancellor Mary Jane Tappen provided an analysis of the Miami-Dade County School District's status of compliance as of August 11, 2006. Ms. Tappen stated that areas of continued concern for all three repeating F Miami-Dade schools relate to being fully staffed and ensuring that effective teachers and the required number of reading and math coaches have been assigned to the schools. In addition, Miami Jackson Senior High School had not assigned a principal which met the requirement of having led a school to a two-grade improvement.

Dr. Rudy Crew, Superintendent of Miami-Dade School District, provided updated information on the staffing for each of the three schools and initiatives he had put in place. Superintendent Crew stated that mentors would be assigned to work with the low performing teachers and the principal who did not meet the requirement of having led a school to a two-grade improvement. Ms. Shanahan requested that additional data and analysis be provided on the mentoring program Superintendent Crew had described prior to a vote by the Board on the status of compliance.

After lengthy discussion, the Board directed the Commissioner to review and verify the new information provided by Superintendent Crew and report to the Board in September on whether or not the amended plans change the status from noncompliant to compliant.

Duval County -- Deputy Chancellor Tappen provided an analysis of the action plan submitted by Superintendent Wise on behalf of Duval County School District. Ms. Tappen stated that Jean Ribault High School still has one retained math teacher and two retained reading teachers which are in the lower 25 percent in the state for performance. Additionally, the requirement for assigning a principal who had led a school to a two-grade improvement has not been met.

Ms. Tappen stated that Duval County had assigned a co-principal to mentor the current Ribault High School principal, as well as two additional principals at schools in the district. Ms. Tappen reported that the co-principal has been a high school principal at a school which is currently rated 70th in the nation due to the number of students taking and passing AP exams.

Dr. Joseph Wise, Superintendent of Duval County School District, provided updated information on the action plan for Jean Ribault High School. Superintendent Wise clarified that the newly assigned co-principal would spend 60 percent of his time at Ribault. He further stated that a coach had been assigned to the math and reading teachers of concern. The coach will work with the teachers on a daily basis for the first thirty days and then weekly.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to deem Duval County School District in compliance. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

Orange County -- Deputy Chancellor Tappen provided an analysis of the Orange County School District Action Plans. Ms. Tappen commended Orange County for providing science coaches in addition to reading and math coaches.

Ms. Tappen stated that the concern for the plans for Evans and Jones High Schools related to the number of reading and math teachers retained which are in the lower 25 percent in the state for performance. Additionally, one on-site reading coach was found to be in the lower 25 percent.

Superintendent Ronald Blocker, Orange County School District, introduced Area Superintendent Dr. James Lawson and Area Superintendent Dr. Cathy Pope who have been assigned to work one on one with the principals of the two schools. Dr. Lawson has been assigned to work with Jones High School and Dr. Pope assigned to work with Evans High School. Superintendent Blocker provided new information to the Board on the professional staff development and mentoring initiatives developed to provide support for the teachers and the reading coach identified as being in the lower 25 percent. Superintendent Blocker stated that incentives were in place to encourage high performing teachers to not only want to teach at these schools, but to remain at the schools.

Commissioner Winn stated that there was clear evidence of the commitment and dedication by Superintendent Blocker to turn the two schools around. Commissioner Winn requested that thirty days be granted to the Department in order to review and verify the support system for the teachers as described by Superintendent Blocker. The Board agreed that the Commissioner would report his findings at the September Board meeting.

Jefferson County -- Chancellor Yecke stated that Jefferson County was found to be in compliance at the July Board meeting and presented additional documentation on their continued efforts for the review of the Board.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE FLORIDA SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE COMMISSION

-- Executive Director Virginia Gentles, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, provided an overview of the role of the Florida School of Excellence Commission. Mrs. Gentles stated that the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission must hold its first meeting on or before October 1, 2006. Mrs. Gentles stated that the Commission is an independent, state-level charter school authorizer and will work with the Department under the supervision of the State Board of Education. Mrs. Gentles provided an overview of the authority of the State Board of Education relating to this Commission.

Commissioner Winn recommended that Judith Budnick, Liza McFadden, Reginald Gaffney, and Rudy Rodriguez be appointed to serve two year terms and that Alex Sanchez, John Lewis, and Ricardo Moreno be appointed to serve one year terms.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the appointments to the Commission. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Callaway with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed unanimously.

POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE:

VPK Accountability: Readiness Rate and Improvement Process -- Executive Director Shan Goff, Office of Early Learning, provided an overview of the VPK Readiness Rate and Improvement Process. Ms. Goff reported that while all children will be assessed, an attendance rate had to be established to calculate the readiness rate. Ms. Goff completed her presentation with an overview of the Improvement Process for providers considered low performing providers.

Discussion of Budget Priorities for Community Colleges -- Community College Chancellor David Armstrong provided an overview of the Community College and Workforce Education budget priorities and the process for aligning the priorities with the budget request. Chancellor Armstrong stated that higher energy and utilities costs, along with an increase in property and casualty insurance rates, will be a factor in the budget request.

Discussion of K-12 Budget Development Process -- Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, Linda Champion, provided an overview of the K-12 budget development process as well as a summary of the 2007-08 K-12 legislative budget priorities. Ms. Champion stated that property insurance premiums and increased energy costs will be a consideration as part of the operational priorities in the 2007-08 Legislative Budget Request.

REQUESTED REPORTS, UPDATES, AND DISCUSSIONS

Florida Mentoring and School Improvement -- President Liza McFadden, Volunteer Florida Foundation, provided an overview of the mentoring efforts in Florida and stated that there is a clear correlation between mentoring programs and increased student achievement. Ms. McFadden stated that Florida represents over ten percent of all mentors in the nation.

Teacher Retention and Recruitment Status Report -- Commissioner Winn commended Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality Pam Stewart, school district recruiters, and the Florida Education Foundation for their teacher recruitment efforts. Commissioner Winn stated that last year Florida had approximately 2,300 teacher vacancies on the first day of school. Commissioner Winn reported that currently 1,987 teacher vacancies have been reported for the new school year.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman