

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Capitol
Cabinet Meeting Room
Tallahassee, Florida
December 12, 2006

Chairman F. Philip Handy welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting in the Cabinet Meeting Room of the Capitol, at 8:30 a.m., on December 12, 2006, with the following members present: Donna G. Callaway, Vice Chairman T. Willard Fair, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan and Linda K. Taylor.

Governor Jeb Bush was present at this meeting. Governor Bush commended the Board for their dedication to the students of Florida.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Handy called for a motion to amend the State Board of Education agenda to defer action item number ten and to withdraw action item number 2. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Handy recognized the following principals and schools as Blue Ribbon Schools: Principal Charla Cotton of Okaloosa-Walton College Collegiate High School; Principal Consuela Dominiguez of Maritime and Science Technology Academy; Principal Sarah Concepcion of Windy Ridge Elementary School; Principal Suzanne Colvin of William S. Talbot Elementary School; Principal Loreen Francisconi of Warfield Elementary School; Superintendent Sarah Wilcox and Principal Donna Hoover of Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School; and Principal Anna Rosco of Key Biscayne Key Eight Center.

Chairman Handy recognized the following principals as Turn Around principals: Beverly Baumer of Ruth Raines Middle School; Marsha Higgins of Brentwood Middle School; Sherry Bailey of UF Academy of Science; Marvin Gordon of D.S. Parrot Middle School; Dr. Janice Boyd of Gray Middle School; Ron Wheelis of Fort McCoy Middle School; Stan Trapp of Gulf Middle School; Dr. Michael Rom of the Academy at the Farm; William Corbett of Fitzgerald Middle School; Joan Minnis of Thurgood Marshall Middle School; John Barber of Lake Gibson Middle School; Meredith Strickland of Murray Middle School; Michelle Strickland of Steinhatchee School; Julian Jones of Galaxy Middle School.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the October 17, 2006, minutes. Ms. Shanahan made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Winn stated that the Department announced the approval of the 440 Major Areas of Interest which will include an electronic counseling tool to be used by eighth grade students.

Commissioner Winn stated that the Department recently participated in a national discussion on the implementation of No Child Left Behind.

Commissioner Winn stated that initial calculations indicate that there are 177 traditional schools and 80 charter schools that are not in compliance with the Class Size requirement to reduce by two. Commissioner Winn also stated that the appeals process has begun and will continue into January.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's report. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Broward County School Board's Appeal of Department of Education's Decision on Reallocation of Title I Funds based on Supplementary Education Services Participation

Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the request of Interim Superintendent Notter to defer action on the appeal of Broward County to the next meeting of the State Board of Education. The motion was made by Mr. Fair with a second by Mrs. Taylor and passed by a unanimous vote.

Charter School Appeal: Richard Milburn Academy vs. the School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

Attorney Robert Crosby was recognized to represent Richard Milburn Academy. Attorney Thomas Gonzalez was recognized to represent the School Board of Hillsborough County. Chairman Handy called for a motion to uphold the decision of the Charter School Appeal Commission to deny the appeal of the Charter School. The motion was made by Mr. Fair with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Performance Pay Plans: Brevard, Calhoun, and Citrus Counties

K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided a brief overview of the status of District Performance Pay Plans. Chancellor Yecke recommended approval of the plans for Brevard, Calhoun and Citrus Counties. Chairman Handy recognized Citrus County Superintendent Mary Sue Neves and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Wynette Peacock. Ms. Peacock provided an overview of the Calhoun County plan. Chairman Handy recognized Citrus County Assistant Superintendent Steve Richardson. Mr. Richardson provided an overview of the Calhoun County Plan.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve the Performance Pay Plans as submitted by Brevard, Calhoun, and Citrus Counties. The motion was made by Mr. Fair with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Rule 6A-6.03315, Private School Scholarship Program

Proposed New Rule 6A-6.0960, Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Proposed New Rule 6A-6.0970, John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Executive Director Virginia Gentles provided an overview of the scholarship accountability legislation in Senate Bill 256 as adopted in the 2006 Legislative Session and the affect on current and required rules. Mrs. Gentles stated that the most significant change was to require that all scholarship students must receive regular and direct contact with their teachers at the school's physical location. Mrs. Gentles reported that after meetings throughout Florida and the consideration of much public input the recommendation was to define regular and direct contact as 720 hours of direct contact between the student and the teachers at the school's location.

Chairman Handy recognized Senator Jim King and Cindy Forster in support of the proposed rules. Senator King, as sponsor of the bill, stated that the proposed change was reflective of the intent of the legislation. Chairman Handy recognized the following individuals in opposition to the change:

Kurt Bowerman; Margaret Determann, Florida Developmental Disabilities, Inc.; Denise Lasher; Donna Meyer; and Cindy Reemsnyder.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve action items 5-7. After lengthy discussion by the Board, the motion to approve the rules as presented passed with a vote of no by Roberto Martinez.

6A-6.03013, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who Are Deaf or Hard-of-hearing (Amended)

6A-6.03015, Special Programs for Students Who Are Physically Impaired (Repeal)

6A-6.030151, Exceptional Student Eligibility for Students Who Are Physically Impaired with Orthopedic Impairment (New)

6A-6.030152, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Physically Impaired with Other Health Impairment (New)

6A-6.030153, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Physically Impaired with Traumatic Brain Injury (New)

6A-6.03016, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

6A-6.03021, Exceptional Student Education Special Programs for Students Who Are Profoundly Handicapped (Repeal)

6A-6.03023, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Bambi Lockman, Bureau Chief of the Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services provided a brief overview of the recommended changes and the history of the rules relating to services for students in exceptional student education programs.

Chairman Handy called for a motion to approve action item number eight. Mr. Fair made the motion with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2007-2008

Deputy Commissioner Hanna Skandera provided an overview of the disciplines identified as Critical Teacher Shortage Areas. Ms. Skandera stated that elementary grades reading teachers are no longer designated as a teacher shortage area.

Ms. Shanahan recommended that reading teachers in grades K-6 continue to be included as a critical teacher shortage area and be included in matters relating to the budget.

Mr. Martinez stated that as a matter of policy, the Department should include K-6 reading teachers as a critical teacher shortage area.

Commissioner Winn stated that the Legislature provides funding based on Fall surveys that determine the number of positions filled from July 1 to November 1. Commissioner Winn stated that the Department will develop a prospective model to present to the Legislature and the Board.

At Commissioner Winn's request Chairman Handy requested that further consideration of the critical teacher shortage areas be discussed. Ms. Shanahan called for a motion to identify K-6 grade reading teachers as an area of critical teacher shortage. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

POLICY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND CONCURRENCE:

FCAT Writing+ Standard

Dr. Cornelia Orr, Director of the Office of Assessment and School Performance, provided an overview of the process for designating the standards for the FCAT Writing+. Dr. Orr stated that FCAT writing results will be reported using Achievement Levels one through five. Dr. Orr also stated that FCAT Reading, FCAT Mathematics, and FCAT Science are reported as one of five levels.

Dr. Orr stated that in addition to current graduation requirements, students will have to achieve a passing score on the FCAT Writing+ assessment with the first cohort of students graduating in 2010.

Review of 2006-07 Kindergarten Screening Results and VPK Accountability

Shan Goff , Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, provided an overview of the 2006-07 Kindergarten Screening results and the major activities and processes involved in calculating the VPK Accountability Readiness Rate .

Sunshine State Standards, K-12 Reading and Language Arts

Chancellor Yecke provided an overview of the K-12 reading and language arts standards, including the process and consideration of public input received. Chancellor Yecke stated that the standards will be presented to the Board as incorporated by rule as part of the Sunshine State Standards at the January State Board meeting.

Mr. Martinez recommended that the Department use the same process for revising the 2007 Science Standards.

RESEARCH UPDATES:

Comprehensive Department-wide Research Overview and Strategy

Deputy Commissioner Hanna Skandera provided a brief summary of the Department's current priorities and future research projects and activities. Ms. Shanahan requested that the Department develop a schedule for releasing research findings to ensure the Board is fully informed as soon as the findings are available.

REQUESTED REPORTS, UPDATES, AND DISCUSSIONS:

Just Read, Florida! and Reading Events

Dr. Evan Lefsky, Executive Director, Just Read Florida!, provided an overview on the Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence Center (FLARE), which serves as a resource for delivery and professional development. Dr. Lefsky stated that the FLARE coordinators will provide site-based professional development to teachers by working with reading coaches.

Approved Major Areas of Interest

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, K-12 Student Achievement, provided an overview on the Approved Major Areas of Interest for Florida students. Ms. Tappen stated that the system will become available for districts to submit the major areas of interest for their schools as well as the specific courses required for each. Ms. Tappen stated that additional information will be provided as the submitted lists are reviewed and approved.

Update on New Carl D. Perkins State Plan

David Armstrong, Chancellor, Community Colleges and Workforce Education, provided an overview on the progress and highlights of the Department's plan to implement the New Carl D. Perkins State Plan. WHAT IS IT?

FINAL ACTION ITEM:

Chairman Handy stated that as required by law a chair and vice chair should be chosen for terms beginning in 2007. Mr. Martinez nominated Vice Chairman Fair to be the Chairman of the Board with a second by Ms. Shanahan. Ms. Shanahan requested that the motion include a nomination for the vice chairman as well and nominated Chairman Handy to be the Vice Chairman of the Board with a second by Mr. Martinez. Chairman Handy called for a motion to accept the nominations. The vote passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

F. Philip Handy, Chairman