

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Capitol, LL03
Cabinet Meeting Room
Tallahassee, Florida
January 25, 2007

Chairman T. Willard Fair welcomed the members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting in the Cabinet Meeting Room of the Capitol, at 9:00 a.m., on January 25, 2007, with the following members present: Donna Callaway, Dr. Akshay Desai, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor. Roberto Martinez was not present for this meeting.

Chairman Fair and Members of the Board welcomed newly appointed member Dr. Akshay Desai to the State Board of Education.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to amend the agenda to add Performance Pay Plans for the Florida Virtual School, The Villages Charter School, and Columbia and Orange County School Districts to action item 3. Ms. Shanahan made the motion with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair recognized and welcomed Jackson County Superintendent Danny Sims, Jefferson County Superintendent Phil Barker, and Miami Dade College President Dr. Eduardo Padron.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006, State Board of Education Meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Winn welcomed new member Dr. Akshay Desai to the State Board of Education. Commissioner Winn recognized new Department of Education employees: Dr. Hilary Johnson, Executive Director, Florida Schools of Excellence Commission; Iris Wilson, Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement; and Pam Smith, Deputy Chancellor, Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Services.

Commissioner Winn stated that there are 177 traditional public schools and 88 charter schools that are not in compliance with the class size requirement to reduce the school average by two from the previous year or meet the constitutional maximums at the school level. Commissioner Winn stated that appeals are submitted based on unexpected student growth, inability to hire teachers, and district and charter school data reporting errors. Commissioner Winn stated that recommendations for the Board's consideration would be presented at the February State Board of Education meeting.

Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the proposed 2007 legislative priorities. Commissioner Winn made the following recommendations: (1) The STAR program be codified in statute to ensure that the program will continue to be fair and equitable for all teachers in Florida; (2) financial incentives be made for students who are anticipating becoming teachers in Florida; (3) districts allocate funding to schools based on the number of Level 1 and Level 2 readers at each school; (4) that reading and literacy coaches be considered for the LEAD stipend and the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program; (5) that additional guidance be provided to strengthen the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program; (6) strengthen the high school graduation requirements to include Geometry for class of 2013 and Algebra II for the class of 2015 as graduation requirements; (7) amend the current statute to include charter school and Pre-K teachers as recipients of teacher LEAD stipends; (8) establish a Math and Science Center in Law; (9) codify in statute weighted funding for high school courses when taken in middle school; and (10) consider the recommendations of the recently created Drop-Out Prevention Task Force.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Proposed State Board of Education 2007 Legislative Priorities. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Appointment of Acting Commissioner of Education and Process for Selection of Permanent Commissioner

Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the process for the selection of the Interim Commissioner of Education. Commissioner Winn recommended that Chief of Staff Jeanine Blomberg be appointed as the Interim Commissioner of Education to become effective March 1, 2007. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the interim Commissioner of Education. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair provided an overview of the State Board of Education Commissioner Selection Process. Chairman Fair stated that a nationwide public search and interview process would be conducted and that the Board would consider input from Governor Crist or his designee. Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the State Board of Education Commissioner Selection Process. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed unanimously.

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

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

K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke recommended that the Board take into consideration Broward County's request to report more accurate figures to the Board in August 2007 after the summer school session is complete.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve Broward's request to hold the appeal in abeyance until August at which time determination can be made as to whether SES funds were used according to the agreement with Broward County and the governing law. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Performance Pay Plans: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jackson, Lee, Orange, Union, and Wakulla Counties, Florida Virtual School and the Villages Charter School

K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided an overview on the history and background of the Performance Pay Plans that have been received to date. Chancellor Yecke stated that Okaloosa and Jefferson Counties have confirmed that they will not participate in the STAR program but they have the option to be considered at a later date.

Chancellor Yecke recommended that the Board approve performance pay plans for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jackson, Lee, Orange, Union, and Wakulla Counties, Florida Virtual School, and the Villages Charter School.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Performance Pay Plans as submitted. The motion was made by Ms. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

Chancellor Yecke stated that the Board is required to respond to all districts that have submitted a Performance Pay Plan within a 45 day time period. Chancellor Yecke recommended that the Board authorize the Department of Education to provide feedback on all approved plans. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the recommendation as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Ms. Shanahan.

Ms. Shanahan recommended that the district STAR Plans status report be electronically forwarded to the Board members each week to show the progress of each district.

Proposed New Rule 6A-6.0782, Florida Schools of Excellence Commission Cosponsor Application

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Hilary Johnson, Executive Director of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. Dr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the proposed new rule. Dr. Johnson stated that this rule will adopt a charter school cosponsor application to provide consistency to the application, eligibility, and evaluation process of cosponsor applications that are submitted to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. Dr. Johnson stated that the cosponsor application will create a relationship between municipalities, community colleges, state universities, and regional educational consortia.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve item #4, 6A-6.0782, Florida Schools of Excellence Commission Cosponsor Application. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

Proposed New Rule 6A-6.080, K-8 Virtual School Program

Carlo Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, provided a brief overview of this proposed new rule which will establish timelines for submitting an application; outlines the requirements for student enrollment and attendance verification; outlines requirements for a virtual school that has a performance grade of D or F; and adopts the K-8 Virtual School Program Application. Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve item #5, rule 6A-6.0980, K-8 Virtual School Program. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Shanahan. The vote passed unanimously.

Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards

K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided a brief overview of the amendment to rule 6A-1.09041. Chancellor Yecke stated that this rule is amended to revise and update the K-12 Reading and Language Arts Standards to reflect grade level benchmarks rather than the grade cluster standards that were previously adopted.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve item #6, 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements

Kris Ellington, Director of K-12 Assessment, was present on behalf of Dr. Cornelia Orr, Administrator of the Office of Assessment. The amendment to this rule adopts the writing grade-level scale scores for each achievement level and the writing graduation passing score as part of the FCAT statewide assessment.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve item #7, Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The vote passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda. The motion was made Mrs. Callaway with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fair stated that the next Board meeting will be held February 20, 2007, in Tallahassee, Florida.

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

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman