

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Capitol, LL03
Cabinet Meeting Room
Tallahassee, Florida
April 17, 2007

Chairman T. Willard Fair welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting in Room 1703/07 of the Turlington Building, at 9:00 a.m., on April 17, 2007, with the following members present: Donna Callaway, Akshay Desai, M.D., Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor. Mr. Roberto Martinez was not present for this meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair asked that the State Board of Education Members and guests observe a moment of silence for the families and victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Blomberg recognized the following regional finalists for the 2007 School-Related Employee of the Year: Elizabeth Gioffre, School Secretary, Indian River County; Debbie Krouse, Technical Support Specialist, Lee County; Bobbie Nedoroscik, School Bookkeeper, Okaloosa County; Timothy Fitzpatrick, School Food Services Manager, Pinellas County; and the 2007 winner Rebecca Travers, Bookkeeper, Highlands County. Each finalist receives a check in the amount of \$500.00 with the winner receiving \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Blomberg recognized K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke to provide an update on Repeating F Schools. Chancellor Yecke and Deputy Chancellor Iris Wilson stated that the district Community Assessment Teams have partnered with local businesses to provide additional community support. Mrs. Wilson provided an overview on the measures currently being implemented in these districts to address prior concerns with student attendance.

Commissioner Blomberg provided a summary of the Legislative Budget. Commissioner Blomberg reported that the overall legislative budget percent increase is 6.5 percent. Commissioner Blomberg provided an update on the status of State Board's legislative priorities.

Commissioner Blomberg provided a brief overview on the recommendations of the recently published Pappas Report and stated that the recommendations include the establishment of a new system within the state university system that would have a primary focus of delivering bachelor's degrees. The report provides that the decision to participate in the new system would be optional for community colleges.

Commissioner Blomberg reported that the Board of Governors is in the initial phase of developing a long-term Master Plan for the State University System.

Community College Chancellor David Armstrong provided an overview of his presentation at the February 27, 2007, public meeting of the Board of Governors. Chancellor Armstrong presented the background on awarding Baccalaureate degree programs in community colleges and encouraged community colleges and universities to continue to work together to serve all students.

Commissioner Blomberg announced that the Educator/Administrator Misconduct Workshop will be held on June 19, 2007. Commissioner Blomberg stated that the workshop agenda would consist of a profile of the best practices of other states on student safety; a discussion on student safety on national and district levels; and a detailed look at Florida's current process on student safety. Chairman Fair recommended that the Department provide an analysis of any policy concerns that should be addressed during the workshop.

Commissioner Blomberg provided an update on the status of the Microsoft Settlement. Commissioner Blomberg stated that the final settlement amount totaled \$93.5 million and that eligible school districts would start receiving vouchers as early as April 2007. Commissioner Blomberg commended Lead Attorney Alan Grunspan of Carlton Fields for guidance provided to districts with the Microsoft Settlement application process.

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

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2007, State Board of Education Meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Selection of Independent Search Firm to Secure Candidates for the Position of Commissioner of Education

Chairman Fair stated that responses from the Invitation to Negotiate have been received and rankings have been calculated.

Commissioner Blomberg announced that as a result of the rankings by the Board. Proact Search ranked highest with Signium ranking second. Commissioner Blomberg stated that the ITN would be posted for 72 hours prior to negotiations beginning. Members discussed their continued support for an open and transparent search process for the next Commissioner of Education. Chairman Fair stated that Commissioner Blomberg and General Counsel Deborah Kearney would negotiate costs associated with the contract and report back to the Board.

Cornerstone Academy for High Standards vs. Palm Beach County School Board

Ms. Lois Smith was present on behalf of Cornerstone Academy for High Standards. Attorney Iola Mosley was present on behalf of Palm Beach County School Board. Chairman Fair called for a motion to deny the appeal of Cornerstone Academy for High Standards. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Imagine Charter School at Indian River (Project CHILD) vs. Indian River School Board

Attorney Melissa Gross-Arnold was present on behalf of Imagine Charter School. Attorney Mike Olenick was present on behalf of Indian River School Board. Ms. Shanahan requested clarification on what fiscal support would be provided if the school did not reach its enrollment goals. Chairman Fair called for a motion to grant the appeal of Imagine Charter School at Indian River (Project CHILD). The motion was made by Mrs. Callaway with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed with Ms. Shanahan being the opposing vote.

Imagine Charter School at Indian River (Mircrosociety) vs. Indian River School Board

Attorney Melissa Gross-Arnold was present on behalf of Imagine Charter School. Attorney Mike Olenick was present on behalf of Indian River School Board. Chairman Fair called for a motion to grant the appeal of Imagine Charter School at Indian River (Microsociety). The motion was made by Mrs. Callaway with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The vote passed with Ms. Shanahan being the opposing vote.

Consent Agenda:

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

POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE:

Recommendations for the Implementation of Merit Award Program

Deputy Chancellor Pam Stewart provided a brief update on the Merit Award Program. Deputy Chancellor Stewart stated that districts have the option to participate in STAR, if a STAR plan has been negotiated. Districts will have until May 1, 2007, to make revisions to the negotiated STAR plan or revert back to their old performance pay plan. Deputy Chancellor Stewart stated that rule development workshops have been scheduled to initiate the rulemaking process as required by statute.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fair stated that the next Board meeting will be held May 15, 2007, in Orlando, Florida.

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

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman