

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Florida Department of Education
October 16, 2007
1703/1707 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, Florida

Chairman Fair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting at the Florida Department of Education. The following members were present: Donna Callaway, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, and Linda Taylor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair announced that he was finalizing arrangements with Dr. Eric Smith to begin as the Commissioner of Education and that he had updated the Governor's office on the progress thus far.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Blomberg stated that the Legislature passed a \$433 million reduction in the budget during the Special Session. In addition, the Legislature will allow additional flexibility for districts in categorical funds, will remove restrictions on districts to use capital outlay, and will allow some flexibility in the transfer amount for districts. The next step will be for the Legislature to hold another General Revenue conference in November where the adjustments for 07-08 and 08-09 will be visible.

Commissioner Blomberg reported that at the December meeting, the Board will receive a report on the Go Higher, Florida! Task Force, which will include recommendations to prepare students for transition from K-12 to post-secondary education. The report will then be prepared to submit to the Legislature and the Governor.

Commissioner Blomberg provided the updated Paperwork Reduction to the Board, and noted that 70 of 71 districts had provided information to be included in the report.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's Report as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second from Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2008-09 Legislative Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request

Commissioner Blomberg presented an overview of the 2008-09 Legislative Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request. Commissioner Blomberg stated that Florida has a \$72 billion budget (made up of both state and federal dollars), of which 34% goes toward education (89% from state dollars and 11% from federal dollars); and that 51% of the \$29 billion General Revenue budget goes to education. Additional presentations were provided by: Shan Goff – VPK, Linda Champion -- K-12, Student Financial Assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Blind Services, Lucy Hadi -- Workforce Education, Will Holcombe -- Community Colleges, and Mark Rosenberg – Universities and Board of Governors. Ms. Champion completed the presentations with an overview of the request for the Fixed Capital Outlay. Chairman Fair called

for a motion to accept the 08-09 budget request as presented. The motion for approval was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeal – Believer’s School of Learning vs. School Board of Bradford County

Chairman Fair recognized Rellen Clark representing Believer’s School of Learning and Karl Wendell and Julie Tinsler representing the School Board of Bradford County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission. A motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to deny the appeal was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Recommendations for Appointment to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the recommendation from Speaker Marco Rubio, House of Representatives, to appoint Hugo Arza and the recommendation from President Ken Pruitt, Florida Senate, to appoint Charles Dodge to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

ACTION ITEM

Consideration of Applications Requesting Exclusivity to Authorize Charter Schools

Chairman Fair recognized Commissioner Blomberg to provide recommendations on school districts to be granted exclusive authority as well as those to be denied exclusive authority to charter schools in their geographic areas. Commissioner Blomberg stated that her recommendations were based on districts meeting 100 percent of the factors by receiving a “yes,” meaning met the factor, from at least two of three reviewers. The recommendations were to grant exclusivity to Orange, Polk and Sarasota Counties.

Mrs. Taylor requested a status report on recent activities of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Rudy Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission (FSEC), to provide this overview. Dr. Rodriguez provided information on the status of the FSEC including staffing, the application process for charter schools to request sponsorship through the FSEC, and the number of applications received to date. Dr. Rodriguez reported that the deadline to receive applications is October 31, 2007 and that 18 letters of intent have been received. Dr. Rodriguez indicated that the FSEC can provide assistance to and oversee the management of 3-5 charter schools throughout the state for the 08-09 school year. Mrs. Taylor requested monthly reports on the progress of the FSEC.

The Board recognized representatives from school districts who applied for exclusivity as well as charter school representatives who requested to speak at the meeting. Ten minutes was allotted for district staff and five minutes allotted for one representative from operating charter

schools in the district to speak. After hearing all public testimony, the Board made a motion and voted on each district to accept or reject the Commissioner's recommendation for exclusivity.

Orange County

Speakers: Maureen Rischitelli, Oakland Avenue Charter School Opposition
Marilyn Doyle-Patterson, Orange County
Dr. Evelyn Chandler, Orange County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to grant Orange County exclusivity. The motion was made by Phoebe Raulerson with a second by Roberto Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Polk County

Speakers: Dr. Gail McKinzie, Polk County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to grant Polk County exclusivity. The motion was made by Roberto Martinez with a second by Linda Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Sarasota County

Speakers: Mike McHugh, Sarasota County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to grant Sarasota County exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Palm Beach County

Speakers: Susan Baumel, South Tech Charter School Opposition
Kendall Artusi, Bright Futures Academy Support
Ed O'Dell, Palm Beach Maritime Academy & Opposition
Joseph Little-Nguzo Saba
Deborah Nash-Utterback, Boca Raton Charter Opposition
Art Johnson, Palm Beach County
Cindy Adair, Palm Beach County
Gerald Williams, Palm Beach County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Palm Beach exclusivity. The motion was made by Donna Callaway with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Hillsborough County

Speakers: Connie Milito, Hillsborough County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Hillsborough exclusivity. Roberto Martinez made a motion to reject the Commissioner's recommendation. With no second, the motion died. Chairman Fair again called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Hillsborough exclusivity. The motion was made by Phoebe Raulerson with a second by Linda Taylor. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Volusia County

Speakers: Chris Colwell, Volusia County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Volusia exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Pinellas County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Pinellas exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Collier County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Collier exclusivity. The motion was made by Donna Callaway with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Duval County

Speaker: Tom O'Dea, Duval County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Duval exclusivity. The motion was made by Donna Callaway with a second by Linda Taylor. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

Pasco County

Speakers: Ed O'Dell, Athenian Academy of Pasco & Opposition
Richard Milburn Academy
Nancy Scowcroft, Pasco County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Pasco exclusivity. The motion was made by Donna Callaway with a second by Linda Taylor. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Miami-Dade County

Speakers: Ileana Gomez, Doral Academy Opposition
Fernando Zuleta, Mater Academy Opposition
Mater Academy East Opposition
Mater Academy Charter Schools Opposition
Pinecrest Academy, Inc. Opposition
Miami Children's Museum Opposition
Theodore and Thelma Gibson Opposition
Jonathan Hage, Renaissance Elementary Charter Opposition
Ed O'Dell, Coral Reef Montessori Academy Opposition
Michael Bell, Miami-Dade County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Miami-Dade exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Indian River County

Speakers: Mike Kooi, North County Charter School
Fran Adams, Indian River County

Opposition

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Indian River exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Manatee County

Speakers: Verna Bradley, Manatee County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Manatee exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Osceola County

Speakers: Sonia Vazquez Esposito, Osceola County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Osceola exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Martin County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Martin exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Sumter County

Speakers: Debbie Moffitt, Sumter County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Sumter exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

Monroe County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Monroe exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

St. Johns County

Speakers: Michael O'Loughlin, St. John County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny St. Johns exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Donna Callaway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mr. Martinez as the opposing vote.

St. Lucie County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Escambia exclusivity. The motion was made by Donna Callaway with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Levy County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Levy exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Flagler County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Flagler exclusivity. The motion was made by Linda Taylor with a second by Phoebe Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Wakulla County

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny Wakulla exclusivity. The motion was made by Phoebe Raulerson with a second by Linda Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY ISSUE FOR CONCURRENCE

VPK Accountability: Calculation of 2006-07 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, presented an overview of the two issues relating to the Calculation of the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate before the Board for concurrence. The Board agreed on the first issue, Change in Ownership, to define ownership to not include sale to family member(s) or person(s) with a prior business interest and that if a business was "owned" for 70% or more of the program period, the low performing provider status continues on the current three-year cycle; if not, the low performing provider status re-starts. Agreement was reached on the second issue, the use of IDEL Scores to include language in the appropriate rule relating to VPK on the administration of the IDEL and on the use of scores for calculating the readiness rate.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fair and the Board agreed that the next State Board of Education meeting would be held on December 11, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Marriott Tampa Airport in Tampa, Florida.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 3:10 p.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman