

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 18, 2007
Tampa Airport Marriott
Tampa International Airport
Tampa, Florida

Chairman T. Willard Fair welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting at the Tampa Airport Marriott, on September 18, 2007, with the following members present: Donna Callaway, Akshay Desai, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to amend the agenda to move consent item number three to action item number four. 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 August 14, 2007, meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair requested input from the Board on the next steps for choosing the new Commissioner of Education. Ms. Shanahan stated that she was comfortable with voting on the new Commissioner immediately as the interviews had been completed on September 17, 2007. Dr. Desai and Mr. Martinez agreed that they too were prepared to vote on the Commissioner. Mrs. Callaway and Mrs. Taylor requested that the top three candidates be identified and that a final round of interviews be held prior to the vote. Mrs. Taylor made the motion to narrow the candidates to three with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed with Mr. Martinez, Dr. Desai, and Ms. Shanahan in opposition.

Chairman Fair recognized Nancy Noeske of Proact Search, Inc., to identify the top three candidates based on input provided by the Board members. Ms. Noeske stated that Dr. Eric Smith, Dr. Cheri Yecke, and Dr. Joseph Marinelli were the top three choices of the Board. Mrs. Callaway made a motion to name Dr. Smith, Dr. Yecke, and Dr. Marinelli as the top three for a final interview with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed with Ms. Shanahan in opposition. The Board agreed to conduct the final interviews in Tampa on October 8, 2007.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Blomberg recognized Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality Pam Stewart to provide an update on the Teacher Retention, Vacancies and New Teachers. Deputy Chancellor Stewart reported that 48 districts have fewer vacancies this year than last year, 13 districts have more vacancies than they had last year, six districts have the same number of vacancies on the first day of school that they had last year on the first day of school, and 14 districts have no vacancies on the first day of school. Deputy Chancellor Stewart reported that the total number of vacancies on the first day of school is 1,043, which was a decrease from 1,798 last year.

Mrs. Raulerson requested that the Board be provided an update in January on the number of vacancies that still exist and an update on the number of ESE teachers entering via community colleges or universities.

Commissioner Blomberg stated that an update will be provided on teacher misconduct at the community college level. Commissioner Blomberg stated that community colleges have an eight percent increase in fall enrollment due to universities freezing fall enrollment.

Commissioner Blomberg provided an update on the current year budget shortfalls and the recommendations set forth by Governor Crist. Commissioner Blomberg stated that in the past, the Department of Education received approximately \$750 million in general revenue funds. The August 2007 estimates project approximately \$1.5 billion in additional recurring general revenue in 2008-09 over 2007-08.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Proposed Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards

Mary Jane Tappen, Executive Director for the Office of Math and Science, provided an overview on the revisions of the new World Class Math Standards which began in September 2006 with the 2007-08 school year being the transition year. International, national, and state level experts in standards writing, mathematics content, and mathematics instruction have participated in the process of defining new standards. Ms. Tappen stated that the new standards will have fewer benchmarks per grade level, K-8 and that the bodies of knowledge at the secondary level will be Algebra, Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, Financial Literacy, Geometry, Probability, Statistics, and Trigonometry.

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

Approval of District Assistance Plus Plans

Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement Iris Wilson provided an update on the districts with schools identified as being a repeating F school in 2007. Deputy Chancellor Wilson stated that currently there are a total of 20 repeating F schools instead of 21 as initially reported; 61 first time F schools; and 11 D former F schools. Ms. Wilson stated that these schools receive additional support services as Assistance Plus designated schools.

Ms. Wilson recognized the following district representatives to provide the update on their specific schools: Superintendent Jim Paul, Escambia County; Dr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Chief Academic Officer, Duval County; Superintendent Dennis Thompson, Collier County; Superintendent Reginald James, Gadsden County; Associate Superintendent Katherine Blasik, Broward County; and Superintendent Ron Blocker, Orange County.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus plans presented for Broward County. 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 Assistance Plus Plans presented for Collier County. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Dade County. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Duval County. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Escambia County. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Gadsden County. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Hillsborough County. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Assistance Plus Plans presented for Orange County. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Report on Paperwork and Data Collection Reduction

Chairman Fair recognized K-12 Chancellor Cheri Yecke to provide an overview on the Paperwork and Data Collection Reduction Report. Chancellor Yecke stated that the Paperwork Reduction Task Force was established in

2005 and that the report is a result of the work of this Task Force. Chancellor Yecke stated that currently 47 of 71 school districts have submitted data. Mrs. Callaway recommended that the Department report back to the Board at the October meeting with an update on the final report as submitted to the Governor.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Report on Paperwork and Data Collection Reduction as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Applications to Retain Exclusivity to Authorize Charter Schools

Chairman Fair recognized Representatives Trey Traveisa and John Legg to provide background on Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes, as approved by the 2006 Florida Legislature, relating to the granting of authority to district school boards to retain exclusive authority to charter schools within their geographic boundaries. Jean Miller, Interim Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, and Theresa Klebacha, Chief of Staff, were recognized to provide information on the process the Department followed upon receipt of applications and the review of documentation in support of and in opposition to the requests.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to address only the eight counties which have no history of charter schools and are therefore unable to document a history of fair and equitable treatment of charter schools. Ms. Shanahan made the motion to deny exclusivity to Baker, Charlotte, Clay, DeSoto, Gilchrist, Hardee, Jefferson, and Suwannee Counties; with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

After lengthy debate relating to consideration of the remaining applications, Chairman Fair opened the floor for public comment. Upon the conclusion of the public comment, Chairman Fair recommended that the Board defer the item to the October 16, 2007, State Board of Education meeting. The Board concurred. (Volume 2, pages 10 – 220 of the official State Board of Education transcript contains a complete record of speakers and comments and is therefore made a part of the minutes of this meeting.)

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.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fair stated that the next Board meeting will be held October 16, 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