

**MINUTES**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

September 17, 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 17, 2007, with the following members present: Donna Callaway, Akshay Desai, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor.

**Interviews of the Next Commissioner of Education**

State Board members of the State Board of Education interviewed the following seven candidates for the position of Commissioner of Education: Dr. William Harner, Dr. Earl Lennard, Dr. Joseph Marinelli, Dr. Eric Smith, Dr. William Moloney, Dr. Eric Smith, Mr. James Warford, and Dr. Cheri Pierson Yecke. .

The Board asked each candidate to respond to the following four core questions:

- (1) One of our qualifications for the position is a strong commitment to "student first philosophy". What does that mean to you? How can you convince us you are committed to this philosophy?
- (2) Please describe your understanding of what Florida has achieved in its K-20 education system over the last 8-10 years in education reform.
- (3) Please describe to us your experience in embracing and promoting equity and diversity. How have you successfully engaged diverse racial, economic, and multi-cultural communities as partners in meeting the challenges face in your current or past positions?
- (4) The State Board/Department of Education has a Strategic Plan that assumes that the Department possesses the talent, the energy and the will to successfully achieve our mission and values. Give us your critique of the Strategic Plan and describe what you would change, eliminate, add, or emphasize if you became the Commissioner.

Upon completion of all interviews, the Board agreed to discuss the next steps for choosing the Commissioner and/or identifying the finalists at the meeting to be held the next day, September 18, 2007.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
T. Willard Fair, Chairman