

AMENDED MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Florida Department of Education
February 19, 2008
Room LL03, Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 4, 2008. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second from Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith announced that Florida moved from 31st place to 14th place in the 2008 Quality Counts: Tapping into Teaching report. Commissioner Smith stated that the report highlights the policy decisions that have put education on the right track in public education, as well as opportunities to further excel.

Assistance Plus – Commissioner Smith recognized Superintendent Pratt-Dannals to provide an update on the status of the schools in the Duval County School District which must comply with the Assistance Plus requirements approved by the Board. Iris Wilson, Deputy Commissioner for Student Achievement, was recognized for an update on the status of the remaining Repeating F Schools.

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

ACTION ITEMS

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

Chairman Fair recognized Representatives Gelber, Homan, and Coley and members of the public requesting to provide comments relating to the proposed science standards. Upon completion of public input, Chairman Fair recognized Mary Jane Tappen, Executive Director, Office of Science and Mathematics, to explain the procedure used to establish the proposed Science Standards and the optional changes. Commissioner Smith recommended that the Board approve the Science Standards as amended to include "scientific theory of" and the "law of" as appropriate in the Standards.

After lengthy deliberation, Mrs. Taylor made the motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to approve the Science Standards, adding the words "the scientific theory of" and "the law of" as shown in the amended standards with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed 4-3. In favor: Chairman Fair, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor. Opposed: Donna Callaway, Akshay Desai, and Roberto Martinez. (See the official transcript of the meeting for official proceedings and deliberations.)

Approval of Community College Baccalaureate Degree Proposals --

Broward Community College

Bachelor of Science in Education

Concentrations: Middle Grades Mathematics and General Science Education;

Secondary Mathematics and Biology Education;

Exceptional Student Education

Palm Beach Community College

Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management

Chipola College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Education – Concentrations: Elementary Education

and Exceptional Student Education

Daytona Beach Community College

Bachelor of Science in Education – Concentrations: Secondary

Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth/Space Science,

Exceptional Student Education, and Elementary Education

Edison College

Bachelor of Science in Education – Concentration: Elementary Education

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management

Florida Community College at Jacksonville

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Networking

Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management

Okaloosa-Walton College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Dr. Will Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges, provided an overview of the Baccalaureate Degree Proposals for Broward Community College, Palm Beach Community College, Chipola College, Daytona Beach Community College, Edison College, and Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Dr. Holcombe stated that the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Okaloosa-Walton College was not a new program but one jointly offered by the University of West Florida and Okaloosa-Walton College. Dr. Holcombe reported that the University of West Florida had agreed that the program would now be transferred completely to Okaloosa-Walton College.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she was very concerned about any perceived backdoor approach of community colleges to become "the defunct" state college system. Ms. Shanahan stated that the mission of the community colleges is very important to ensure that degrees and programs are offered to assist individuals who may not have access to state colleges. Ms. Shanahan stated that rather than have community colleges work through the Legislature to change their names by dropping "community" the Board should have a strategic plan and work with members of the Legislature to ensure this plan is consistent. Chairman Fair stated that Ms. Shanahan's concerns were shared by many of the Board members and requested that the Commissioner develop a proposed strategic plan to address the issue in its entirety.

Mrs. Raulerson made a motion to approve the baccalaureate degree programs as requested by Broward, Palm Beach, Daytona Beach and Florida Community Colleges, and Chipola and Edison Colleges with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve transferring all functions relating to the the Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of West Florida to Okaloosa-Walton College. A motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Go Higher, Florida! Task Force Recommendations

Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, Community College, presented the Go Higher, Florida! Task Force Recommendations. The motion for approval of the recommendations as presented was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeals:

Osprey Elementary vs. School Board of Brevard County -- Chairman Fair recognized Robert Downey, Attorney, representing Osprey Elementary and Harold Bistline, Attorney, representing the School Board of Brevard County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the elementary school. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to deny the application of Osprey Elementary School was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Sawgrass Academy vs. School Board of Brevard County -- Chairman Fair recognized Robert Downey, Attorney, representing Sawgrass Academy and Harold Bistline, Attorney, representing the School Board of Brevard County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the academy. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to deny the application of Sawgrass Academy was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Duval County Imagine-Duval County, LLC vs. School Board of Duval County -- Chairman Fair recognized Melissa Gross Arnold, Attorney, representing Imagine-Duval and Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Duval County, representing the School Board of Duval County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the school. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to grant the application of Imagine-Duval was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Imagine Charter School at North Port vs. School Board of Sarasota County -- Chairman Fair recognized Melissa Gross Arnold, Attorney, representing Imagine Charter School at North Port and Sarasota School Board did not have representation present as they are currently in contract negotiations with the school. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for Charter School. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to grant the application of Imagine-Sarasota was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Proposed New Rule 6A-1.099822, School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools

Juan Copa, Chief, Bureau of Evaluation and Reporting, Accountability, Research and Measurement, provide an overview of Proposed New Rule 6A-1.099822, School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools. Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve

the Proposed Rule. Mrs. Raulerson made the motion with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2008-09

Juan Copa, Chief, Bureau of Evaluation and Reporting, Accountability, Research and Measurement, presented the Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2008-09. Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2008-09. Mrs. Taylor made the motion with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Martinez made the motion with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Desai requested that the record reflect that his vote on consent items 13-16 was based on assurances of the Department's staff that the coupon rate on the bonds would be in the range of 3.8 to 3.9 percent and on the effective year it would be in the range of 4.1 to 4.2 percent.

POLICY ISSUE FOR CONCURRENCE

Setting the Minimum 2006-07 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning presented an overview of the final readiness rates and a recommendation for the minimum rate. The motion to accept the policy issue as presented was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Mr. Rudy Rodriguez, Executive Director, presented an update on the activities of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission.

COMMENTS

Mr. Martinez requested that the record reflect that Mary Jane Tappen, Executive Director, Office of Mathematics and Science, be commended for her commitment to the students and to having a very deliberate, exemplary process in the development of the science standards. Chairman Fair stated that the entire board agreed with the commendation.

Dr. Desai stated that it had recently come to his attention that school districts may have contracts with private organizations to conduct/chaperone student related activities that involve travel outside of the student's district. Dr. Desai requested that the Department work with school districts to identify possible conflicts in these policies related to the traveling of a minor. Dr. Desai stated that his primary concern is that private organizations should not have policies that supercede those of the school districts.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 2:55 p.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman