

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Florida Department of Education
April 15, 2008
Room 1703, Turlington Building
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, Phoebe Raulerson, Linda Taylor, and Kathleen Shanahan.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to move consent items 3, 14 and 15 to the action agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair welcomed Senator Stephen Wise to the meeting. Senator Wise presented information on Duval County's initiative to provide prepaid college tuition for students who meet the Take Stock in Children criteria. Senator Wise stated that for the last three years a utility company in Jacksonville provided an option for customers to donate \$1.00 or more which the school district or community college would then match. Senator Wise recommended that this initiative should become statewide. Chairman Fair expressed on behalf of the Board support for this initiative and thanked Senator Wise for providing the information to the Board.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 19, 2008. Ms. Shanahan clarified that the minutes were to be adopted as amended in order to clearly include her concern that the Community College System was evaporating into a State College system without a clear strategic plan. The motion to adopt the minutes as amended was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair welcomed Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp to the State Board meeting. Lt. Governor Kottkamp announced April as "Community College Month, 50th Year" and presented Governor Crist's proclamation to the Board on his behalf.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith recognized the final School Related Employee of the Year nominees: Carol Wilt, Alachua County; Jim Morrow, Broward County; Jill Robinson, Orange County; Catherine Houck, Pinellas County; and Elizabeth Stephens, Bay County. Commissioner Smith announced that Elizabeth Stephens from Bay County was the winner for this year.

Commissioner Smith recommended to the Board that the use of the writing exam as a graduation requirement for individual students be delayed. Commissioner Smith stated that this recommendation was based on technical issues and the limited amount of funding which would be available this year. Commissioner Smith stated that this would require a rule change which would be forthcoming. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Smith provided an update on Opportunity Scholarships and its implementation in Orange County. Commissioner Smith provided a letter to the Board from

Superintendent Ron Blocker, Orange County Public Schools, addressing the transfer of students from Evans and Oak Ridge High Schools to the newly opened, Wekiva High School. Commissioner Smith assured the Board that the Department will work with all districts this coming year to ensure that expectations and consequences for lack of compliance have been clearly articulated.

Commissioner Smith recognized Iris Wilson, Deputy Commissioner for Student Achievement, for an update on the status of Repeating F Schools.

Commissioner Smith recognized Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning; Dr. Evan Lefsky, Executive Director, Office of Just Read, Florida!; Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Services; and Dr. Barbara Foorman, Director, Florida Center for Reading Research; for a presentation on the New Assessments in Reading and Math/Early Learning Success Initiative focusing on Prekindergarten through third grade.

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 Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Revised Schedule for Review and Adoption of Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, presented the Revised Schedule for Review and Adoption of Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the revised schedule as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Differentiated Accountability-Florida's Proposal

Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research and Measurement, presented Florida's proposal for Differentiated Accountability. Ms. Shanahan recommended that the Commissioner make a presentation to the Florida Congressional Delegation and request a letter from Representative Alcee Hastings endorsing Florida's proposal. Commissioner Smith assured the Board that he would follow up with the Delegation as requested. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Dr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability

Juan Copa, Chief, Bureau of Evaluation and Reporting, Accountability, Research and Measurement, provided an overview of the Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0902, Requirements for Identification, Assessment and Programmatic Assessment of Limited English Proficient Students and Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0903, Requirement for Classification, Reclassification, and Post Reclassification of English Language Learners

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, presented an overview of the proposed amendments to Rules 6A-6.0902 and 6A-6.0903. Ms. Tappen stated that Rule 6A-6.0902 establishes the cut scores and as the assessment instrument, Comprehensive English Language Learner Assessment (CELLA). Rule 6A-6.0903 establishes assessments for entering and exiting services. Ms. Tappen further explained that Florida is on a corrective action plan to preserve Title Three funding for ESOL services and per the corrective action plan the proposed cut scores in rule must be established at this meeting or the State risks losing \$42 in federal funding for Title Three programs

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Candace A. Harper and Dr. Ester J deJong, of the University of Florida, for public comment. Dr. Harper and Dr. deJong expressed concerns relating to the establishment of cut scores and the use of CELLA as the assessment instrument for students who are learning English as a second language.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she had many concerns relating to the amendments including: the process for selecting CELLA, the timeline for establishing the cut scores to receive the federal funding tied to the assessment, and the concerns expressed in a document received that morning from the Florida Association of Bilingual and ESOL Supervisors (FABES) referencing eight counties in the state opposing the Department's recommendation.

Dr. Cornelia Orr replied that the Department had held rule development workshops to discuss the specific amendments as well as worked with a policy advisory group. Ms. Mikki Presley, Office of the General Counsel, responded to Ms. Shanahan's concerns relating to the federal funding tied to the assessment. Ms. Presley stated that the cut scores had to be established immediately in order to meet the requirements of the Department's correction action plan.

After lengthy discussion and debate, Commissioner Smith recommended to approve the rules as presented and assured the Board that the Department will continue to work with the representatives from the University of Florida and other concerned constituents and if there are additional changes or amendments bring them back to the Board in a timely manner. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Proposed Amendments to Rules 6A-6.0902 and 6A-6.0903. The motion was made by Dr. Desai with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed 5-1, Ms Shanahan opposed. (Please see the transcript for a complete accounting of the discussion relating to the proposed amendments to the rules.)

Ms Shanahan recommended to Chairman Fair that an issue involving a cut score should not be placed on the Consent Agenda, but rather as an Action Item with a full presentation of all concerns and issues.

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 ISSUE FOR CONCURRENCE

Revision of 2005 VPK Education Standards

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, presented an overview of the 2008 Draft Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards. Ms. Goff reported that the final standards would be brought back to the Board for approval.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Merit Pay

Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor, K-12 Educator Quality, provided an update on the status of school districts participating in the Merit Pay Plan.

Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Ms. Liza McFadden, Member, Florida Schools of Excellence Commission, presented an overview of the Draft Two-Year Strategic Plan. Mr. Joseph D'Amico, East Regional Manager for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), provided an outline of the three primary sections of the plan: Operating Principles, Objectives, and Implementation Goals.

Ms. Shanahan stated that the timeline was very aggressive and questioned the source for the timeline. Ms. McFadden stated that the timelines are based on governing statute.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fair and the Board agreed that the next State Board of Education meeting would be held on June 17, 2008, at the Marriott Tampa Airport in Tampa, Florida.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:02 p.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman