

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Florida Department of Education
October 21, 2008
Tampa Airport Marriott
Tampa, 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: Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, and Linda Taylor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair recognized Shane Strum, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Charlie Crist. Mr. Strum stated that Florida has made great progress in education, and on behalf of the Governor, wished to confirm the commitment to education to ensure continued progress in student achievement.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting of August 19, 2008. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith announced that Douglas P. Rodriguez, Principal of Ronald Reagan/Doral Sr. High School in Miami-Dade, is the recipient of the 2008 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership and Stephanie C. Soliven, Assistant Principal of Cocoa High School in Brevard, is the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award.

Commissioner Smith recognized Iris Wilson, Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement, to provide the first update on schools affected by the Differentiated Accountability Plan. Ms. Wilson reported that this is the second month of implementation with the focus on 48 schools in need of the most support that fell into one of three categories: intervening, repeating F, and F schools. Ms. Wilson stated that the report to be presented in December will be more comprehensive as students will be further into the school year. (Dr. Akshay Desai joined the meeting.)

Commissioner Smith recognized the following Community College Presidents and Superintendents to report on how their institutions are continuing to deliver services and meet the needs of students with reduced funding: Ed Massey, President, Indian River State College, Eileen Holden, President, Polk Community College, Peg Smith, Superintendent, Volusia County School District, and Mary Ellen Elia, Superintendent, Hillsborough County School District. In addition, Bill Montford, Director, Florida Association of District School Superintendents, reported to the Board on behalf of superintendents statewide on the initiatives being implemented to continue to serve students.

Commissioner Smith introduced Mike Kooi, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, and John Newman, Senior Advisor on Legislative Policy and Budget, who have recently joined the Department as part of the leadership team.

Commissioner Smith provided an update on the Governor's initiative, Accelerate Florida, which began in August to stimulate the economy. The Department has identified 174 facility projects for acceleration with a projected value of \$1.37 billion. The Commissioner

stated that the Department will continue to monitor progress and provide updates to the Board.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Next Generation PreK-20 Education Strategic Plan

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Next Generation PreK-20 Education Strategic Plan. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Commissioner's Recommendations on Exclusivity for School Districts to Authorize Charter Schools in their Geographical Areas

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity to Charlotte, Dade, Lake, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Putnam, St. Johns, and St. Lucie School Districts. The motion was made by Dr. Desai with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Requests to speak were received and granted to the following:

Charlotte County School District -- Melissa Gross Arnold, School Board Attorney, requested that the State Board reconsider the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity.

Lake County School District -- Christine Watson, Principal, South Lake Charter School, requested that the Board accept the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity to the school district.

Miami-Dade County School District -- Mindy McNichols, School Board Attorney, requested that the State Board reconsider the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity. Ms. McNichols stated that, in her opinion, there were inconsistencies in scoring questions 4 and 5 in Part II of the application which should be reviewed.

Osceola County School District -- Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, requested that the State Board reconsider the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity. Melissa Gross Arnold, Attorney, representing Kissimmee Charter Academy spoke in support of the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity.

Pinellas County School District -- David Koperski, Assistant School Board Attorney, requested that the State Board reconsider the Commissioner's recommendation to deny exclusivity.

Mr. Martinez requested that Mike Kooi, Executive Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, review the concerns relating to the application for Miami-Dade School District and report back to the Board on the findings.

The motion to deny exclusivity by Dr. Desai passed unanimously with the agreement that the recommendation on the application of Miami-Dade be reconsidered at the December State Board meeting.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0014, FAC., Comprehensive Management Information System

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-1.0014, FAC. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.03011, FAC., Special Programs for Students Who Are Mentally Handicapped

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.03011, FAC. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.03018, FAC., Special Programs for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

Commissioner Smith requested that Rule 6A-6.03018, FAC., be deferred until the December 2, 2008, State Board meeting. Chairman Fair called for a motion to defer action as requested by Commissioner Smith. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0981, FAC., School District Virtual Instruction Program

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve proposed new Rule 6A-6.0981, FAC. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Appointment to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Commissioner Smith reported that Speaker Ken Pruitt, Florida Senate, provided two recommendations to fill a Senate appointed vacancy on the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission as required in Section 1002.335(3)(b), Florida Statutes. Commissioner Smith recommended that Ira J. Paul be appointed to the Commission. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Dr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, items 1 - 17. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously. (Ms. Kathleen Shanahan joined the meeting.)

POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE

Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies, Health, Physical Education

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Services, K-12 Public Schools, presented the proposed Next Generation Sunshine Standards for Social Studies, Health and Physical Education. Ms. Tappen stated that the final standards will be presented as incorporated by reference in Rule 6A-1.09401, FAC., at the December 2 State Board meeting.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Community College Updates -- State College Task Force, State College Pilot Project

Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges, provided the following information relating to the progress of the two groups:

State College Pilot Project -- Dr. Holcombe reported that the State College Pilot Project Group met via teleconference on October 16th and adopted a draft final report.

State College Task Force – Objectives, Criteria and Transition to State Colleges subgroup meets via teleconference on October 21, 2008; the Degree Approval Process subgroup will meet on October 27, 2008; and the Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles subgroup will meet on October 29, 2008. The complete State College Task Force will meet on November 13, 2008, to adopt and revise reports in order to have a final report prior to the final meeting of the Task Force on December 4, 2008.

Ms. Shanahan requested that the Commissioner contact Dr. Charlie Reed, California State University Chancellor, to discuss the transition process that California followed and the positive and negative impacts to the Community College System in California.

Ms. Shanahan requested that the reports of the State College Pilot Project and State College Task Force be clear on the source and formula for funding community college four-year degrees and that a minority report be completed as well. Ms. Shanahan stated that it is her understanding that the legislative intent was for each group -- The State College Task Force and the State College Pilot Project -- to submit two separate and distinct reports.

Dr. Desai stated that it is his understanding that the proposed governance structure in the preliminary report by the State College Pilot Project provides for local community college boards of trustees to approve baccalaureate degree programs after an initial baccalaureate degree program has been approved by the State Board. Dr. Desai stated that governance is a critical issue and approval of both initial baccalaureate degree programs and subsequent programs should be granted by the State Board of Education or the Board of Governor's or a combination of the two.

Commissioner Smith stated that the preliminary report by the State College Pilot Project Group would be forwarded immediately as well as the meeting schedule of the State College Task Force. Commissioner Smith assured the Board that a draft of the State College Task Force will be made available to the members and stakeholders as soon as it has been completed. Commissioner Smith concluded the discussion by stating that both reports will be presented to the Board at the January 20, 2009, State Board meeting.

Florida Schools of Excellence Commission Activities

Mrs. Ileana Gomez, Interim Executive Director, Florida Schools of Excellence Commission, provided an update on the status of charter school applications and the search for a permanent executive director for the Commission. Mrs. Gomez reported that 39 applications for the position of Executive Director have been received. Out of the 39 applications, 5 finalists will be interviewed on October 22, 2008, in Miami.

CONCLUDING MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Taylor expressed concerned that with the revenue shortfall, school districts and community colleges may be placed in the position of requiring emergency funding. Ms. Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, reported that there are emergency provisions in statute to allow the Governor to take action on a statewide basis and that the Commissioner has worked with the Governor's Office and House and Senate legislative staff to ensure they are aware of the Department's position and the need for funding. Mr. Martinez suggested that the State Board of Education and the Department explore options of engaging the private sector to find additional methods to supplement funding for classrooms.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fair announced that the next State Board of Education meeting will be on December 2, 2008, in Orlando. Chairman Fair announced the meeting schedule for 2009 as follows: January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, and November 17, 2009.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:37 a.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman