

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Florida Department of Education
December 19, 2008
Via Conference Call

Chairman T. Willard Fair called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education conference call. The following members participated: Peter Boulware, Roberto Martinez, Akshay Desai, Phoebe Raulerson, Linda Taylor, and Kathleen Shanahan.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair and the Board welcomed Mr. Boulware as the newly appointed member to the Board.

FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

State College Task Force Report

Commissioner Smith presented an overview of Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, which created the State College Task Force for the purpose of developing findings and issuing recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for establishing and funding state colleges. Commissioner Smith stated that the report and recommendations of the Task Force were to be submitted to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 2, 2009. Commissioner Smith further explained that the report of the Task Force should include comments relating to the final report of the State College Pilot Project and any specific recommendations of the Task Force for legislative action during the 2009 regular session of the Legislature. Commissioner Smith reported that the State College Pilot Project and the State College Task Force reports will be brought to the Board in January.

Ms. Shanahan recommended that the State College Pilot Project and State College Task Force reports be presented and considered for action. Ms. Shanahan requested that the following information relating to four-year degrees at community colleges be provided to the Board in chart format prior to the January meeting: timeline beginning with the first baccalaureate degrees approved to be offered at community colleges to date; expectation for the next 3 to 5 years of growth in these programs at the community colleges; the impact on current funding; the graduation/success rate; number of four-year degrees granted; and requests received for an increase in Public Education Capital Outlay funds from institutions currently offering four-year degrees. Ms. Shanahan urged fellow Board members to strongly consider the current economic environment and the impact to expand or start new programs. Mr. Martinez stated that he agreed with Ms. Shanahan that the Board's concerns be submitted to the Legislature. In closing Mrs. Taylor stated that the criteria for maintaining state college status must be clear in order to measure the effectiveness of new programs to ensure these programs are an efficient use of funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:05 a.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman