

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

January 21, 2009  
Kenwood K-8 School  
Miami, Florida

Chairman T. Willard Fair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. The following members were present: Peter Boulware, Akshay Desai, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Fair recognized Ms. Moraima Almeida-Perez, Principal, Kenwood K-8 Center, and Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, Dade County School District, to welcome the members of the State Board of Education. Mr. Martinez expressed on behalf of the Board, his appreciation to Ms. Perez for agreeing to host the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Fair recognized LaKenya Sanders-Sharpe as the recipient of the 2008 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting of December 2, 2008. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Dr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously, with the exception of Mr. Boulware who abstained from voting as he was not a member at that time.

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

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Smith recognized Jeffrey Hernandez, Director, Region V, Bureau of School Improvement, for an update on Differentiated Accountability. Mr. Hernandez reported that Regional Directors have received the midyear assessments and are collaboratively working with districts, superintendents, and principals to identify needs and to develop a plan of action to address curricular areas identified as not making adequate progress as well as to enrich those areas that are making adequate progress. Mr. Hernandez stated that specific actions are being developed to be implemented during the next 30 days to ensure students are making the needed progress in the Intervene and Correct II, Repeating F status schools.

Commissioner Smith recognized the following superintendents to provide an update on their respective districts and the implementation of the Differentiated Accountability Plan: Jim Notter, Broward County; Alberto Carvalho, Miami-Dade County; and Art Johnson, Palm Beach County.

Mr. Martinez recommended that the Board conduct a workshop prior to the March 17, 2009, meeting to discuss (1) ways in which the state can better optimize its use of funds to enhance student achievement; and, (2) whether the state spends adequate funds for education.

Commissioner Smith presented key points of the legislative special session. Commissioner Smith informed the Board that the four-percent holdback as advised by Governor Crist last June did not increase and districts received increased flexibility for funds currently allocated.

Commissioner Smith stated that the purchase of language arts books has been delayed for two years to make available additional funds. Commissioner Smith also reported that legislation was approved to address school districts who have reached financial emergency status. The legislation requires school districts to provide notification should they reach a three percent fund balance. If the fund balance reaches two percent, a corrective plan of action to address the shortage would be developed and an advisory team would be appointed by the Commissioner to work with the district to prevent further loss in fund balance and revenue. Dr. Desai recommended that the legislation should give more authority to actually deal with emergency situations versus just monitoring.

Ms. Shanahan recommended using information technology such as iPODS and podcasts to alleviate the costs of textbooks and to increase the use of press releases to keep the public informed. Ms. Shanahan further stated that the Department should position itself as a resource to the districts as needed. Dr. Desai stated that he agreed with Ms. Shanahan that the Department should have an aggressive communication strategy to help rectify the gap between perception and reality.

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 Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-1.09421, High School Competency Test Requirements**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-1.09421, FAC. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, FAC. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Amendment to Proposed Rule 6A-6.03018, Special Programs for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.03018, FAC. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. Mr. Martinez requested confirmation that the concerns expressed by staff in the Miami-Dade School District had been addressed. Chancellor Haithcock confirmed that all concerns had been addressed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Proposed New Rule 6A-14.092, Textbook Affordability**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve proposed new Rule 6A-14.092, FAC. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of the Calculation of the Class Size Transfer and School Eligibility to Offer 2009-10 School-Year of VPK**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's recommendation for the Calculation of the Class Size Transfer and School Eligibility to Offer VPK Programs during the 2009-10 School Year. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Baccalaureate Degree Programs:**

First-time applicants:

- Polk Community College
  - BAS in Supervision and Management
- Santa Fe College
  - BAS in Clinical Laboratory Science
  - BAS in Health Services Administration
- Seminole Community College
  - BAS in Interior Design

Applicants with Prior Baccalaureate Authorization Requesting New Programs:

- Broward College
  - BS in Nursing
  - BAS in Information Technology
  - BAS in Supervision and Management
  - BAS in Technology Management
- Florida Community College at Jacksonville
  - BS in Early Childhood Education
  - BAS in Information Technology Management
  - BAS in Public Safety Management
- Miami Dade College
  - BAS in Electronics Engineering Technology
  - BAS in Film, Television, and Digital Production
  - BAS in Health Science with an Option in Physician Assistant Studies
  - BAS in Supervision and Management

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of State Colleges, to provide background on the Baccalaureate Degree program requests. Chancellor Holcombe reported that all the proposals have been carefully reviewed and have met the criteria established by the State Board.

Ms. Shanahan requested that each college president or representative state for the record to confirm, that if appropriated new money, these Baccalaureate Degree programs are the best way to spend new money for their institution in the current economic state.

Dr. Eileen Holden, President of Polk Community College; Dr. Jackson Sasser, President of Santa Fe College; Dr. Ann McGee, President of Seminole Community College; Mr. David Armstrong, President of Broward College; Mr. James Simpson, Associate Vice-President for Workforce with Florida Community College at Jacksonville; and Dr. Norma Goonen, Provost for Academic and Student Affairs with Miami-Dade College; all responded individually that based on their local workforce and confirmed by community and business support that approval of these programs is in the best interest of the State.

Mrs. Taylor stated there should be an accountability program in place to measure the effectiveness of Baccalaureate Degree programs and to also measure the impact, if any, on the two-year programs. Chancellor Holcombe confirmed that an accountability system is emerging and will be more fully developed as students graduate from these programs.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Baccalaureate Degree programs as one item. Mr. Martinez made the motion to approve all requested baccalaureate degree programs as one item with a second by Dr. Desai. The vote passed unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, items 1 - 5. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

## **POLICY ISSUE FOR CONCURRENCE**

### **Setting the Minimum 2007-08 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate**

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, presented an overview of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate and recommended the Board concur on the minimum rate of 214. Mr. Martinez recommended the Department develop and bring back to the Board a process to assess children at an early age, to identify shortcomings, to intervene, and to address the problems. Commissioner Smith assured Mr. Martinez that he would bring the information back to the Board as requested.

## **UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS**

### **Florida College System Task Force Report and State College Pilot Report**

Commissioner Smith recognized Deborah Kearney, General Counsel, to give an overview of the responsibilities of the Board as required in Sections 1004.87 and 1004.875, Florida Statutes, in respect to the Florida College System Task Force report and the State College Pilot report.

MS. Shanahan stated for the record that a rush to judgment for a report that advocates more local need versus verified and justified demand concerns her greatly, as well as the recommendation of funding on a FTE per cost allocation. Ms. Shanahan recommended the Board consider limiting enrollment in Baccalaureate Degree programs by 1% per year up to 5-10% of the overall credit enrollment to protect the Community College mission of access.

Dr. Desai made a motion to approve the Florida College System Task Force report stating strong support for the initial and subsequent approval of programs by the State Board of Education and the cost plus funding proposal consistent with the report with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed 5-1 with Ms. Shanahan in opposition.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Fair stated that as requested, the State Board would meet again on March 16, 2009, for the purpose of conducting a workshop on funding, with the next scheduled meeting of the Board on March 17, 2009, in Tallahassee.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 1:17 p.m.

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Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

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T. Willard Fair, Chairman