

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

March 17, 2009  
Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center  
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: Peter Boulware, Akshay Desai, Roberto Martinez, Phoebe Raulerson, and Linda Taylor via conference phone.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Fair recognized Mrs. Donna Callaway, Principal, Raa Middle School, Leon County School District, and students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Fair presented Mrs. Callaway with a plaque of appreciation for her years of service to the State Board of Education.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting of January 21, 2009. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Smith stated support for Board action to adopt the recommendations presented in the "Sustaining Progress in Times of Fiscal Crisis" report by Paul E. Peterson, Director, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government, Harvard University, Eric A. Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and Martin R. West, Deputy Director, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard's Kennedy School, Assistant Professor of Education and Political Science, Brown University, at the Public School Funding Workshop on March 16, 2009. Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the recommendations. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously, with the exception of Dr. Desai who abstained from voting as he was not present for the presentation.

Commissioner Smith recognized Iris Wilson, Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement, K-12 Public Schools, and Nikolai Vitti, Bureau Chief, School Improvement, for an update on Differentiated Accountability. Ms. Wilson reported that Belle Vue Middle School in Leon County will close at the end of this school year. Students currently attending Belle Vue will be reassigned and their achievement closely monitored throughout the year. Ms. Wilson informed the Board that the remaining eleven schools in Intervene status will be operating as District Managed Turnaround Schools.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the plan as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vitti provided an overview for the Board on the revised 2009-2010 Crosswalk of Differentiated Categories and Interventions. Mr. Vitti introduced Dr. Paul Fetsko, Associate Superintendent, Escambia County, to provide information on how the Differentiated Accountability Model has been effective in Escambia County. Dr. Fetsko reported that the Differentiated Accountability process has been a positive experience and district staff are energized by the professionalism, cooperation, and commitment of the Department to work as partners in the most challenged schools.

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 Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Amendments to Rules Relating to Limited English Proficient Students:**

**6A-1.09432, Assessment of English Language Learners**  
**6A-4.0244, Specialization Requirements for the Endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages – Academic Class**  
**6A-4.02451, Performance Standards, Skills, and Competencies for the Endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages**  
**6A-6.0900, Programs for English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.0901, Definitions Which Apply to Programs for English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.0904, Equal Access to Appropriate Instruction for English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.0905, Requirements for the District English Language Learners Plan**  
**6A-6.0906, Monitoring of Programs for English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.0907, Inservice Requirements for Personnel Serving English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.0908, Equal Access for English Language Learners to Programs Other Than English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**  
**6A-6.0909, Exemptions Provided to English Language Learners**  
**6A-6.09091, Accommodations of the Statewide Assessment Program Instruments and Procedures for English Language Learners**

Chairman Fair recognized the following individuals for public comment on the proposed amendments: Mary Rasket, Director, Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida; Lourdes Jasper, Director, LULAC Florida Council of Broward County; Dr. Ester J. de Jong, Associate Professor, ESOL/Bilingual Education, School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education, University of Florida; Dr. Candace Harper, Assistant Professor, College of Education, University of Florida; Mr. Eric Dwyer, Assistant Professor, Modern Language Education, Curriculum & Instruction, Florida International University; and written comments provided to the Board by Cao Anh Quan, Managing Partner, Spectrum Knowledge East Coast, and visiting Professor, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University. Upon completion of public input, Commissioner Smith recognized Lori Rodriguez, Chief, Bureau of Student Achievement Language Acquisition, to explain the purpose and process for the proposed rule amendments. Mrs. Taylor requested an update on the review and revision of the standards be presented at the September Board meeting.

After lengthy discussion, Mrs. Taylor made the motion to accept the proposed amendments with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. Mr. Martinez requested that the Board vote on each rule separately. Mrs. Taylor agreed and withdrew the motion on the floor with agreement by Mrs. Raulerson to withdraw the second.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-1.09432, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-4.0244, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-4.02451, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0900, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0901, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0904, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0905, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0906, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Raulerson made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0907, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed 5-1 with Mr. Martinez in opposition.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0908, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0909, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, FAC, with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously. (See the official transcript of the meeting for official proceedings and discussions.)

### **Charter School Appeal -- New Alternative Education High School of Hernando County vs. School Board of Hernando County**

Chairman Fair recognized Jamila Alexander, Attorney, representing New Alternative Education High School of Hernando, and J. Paul Carland, Attorney, representing the School Board of Hernando County. A motion to reject the Charter School Appeal Commission's decision to grant the application of New Alternative Education was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Request for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Manatee Community College**

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of State Colleges, to provide an overview of the baccalaureate degree program request by Manatee Community College. Chancellor Holcombe reported that the Department received the proposal for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) from Manatee Community College in December with requests to take the proposal out of the established time frame due to a change in administration which created the delayed submission. Commissioner Smith granted the request to accept the proposal. Chancellor Holcombe reported that the proposal had been carefully reviewed and had met the criteria established by the State Board.

Dr. Lars Hafner, President, Manatee Community College, explained the need for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and stated that there is strong support in the community. Mrs. Taylor requested endorsement from the medical community on the need for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Manatee Community College. Mary Ann Conroy, CEO, Englewood Community Hospital, verified this need and asked the Board to approve the proposal.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the request for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Manatee Community College. Dr. Desai made the motion to approve with a second by Mr. Martinez. The vote passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Request to Restructure the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math/Science Teacher Education at Northwest Florida State College**

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of State Colleges, for a review of the request to restructure the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math/Science Teacher Education at Northwest Florida State College.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the request of Northwest Florida State College. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Smith requested an amendment to the agenda, to remove item 7, Approval of Amendment to the Palm Beach County School District's Charter Contract to Provide an Exemption to the Requirements of Section 1001.42(4)(f), Florida Statutes, Relating to the 2009-2010 School Calendar from the consent agenda so that separate action could be taken and to modify the recommendation. Chairman Fair granted the request.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, items 1 – 6 and 8 -10. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

### **AMENDED AGENDA ITEM**

#### **Approval of Amendment to the Palm Beach County School District's Charter Contract to Provide an Exemption to the Requirements of Section 1001.42(4)(f), Florida Statutes, Relating to the 2009-2010 School Calendar**

Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to amend the recommendation to allow the School Board to adopt a 2009-2010 school calendar that begins the school year **no earlier than** August 17, 2009. Mr. Martinez requested this item be clarified as an exception and not the norm.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the amended item as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Update on Public Education Capital Outlay Bonds**

Commissioner Smith recognized Ben Watkins, Director, Division of Bond Finance, to provide an update on public education capital outlay bonds. Mr. Watkins reported that market conditions have been favorable through January and February with interest rates at approximately 4.7 percent, which allowed the sale of two PECO bonds competitively for \$200 million each. Mr. Watkins informed the Board that the Division of Bond Finance will continue to monitor the changes in the market from day-to-day.

#### **The Florida Community College Employment Equity Accountability Program 2008 Progress Report**

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of State Colleges, for the annual employment equity progress report. Chancellor Holcombe informed the Board that in the employment categories of senior level administrator, faculty, and continuing contract instructional positions, community colleges have achieved or nearly achieved the National

Census data goals established for females, blacks and Hispanics but have not reached the National Census data goals for other minorities.

### **Next Generation Assessments**

Chairman Fair recognized Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, for a presentation on Next Generation Assessments. Chancellor Haithcock stated that the presentation focused on three areas: New K-12 Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading presented by Bo Elzie, Deputy Director, Just Read, Florida! and Dr. Barbara Foorman, Director, Florida Center for Reading Research; Bright Beginnings presented by Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning; and Next Generation FCAT and End-of-Course Exams presented by Dr. Cornelia Orr, Administrator, Office of Assessment and School Performance.

As part of her presentation, Ms. Elzie stated that the new assessments reduce the over assessment of children by combining screening, targeted diagnostic, and ongoing progress monitoring with the primary focus on informing classroom instruction. Ms. Elzie stated that the new assessments are done electronically and are free to every Florida school district. Dr. Foorman reported that the new assessments predict to a Norm Reference Test in kindergarten through second grade, and to the FCAT in third grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Foorman stated that by identifying strengths and weaknesses very early on a lot of reading difficulties can be prevented from occurring.

Dr. Desai requested confirmation that the accuracy and effectiveness of the new assessments have been independently verified. Dr. Foorman confirmed that the validity and reliability has been independently verified and will provide to the Board additional information after the 2009 FCAT scores have become available. Ms. Goff and Dr. Orr completed the presentation with an overview of "Bright Beginnings" and end of course exams.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Fair stated that the next scheduled meeting is May 19, 2009.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:59 a.m.

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Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

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T. Willard Fair, Chairman