

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 14, 2009
Webinar

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 Webinar. The following members were present: Peter Boulware, Akshay Desai, Roberto Martinez, John R. Padget, Linda Taylor, and Kathleen Shanahan.

WELCOME

Chairman Fair requested the agenda be amended to move Action Item 3 for consideration to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate the time limitations of the presenter for the Division of Bond Finance, State Board of Administration, to be immediately followed by comments submitted by Mr. Martinez. Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez requested that the recommendations on Early Education, Teaching Profession, High School Requirements, Accountability, Technology, and Funding, presented in his letter of July 1, 2009, be included on the September agenda for discussion (attached).

ACTION ITEM #3

Adoption of a Resolution Extending the Division of Bond Finance's Authority to Issue State Board of Education Public Education Capital Outlay Bonds through Negotiated Sale and Authorizing the Issuance of Public Education Capital Outlay Bonds and Capital Outlay Bonds as Taxable Bonds

Chairman Fair recognized Ben Watkins, Director, Division of Bond Finance, to review the request to extend the negotiated sale of public education capital outlay bonds through December 31, 2009. Mr. Watkins stated this resolution will also authorize the use of a new financial tool, Build America Bonds, which allows bonds to be issued on a taxable basis and then be reimbursed by the Federal Government for up to 35 percent of the interest.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting of May 19, 2009. The motion was made by Mr. Padget with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith reported that the Fiscal Recovery Plan adopted by the Jefferson County School Board should bring Jefferson County School District to a zero fund balance by the end of next year. Commissioner Smith recognized Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations and Bill Brumfield, Superintendent, Jefferson County School District, to provide an further detail on the Financial Emergency of Jefferson County School District.

Commissioner Smith recognized Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, for an update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds. Ms. Champion stated that the total ARRA appropriation for 2009-10 is \$2,708,094,329. Ms. Shanahan recommended the Department establish a parallel path/aspirational goal of a challenge or an award in terms of how the technology money will be disbursed and develop a 10 year goal in Technology using alternative delivery systems for students. Ms. Shanahan also recommended reaching out to the Hoover Institute or other similar institutes and getting technology experts together with service providers like Microsoft, Apple, Google, and Facebook, to figure out best practices. Mr. Martinez recommended looking at ways to accelerate the process. Commissioner Smith stated that a more detailed report and steps for an action plan will be brought to the Board at the September meeting. Ms. Shanahan suggested talking with experts in the field to suggest four or five goals to be supported by the State Board in terms of challenge grants, work grants, or whatever is motivational from a measurement metric to ensure these funds are used in the right way.

Commissioner Smith announced that the National Center for Educational Statistics Report ranked Florida as one of only three states in the nation to close the long-term achievement gap in fourth grade reading and one of only fifteen in fourth grade math.

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

Mr. Padget recommended the Board immediately begin working to adopt the standards and assessments of Massachusetts and to participate fully and faithfully in the effort to adopt national standards since both have the potential to save Florida substantial costs in creating standards and testing. Chairman Fair stated that the Board should thoroughly discuss these issues at the September meeting before a resolution could be decided.

Mr. Padget also recommended adopting standards that require students to pass the 10th grade math and reading FCAT to be eligible for a high school diploma. Commissioner Smith stated that more information and that data/analysis will be provided to the Board at the September meeting.

Mrs. Taylor recommended that the Board's Strategic Plan should be reviewed to ensure new initiatives and/or goals are aligned with the Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Budget Guidelines for Development of 2010-2011 Legislative Budget

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Budget Guidelines for the Development of 2010-2011 Legislative Budget. The motion was made by Mr. Padget with a second by Mrs. Taylor. Commissioner Smith stated that the Guidelines had been amended to include reference to community colleges and workforce education in the priorities section for bullet three. The amended statement was to read: "Provide funding for student enrollment for Grades Pre K-12, Community Colleges, and Workforce Education."

Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the amendment to the Budget Guidelines. The motion was made by Mr. Padget with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called the question on the entire motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of: 2009-2010 Differentiated Accountability Plan (Matrix), Strategies and Support for Differentiated Accountability (Crosswalk), 2009-2010 Differentiated Accountability (DA) Reporting Timelines, 2009-2010 Regional Support System Training Manual, and 2009-2010 District Improvement Plan

Commissioner Smith recognized Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, for a presentation on the Summary of DA School FCAT Performance Compared to the State. Chancellor Haithcock provided an overview of the Building Blocks of Accountability from 1995 to 2009. Chancellor Haithcock stated that in 2009 legislation was passed expanding the Differentiated Accountability pilot program to include all schools throughout the state. Chancellor Haithcock also stated that in 2009 Differentiated Accountability schools showed more improvement than the state and schools that received direct support, Intervene and F schools, showed even more growth. Nikolai Vitti, Deputy Chancellor for School Improvement and Student Achievement, reviewed the Differentiated Accountability Policy and Documents presented for approval. Board members requested copies of the Differentiated Accountability Matrix with the summary counts by category presented by Mr. Vitti.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the documents referenced as Action Item 2. The motion was made by Mr. Padgett with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-4.00821, Florida Educational Leadership Examination

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-4.00821, FAC. The motion was made by Mr. Padgett with a second by Mrs. Taylor.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she was opposed to the proposed increase and suggested a staggered increase or possible assistance from the Florida Education Foundation to subsidize partial cost of the exam. After further discussion, Mr. Padgett withdrew the motion on the floor with agreement by Mrs. Taylor to withdraw the second. Mr. Martinez made a motion to increase the fee for first time exam takers by half of the proposed \$430 to \$215 with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez made a motion to increase the retake fee by half of the proposed \$450 to \$225 with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Padgett requested data on the pool of teachers that have already taken the examination, passed it, and are now eligible for administrative promotion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, items 1 – 7. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Padgett. The motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fair announced that the next scheduled State Board of Education meeting will be on September 15, 2009, at the Wolfson Campus in Miami Dade County.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:43 a.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman