

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 15, 2009
Miami-Dade College – Wolfson Campus
Miami, Florida

Chairman T. Willard Fair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. The following members were present: Peter Boulware, Roberto Martinez, John R. Padget, Linda Taylor, and Kathleen Shanahan.

WELCOME

Chairman Fair recognized Audrey Lewis Potter, President, Florida Public School Choice Consortium, to present the Dr. Carlo Rodriguez Champion of School Choice Awards. Dr. Pansy Houghton, Director of Student Planning and Placement, Hillsborough County Schools, and Ms. Lois C. Lee, District Director of Schools of Choice and Parental Options, Miami-Dade County Schools, were the recipients of the award.

Chairman Fair recognized Ms. Helen Aguirre Ferre, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Miami Dade College, to welcome the members of the State Board of Education.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mr. Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting of July 14, 2009. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Padget. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith recognized Harry Horgan, CEO, Shake-A-Leg Miami, to provide information on the program and the students it serves.

Commissioner Smith recognized Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools, to highlight schools that have shown significant progress. Chancellor Haithcock recognized the following schools previously graded an F which are now an A and also made AYP in every subcategory: Liberty City Elementary and Miami Community Charter School in Miami-Dade County; Navy Point Elementary and George S. Hallmark Elementary in Escambia County; Mollie E. Ray Elementary in Orange County; and William D. Moseley Elementary in Putnam County. Chancellor Haithcock also recognized Dr. Adewale Alonge, Homestead Middle School, Miami and Jasmine Ulmer, Lake Butler Elementary, for being named United States Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellows for 2009-2010. Nikolai Vitti, Deputy Chancellor, School Improvement and Student Achievement, provided an update on Differentiated Accountability. Nikolai Vitti reported that at the end of the school year there were 12 schools in the Intervene Category; five of those schools increased their school grade which allowed them one additional year to meet the exit intervene criteria; four schools met the exit intervene criteria; one school closed; and two schools did not meet the exit criteria for intervene and are implementing the District Managed Turnaround option. Nikolai Vitti introduced Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County to provide information on the initiatives to increase student achievement at Miami Edison Edu-Plex and Mary Ellen Elia, Superintendent, Hillsborough

County, to provide information on initiatives to increase student achievement at Middleton High School.

Commissioner Smith recognized Cali Szostak, Director, Program Management, for an update on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Shanahan recommended including updates on Race to the Top for the November meeting. Mr. Martinez recommended moving focus item number four to number two.

Commissioner Smith presented the draft 21st Century Communications plan and stated that it would be further incorporated in the Strategic Plan to be presented in November.

Commissioner Smith updated the Board on the status of financial emergency declared by Jefferson County School District. Commissioner Smith stated that the Department has completed a physical audit to ensure calculations are justified and that the District is currently working on building a \$400,000 fund balance to deal with unexpected events.

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

PRESENTATION

Harnessing the Power of Technology 3.0

Chancellor Haithcock provided an overview of the process followed for developing a technology plan. Chancellor Haithcock stated the plan has three tiers: 1) sharing a framework organized around connected students, connected teachers, connected classrooms, connected parents, and connected facilities and community; 2) developing a plan and to be presented to the Board in November; and 3) implementing the plan. Chancellor Haithcock recognized Dr. Kate Kemker, Director, Technology and Innovation, to present an overview of the plan itself and to announce the partnership between the Department and Apple relating to iTunes University. Megan Allen, Florida Department of Education/Macy's 2010 Teacher of the Year, provided an overview of iTunes including a demonstration of how this technology could be used in the classroom as well as for professional development.

ACTION ITEMS

Charter School Appeal: Sunrise Community Charter School vs. School Board of Broward County

Chairman Fair recognized John Gordon, Attorney, representing Sunrise Community Charter School, and Edward Marko, Attorney, representing the School Board of Broward County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to deny the appeal of Sunrise Community Charter School. A motion to accept the Commission's decision to deny the appeal of Sunrise Community Charter School was made by Mr. Martinez with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve Rule 6A-1.09981, FAC., as amended. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mr. Martinez.

Juan Copa, Chief, Bureau of Research and Evaluation, provided an overview of the recommendations to amend the rule (see attached excerpt of transcript). Mr. Copa stated that in the 2008 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1908 revised law relating to school grades by significantly changing the way school grades are calculated. Mr. Copa also stated that in the new grading formula fifty percent of a high school's grade will be based on the existing FCAT factors and fifty percent will be based on the following new factors: school's graduation rate, participation and performance of students in accelerated coursework, post-secondary readiness of students as measured by the SAT, ACT, or the College Placement Test, and the graduation rate of at-risk students.

Mr. Padgett stated that a requirement for earning a high school diploma should be a score 3 or above on the 10th grade FCAT. Mr. Padgett stated that this change should be made as soon as possible. Commissioner Smith stated that a report on the effect of doing so will be brought to the Board at the November meeting.

Chairman Fair recognized Mary Ellen Elia, Superintendent, Hillsborough County School District, Patricia Levesque, Executive Director, Foundation for Florida's Future, and Senator Don Gaetz, to speak in favor of the proposed rule.

Upon completion of discussion, Chairman Fair called the question and the rule as amended was approved unanimously.

Approval of 2010-2011 Legislative Budget Request and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget

Commissioner Smith provided an overview of the 2010-2011 Legislative Budget Request and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget. Mrs. Taylor recommended that the Department articulate clearly the effectiveness of the reduction in class size, cost, and the projected impact if class size is implemented as now required. Commissioner Smith stated that an update will be provided to the Board in November showing the cost, districts in compliance, and national research on the effectiveness of reduced class size. Ms. Shanahan requested that the transmittal letter for the budget be clear that the budget as presented was not a reflection of priority order in terms of cutting from an allocation perspective. Mr. Padgett requested information on the amount the Board's approved budgets had been reduced for the last two years.

Mr. Martinez stated that he had concerns about funding for education relating to the class size requirements, collective bargaining agreements through out the state, and the need to re-prioritize resources and reform Florida's tax system. Mr. Martinez stated while he would vote in favor of the budget, his vote should not be construed to mean that the budget as presented appropriately and adequately funds education.

Mr. Padgett made the motion to approve the 2010-2011 Legislative Budget Request and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed 5-1 with Ms. Shanahan in opposition.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0970, John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program

Mr. Padgett made the motion to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-6.0970, FAC., with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

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. Martinez. The motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Overview of 2009 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Commissioner Smith recognized Sandi Jacobs, Vice President, National Council on Teacher Quality, for an overview of the 2009 State Teacher Policy Yearbook specifically relating to Florida. Ms. Jacobs presented the 2009 draft comprehensive report focusing on the following five areas: delivering well-prepared teachers, expanding the pool of teachers, identifying effective teachers, retaining effective teachers, and exiting ineffective teachers.

Florida and Massachusetts Standards – Standards and Assessment

Commissioner Smith recognized Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, K-12 Curriculum and Student Services, for a presentation on Florida and Massachusetts Standards – Standards and Assessment. Ms. Tappen provided information showing the comparison of Florida and Massachusetts standards and student performance.

UPDATE

Review and Revision of Performance Standards, Skills, and Competencies for the Endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages

Commissioner Smith recognized Deputy Chancellor Tappen, for an overview of the Review and Revision of Performance Standards, Skills, and Competencies for the Endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages. Ms. Tappen stated that the same process established to create the Next Generation Standards will be followed to update the ESOL performance standards. Ms. Tappen stated that after the draft standards have been reviewed by national experts, the committee created for this purpose will evaluate the components from the national experts as well as the public, finalize a draft and begin the process of rule development.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fair announced that the next scheduled State Board of Education meeting will be on November 11, 2009, at the Palm Beach County School Board Office.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 2:42 p.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman