

INDEX OF MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
MIAMI, FLORIDA
AUGUST 19, 2003

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Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the State Board of Education in the Ballroom, Graham Center, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, at 9:10 a.m., August 19, 2003, with the following members present: T. Willard Fair, Vice Chairman; Sally Bradshaw, Linda J. Eads; Charles P. García; Julia Johnson; and William L. Proctor.

1. Welcome

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Mitch Maidique, Florida International University, welcomed the Board. He introduced members of the FIU Board of Trustees, Mr. Albert E. Dotson, Ms. Rosa Sugañes, and Mr. Clayton Solomon. He extended a special welcome to Mr. Fair, who had previously served as a Trustee of the FIU Foundation. He said he could talk to the Board, at length, about the outstanding programs at the University, but he said they would probably be more interested in the special video presentation about FIU.

2. Member Comments and Observations

Dr. Eads thanked Burdines and Tim Adams for sponsoring the Teacher of the Year. She said she had been able to attend the Awards Ceremony. She also thanked Chancellor Warford for his presentation to the Summer Principal Leadership Institute, July 7-11, 2003, at which he had reiterated her message of concern about their needs and principal leadership issues.

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Melinda Crowley and her staff for their help with the IT Florida Report submitted to the Governor's Office. She said this report addressed the state of technology in Florida. She said she had asked the staff to help write the chapter on the state of education technology in Florida. The report addressed technology, economic development, education and assessment, and the use of technology in the classroom. She said the staff had done a wonderful job.

Ms. Bradshaw said she hoped the Board would address the issue of salaries within the Department of Education; bonuses should be tied to performance evaluations. She said the Board should develop the criteria for the evaluation of the Commissioner and his direct reports.

Mr. García said he had mentioned Dr. Sally Shaywitz's book, Overcoming Dyslexia, at the last meeting. Her research into reading disorders had been highlighted in a recent Time magazine. He said he continued to be alarmed that 52 percent of

children, K-10, read below grade level and that 63 percent of children in Dade County read below grade level.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Handy said the Board, at its last meeting, had raised the issue of powers and duties, those prescribed in statute for the Board, those prescribed for the Commissioner, and those which were within the Commissioner's discretion to bring to the Board for its oversight. He said he had directed the Commissioner and staff to define the parameters and to provide some guidance as to the gray areas. He asked the Commissioner to provide this information at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Handy said over the past several meetings, Board members had indicated an interest in workshops on the following topics: independent education, encompassing more than Charter Schools; relationship with the Federal Government, the Federal role in public education; community colleges and four-year baccalaureate degrees, governance and funding issues; and the high school curriculum, specifically the legislation authorizing graduation with 18 credits. He said the last topic might be combined with the discussion of community colleges into a discussion of articulation with higher education. He suggested that the Board schedule a workshop during the morning of each of the Board's next four meetings, with the regular Board meeting following in the afternoon.

Mr. Fair suggested that the baccalaureate discussion should be high on the agenda as it would likely be a subject for legislative solution. Dr. Proctor concurred, as the Board needed an appropriate process within which to review these baccalaureate degree requests. Dr. Eads noted that the issue carried budget implications. Mr. García suggested an additional workshop on the corporate governance of this Board, including the evaluation of the Commissioner and the Board's Strategic Plan. Mr. Handy noted that this might be a topic for a regular Board meeting.

Mr. Handy distributed evaluation criteria he had developed for the review of the Commissioner's performance. Mr. García said this was a good proposal; he would add execution of the Board's Strategic Plan to the measures. He said a priority for the Commissioner was the implementation of strategies set by the Board. Mr. Fair said the top priority should be adoption of a budget. He suggested that a small committee of the Board be appointed to take the Chairman's proposal and bring a suggested evaluation process back to the Board. Further, he suggested that this committee have conversations with the Commissioner for his input. He proposed this as a motion; Mr. García seconded the motion. Mr. Handy said this should be completed by the September meeting. Members of the Board concurred in the motion.

Ms. Bradshaw added that there should also be performance evaluation criteria for the Commissioner's direct reports; pay increases should be tied to these reviews.

4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held June 17, 2003

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the Minutes of the Meeting held June 17, 2003, as written. Dr. Proctor seconded the motion, and members concurred.

5. Recognition: Ms. Dayle Timmons

Commissioner Horne recognized Ms. Dayle Timmons, the 2004 Burdines Florida Teacher of the Year, with the Board's "Apple Award." He said she is a nationally-certified teacher with 23 years of experience. She is currently a Primary Literacy Coach and Special Education teacher working with students in a K-1 inclusion class. She mentors other teachers in the early grades. He noted that she has demonstrated success with her reading instruction. In the class she teaches, 67 percent of kindergarten students, including ESE students, were reading by midyear; 93 percent were reading by the end of the year, 2002. The Commissioner noted that when her selection as Teacher of the Year was announced, the other finalists agreed that she was the one who should be selected.

Ms. Timmons thanked the Board for this special recognition. She said the nation is watching Florida's K-20 model. She said she was happy to represent more than 130,000 teachers in Florida who were on the frontlines. She said it was the teacher who had the most influence on a child's performance; teachers had to step up to the new standards and were accountable to meet them. She said while there was some reluctance, they were moving to meet the new standards. She said that with the support of the State Board of Education, teachers would be successful. The teachers are the ones who touch the children and hold the future in their hands. The mission is great; the commitment is strong. The Board provides the scaffolding. She said the children were depending on this Board for their success.

6. Commissioner's Report

A. Just Read, Florida!/ Reading Camps

Ms. Openshaw explained the policy behind third grade retention. She said fourth grade text was longer and more difficult; it was critical that students have the necessary reading skills to move to more advanced text. She showed examples of third and fourth grade narrative and expository text. She said that more than 188,000 third graders took the FCAT reading test; 43,024 scored Level 1 on the test and were eligible for Summer Reading Camps. The goal of the camps was not to promote students to the fourth grade, but for the students to leave the camps as stronger readers. Over 125 camps were visited and evaluated. She noted that six to eight weeks of camp were better than three weeks. Best practices were identified. Many districts were already looking for funding to support reading camps next year. She said she would provide a full report on the Summer Reading Camps at the Board's September meeting.

While Mr. García praised the efforts of the summer reading camps, he compared the effort to a third grader who tripped in a pothole in the schoolyard

and bruised a knee. Of course, we have the moral obligation to give a Band-aid and clean the wound, but the prime responsibility is not to keep giving out Band-aids, it is to fix the potholes. When it comes to reading, Mr. García said he believes we need to have the right incentives and disincentives to ensure that school districts were fixing the potholes. Mr. Fair said there was great concern about third grade retention. It had been the subject of a confrontation between the Governor and elected officials, who did not seem to be aware of the “good cause” exemptions. He asked the Commissioner to be sure all principals and teachers knew about these exemptions. Ms. Johnson inquired about the Academic Improvement Plans. Ms. Openshaw said the teachers were trained and would work with these Plans throughout the year. She added that teachers have dispensed with the “wait to fail” model. In addition, the schools would benefit from the 8000 teachers now trained as reading teachers.

Mr. García said he was concerned about the lack of accountability in the use of Title I funds. Chancellor Warford responded that he had begun a review of these funds. He said teachers and principals were using the data. They have a profile of the students scoring at Level 1, and will use data gathering mechanisms to track the students and address the symptoms with appropriate solutions.

B. Update, New High School Graduation Options

Chancellor Warford reviewed the new statutory provisions regarding high school graduation, including the new accelerated high school graduation programs. He described the guiding principles for providing technical assistance to the districts and reviewed several key questions regarding these new graduation options. Mr. Fair said he had read some negative editorials on the shortened graduation option. Mr. Warford said the program was not well understood. This was not a program to abolish the twelfth grade, but an option for mature and responsible students to choose to finish high school early. It should be viewed as another acceleration mechanism. He said he has communicated with principals and teachers and would hold a number of workshops with guidance counselors. Mr. García noted that it was critical to get this information to parents, in all the languages spoken by the parents.

Dr. Eads said she was concerned about the preparation of students for colleges and universities outside Florida, and whether students graduating with 18 credits would be prepared to compete for admission to these schools. Mr. Warford said every parent should ask these questions. He noted that competition was keen for admission to universities within Florida.

Dr. Proctor said he continued to be concerned about the value of the senior year. He said he feared that students taking this early graduation option might be those most in need of the senior year. Students should not be offered the option of simply opting out of the twelfth grade. Mr. Handy concurred that the senior year should be an important year; this was a national issue.

C. Update: Teacher Certification

Commissioner Horne advised the Board that the backlog of 6764 delinquent teacher applications was eliminated. Applicants and districts are able to determine the status of applications via the DOE website, thereby reducing the number of calls to the Communications Center. In addition, the website has been enhanced to include a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Several other technology-based enhancements have been implemented enabling employees to review and act on files more quickly. He said the goal was to process 90 percent of the applications within two weeks.

D. Choice/Independent Education Office

Commissioner Horne described the review and reorganization of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, including a review of the several scholarship programs managed by that office, i.e., the Corporate Tax, McKay and Opportunity Scholarship Programs. He described the accountability system implemented within this Office.

E. Strategic Plan Review and Management

Commissioner Horne advised the Board that during July and August, staff had conducted a thorough review of the Strategic Plan and the process used to manage its execution. There is increased emphasis on the measures and goals for the Imperatives, Management Objectives, and Projects to improve resource allocation and progress tracking. Further, every employee will know how his/her job fits into the goals and objectives of the Department. A tracking system will be implemented to facilitate the monitoring of the execution of the plan.

F. Update, Class Size

Commissioner Horne said baseline data were established for core curricular classes in March 2003. He distributed information on the implementation of the Class Size Amendment. He said that districts will report class sizes for 2003-2004 in October 2003. These data will be used to determine compliance with the required two-student reduction. For districts not in compliance with this requirement in 2003-2004, a portion of the funds will be transferred from class size operating funds to capital outlay funds. He noted that many districts did not see the potential impact and would have difficulty when they had to meet the size requirements for individual classrooms.

Dr. Proctor inquired how the schools would address class size requirements in the face of options provided to students to switch schools because of school grades and various choice alternatives. The Commissioner said that was the folly of the Class Size Amendment. With these student choice programs in place, it will be difficult to meet the Amendment's requirements. Mr. Fair inquired when this information would be released for public consumption to prepare them about these impossible tasks. Commissioner Horne said he would

continue to work with the Communications Team, particularly with the \$1 billion request in the 2004-2005 Budget Request for Class Size costs. The Board might need to take a more aggressive position. Dr. Proctor noted that the additional \$600 million requested for class size could be spent on any number of other important programs.

Ms. Johnson moved that the Board approve the Commissioner's Report. Mr. Fair seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

Dr. Proctor moved that this Board go on record opposed to the continuation of the Class Size Amendment requirements beyond the third grade, and that staff develop a program to bring the resulting wasteful expenditure of funds to the attention of the Legislature and the public. Mr. Fair seconded the motion. Ms. Bradshaw inquired whether the sense of the motion was that this Board was endorsing the repeal of the Class Size Amendment. She said the Board would have to endorse the repeal of the entire Amendment and suggest statutory language implementing limited class sizes for K-3.

Mr. García said his concern continued to be the movement of teachers out of the urban schools to the more prosperous suburban schools. He said he had read about a Teacher Preparation Index in the Dallas Morning News and suggested that the Commissioner's staff prepare a similar index for every school in Florida showing the number of teachers certified and teaching in field; the number of teachers certified and teaching out of field; and teachers with more than two years of experience. He said he believed the poorer schools had fewer qualified teachers. He said this information should also be provided to the public, particularly with the numbers of new teachers needed to meet the class size requirements.

There were no further comments, and members of the Board concurred in the motion unanimously.

7. Consideration of 2004-2005 Budget Recommendations

Mr. Handy said the Board had engaged staff in extensive discussions during the previous day's workshop about the proposed 2004-2005 Legislative Budget Request.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the 2004-2005 K-20 Legislative Budget Request, as presented, and authorize the Commissioner to make technical adjustments, as necessary. Dr. Proctor seconded the motion.

Dr. Proctor said he hoped the Board would be involved in the budget issues earlier, so that their discussions could be more deliberative. He asked that staff identify those line items over which the Board has no discretion, such as the Federal flow-through funds.

Mr. García offered an amendment to the motion, that the source of funds for the baccalaureate programs at the community colleges be reflected in the State University System budget, not in the community colleges budget, similar to the funding for St.

Petersburg College. He said last year, these programs did not receive funding, and placement of the funds within the community colleges budget had been dictated by legislative staff. Ms. Johnson inquired whether the Board had the authority to shift these budget items. Mr. Woodring responded that the problem with this amendment was that the Board of Governors had already approved its budget. This Board could not modify the recommendations of the Board of Governors. Mr. García suggested that the Chair of that Board, Mrs. Carolyn Roberts, could make the case for this proposal to her Board. Mr. Handy said that there was no authority for Mr. García's motion. Mr. García withdrew his motion.

Members of the Board concurred unanimously in approving the motion on the Budget Request.

Mr. García moved that the Commissioner and the Chairman work with the Board of Governors and express the sense of this Board that the funding for the community college baccalaureate programs should not fall within the budget of the community colleges, but should fall within the budget for the state universities. Once this is accomplished, there should be legislation placing these programs in the correct governance structure. He suggested that the Commissioner and staff address the issue of these programs, the fees, and PECO funding, and schedule a workshop on this for the September Board meeting. Dr. Eads seconded the motion.

Mr. García said the Board had a process to approve these programs. The colleges have proceeded to seek SACS accreditation. The Board should stand in support of these previous decisions.

Dr. Proctor inquired whether this Board had the authority to make a budget amendment to the Board of Governors budget. Mr. Woodring said this Board might recommend the deletion of the item in one portion of the budget contingent on the Board of Governors adding the item to its budget. Ms. Johnson clarified that the Board of Governors had not discussed this issue. Ms. Bradshaw noted that this was an important issue with policy implications. Members of the Board concurred unanimously in the motion.

8. Consideration of School Improvement Plans for Double "F" Schools

Chancellor Warford stated that the materials distributed to the Board members indicated that the proposed plan from Ribault High School was not recommended. Since then, the plan had been updated and staff now recommended that plan for approval by the Board.

- A. Superintendent John C. Fryer, Duval County, Ribault High School, Lawrence Dennis, Principal

Superintendent Fryer said he was proud that Ms. Dayle Timmons, the Teacher of the Year, worked in his district, which was also the home of the Numbers 2 and 3 ranked high schools in the nation. He explained the District's plan. A new principal had been hired for the school. Mr. Dennis came from a

premier middle school and had 15 years of experience. Students had left the school, and the district was providing \$700,000 in additional funds. He described the placement of new core area teachers, as well as new English and math resource teachers. He noted a weakness in the lack of available ESE certified teachers in the district.

Mr. Fair inquired about the number of students who had left the school. Mr. Dennis said approximately 400 students had left. He said the highlight of the school's plan was the "double block" of students during the school day, to provide extra reading and math. He noted that one third of the students in the high school are ESE students.

Dr. Eads inquired if teachers had been moved out of the high school. Mr. Fryer said they had. Mr. Dennis noted that the leadership team was developing strategies to individualize instruction to the students' needs.

Dr. Proctor moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Ribault High School, as presented. Mr. Fair seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

B. Superintendent Ronald Blocker, Orange County, Jones High School,
Lorenzo Phillips, Principal

Superintendent Blocker said he had hoped for a good year. Orange County now had more "A" schools, and an increased graduation rate. Nine of the 11 "F" schools had improved. As a result of the school choice plan, 200 students had transferred from the school, 24 to private schools. He described some of the major changes at the school, including the hiring of a new principal. Mr. Phillips has the support of the community. There are new reading coaches and regular data assessment. Mr. Blocker said he was receiving quarterly reports. He said the school would be implementing the Continuous School Improvement Model. Mr. Phillips said he was excited about this opportunity. He said the school was completely renovated during the summer and there is a strong emphasis on reading by the staff. He said the teachers need to be more like coaches, and focus on correcting what went wrong. In addition, he has put a strong mentoring program in place.

Mr. Fair inquired if the district was satisfied by the services provided by the Department of Education. Mr. Blocker said he was. Mr. Fair inquired of Mr. Phillips about the process used to retain or remove teachers. Mr. Phillips responded that they were tracking the teachers' record of success in teaching students, interviewing the teachers, and monitoring the data from the previous year. Mr. Garcia inquired about the reading curriculum in use. Mr. Phillips said they were using Read ABC and Corrective Reading. He said that every class included a reading component and that reading teachers were provided to those needing the most help.

Ms. Johnson inquired about the number of ESE students. Mr. Phillips said about one third of the students were ESE students. All but one of the ESE teachers are certified. She inquired whether Orange County had been awarded a Reading Grant. Mr. Blocker said the district had won a Reading Coach Model Grant.

Mr. Handy inquired what would be done differently. Mr. Blocker responded that there was new leadership at the school. He said the students had not taken the tests seriously, nor had the parents inspired their children to take the tests seriously.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Jones High School, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

C. Superintendent Merritt R. Stierheim, Miami-Dade County, Booker T. Washington Senior High School, Gloria Evans, Principal

Superintendent Stierheim provided corrected information to the Board about the percentages of Miami-Dade County students reading at grade level. He said they had received incorrect data. He described "Project 4 High," the district's plan to improve the 4 double "F" schools. He noted that the district had scored some major successes. It now had 110 "A" schools, increased numbers of "B" and "C" schools, and a 7 percent drop in the number of "F" schools. He introduced Ms. Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer.

Ms. Toural described the support provided to the principals. The district was adding new professional staff. Each principal was getting a new Vice Principal who was a Curriculum Specialist and a new Business Manager. Also, the schools were each getting an ESOL Specialist, an ESE Specialist, and a Social Worker. All this would give the principals time to serve as principal teachers at the school. She noted that 80 percent of the County's K-12 students were minorities and the district absorbed 16,000 new foreign-born students every year. She said the district was implementing the Continuous School Improvement Model and had invited one of the developers to meet with the principals. She said Reading Departments were added to the four schools. Reading teachers are eligible for a \$9000 incentive bonus for teaching at one of the double "F" schools and an additional bonus at the end of the year for increased student performance. Staff have returned to school early for training.

Mr. García said 85 percent of knowledge is acquired by reading. He said he was concerned that 63 percent of the students in Miami-Dade County in grade 3 were not reading at grade level. He invited the Superintendent to travel with him to Los Angeles where they had made significant gains in student reading scores. Ms. Bradshaw inquired about students scoring low in reading and high in writing. Ms. Toural said this was not an uncommon phenomenon.

Dr. Eads said she was concerned about the expensive additions to the schools' administrative staff. She asked how teachers were eligible for the special bonus. Ms. Tural responded that the bonus would go to teachers if a majority of their students made significant reading gains. She added that it was difficult to recruit teachers to these inner-city schools.

Ms. Evans said Booker T. Washington was first established as a high school in 1926. From 1967 to 1999, it had been a middle school. In April, teams of teachers began working to align the curriculum to the Sunshine Standards. Students would be "double blocked" in reading and math and would thereby lose some elective courses. Teacher teams would work with specific groups of students. Student testing during the year may change what is taught. Students would be assessed regularly to determine the appropriate help needed. Four reading teachers had been added, two in the ninth grade and two in the tenth grade to provide intensive reading instruction. She noted that her Vice Principals were math and language arts reading teachers. She said she would also be working on ninth grade attendance problems. She said the Department was providing excellent assistance to her.

Mr. Fair noted that the school was close to four homeless shelters. Ms. Evans said that approximately 10 to 20 percent of the school's population came from these shelters. She said she had sought help to document this population properly and to develop a strategy to assist these students. Chancellor Warford said the Department would provide special assistance.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Booker T. Washington Senior High School, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

D. Miami Edison Senior High School, Theron A. Clark, Principal

Mr. Clark said he was new to the school this year. He said many teachers had been reassigned from the school. Students would take more language arts and math classes; some of the extracurricular courses had been dropped. In addition, students would receive assistance in how to take the tests.

Mr. Fair inquired about the linguistic capacity of the teachers. Mr. Clark said that one third of the teachers were trilingual; the others are sensitive to the culture of the students, 83 percent of whom are Creole speaking. He said that one third of his students are ESE students. Mr. Fair inquired whether communications from the school were sent in multiple languages. Mr. Clark said they were.

Mr. Handy inquired what the school would do if it were an "F" school again next year. Mr. Clark said he had faith that the school would improve. He said he was pleased with the services provided by the Department. Ms. Johnson inquired about the effect of the "A+" program. Mr. Clark said that it gave the

school a model to follow. He added that the parents needed to become active in the school.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Miami Edison Senior High School, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

E. Miami Jackson Senior High School, Ronald D. Major, Principal

Mr. Major said Miami Jackson Senior High School had about 2200 students. He had assigned the strongest teachers to the lowest performing readers. He would also be “double blocking” students in English and math. Remediation would be provided for eleventh and twelfth grade students who had not passed the FCAT. Tutoring would be provided after school, on Saturdays, and at night. School staff would use student data to determine student strengths and weaknesses. Community specialists had been hired and he would be building a stronger PTSA. He thanked the Superintendent for the extra staff. He added that he had served in Viet Nam, and that this was a “no excuses” approach. He said the Department was providing the assistance he needed.

Mr. Fair commented that the tutors would need to be trained. He said a faculty member at FIU had developed an excellent tutoring training program.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Miami Jackson Senior High School, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

F. Miami Northwestern Senior High School, Steve Gallon, Principal

Mr. Steve Gallon said he was dismayed that the school had fallen short of a “D” by four points last year, and by three points this year. He said this challenge was an opportunity to grow, not an opportunity to wallow. He said the staff was working to improve its utilization of data and to see where the school has fallen short. He said they had developed a master schedule for reading and math. He said there were more than 1000 students in the ninth grade and almost 2000 students in grades 9 and 10. He said as a high school, they were now more involved with their feeder schools. The staff had also created a benchmark calendar for the issues and assessments to be addressed during the year. He said he was pleased with the assistance of the Department.

Mr. Stierheim said that in Miami-Dade, 8700 students were eligible to move to another school; 647 students moved to a new school, 400 chose a private school. Mr. Fair said it would be helpful to have the information from all the districts where parents could exercise a school choice.

Mr. Fair moved that the Board approve the School Improvement Plan for Miami Northwestern Senior High School, as presented. Dr. Eads seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

Mr. Handy said this Board was focused on high student achievement. These school reports were not meant to stigmatize the schools or the students, but to focus attention on the students. He said there were approximately 29 schools that had received their first "F" grade this year. He asked Board members to suggest how appropriately and effectively to review their School Improvement Plans, noting the time consumed by these six reports.

9. Consideration of Guidelines for Appeals on Non-renewal/Termination of Charter School Contracts

Dr. Penn-Williams said the Agenda included the Guidelines for Appeals for the Non-renewal, the Termination, and the Immediate Termination of Charter School Contracts. She reviewed the timelines and the process for these appeals. She said the State Board was required to review these appeals within 90 days of the filing of the appeal.

Dr. Proctor said he was concerned with the possible effects of a school's appeal of an immediate termination for "good cause" if the school won the appeal. He said by the end of the process the school might have lost its students, its faculty, and its space. He suggested that there might be consideration of some type of injunctive relief.

Dr. Eads moved that the Board approve the "Guidelines for Charter School Non-Renewal, Termination, and Immediate Termination Appeals," as presented. Ms. Bradshaw seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda

Dr. Eads moved that the Board approve the following items, as presented. Mr. García seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

- A. Proposed Articulation Rules: Proposed Amended Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation between Universities, Community Colleges, and School Districts, and Proposed Amended Rule 6A-1.09941, State Uniform Transfer of High School Credits

The Board approved the proposed amendments to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation between Universities, Community Colleges, and School Districts, and Rule 6A-1.09941, State Uniform Transfer of High School Credits, as presented.

- B. Project Funding Recommendations for the College Reach-Out Program

The Board approved the recommendations from the Advisory Council for funding the 2003-2004 College Reach Out Program Projects, as presented.

- C. Approval of Settlement Agreement modifying the Consent Decree in LULAC, et al. v. State Board of Education, et al.

The Board approved the Settlement Agreement modifying the Consent Decree in LULAC, et al. v. State Board of Education, et al., as presented.

- D. Approve Transaction Quitclaiming Title to Property to certain Fraternities and Sororities, UF

The Board consented to the transaction quitclaiming title to property to certain Fraternities and Sororities at the University of Florida, as presented.

- E. Approval of Site Designation, Special Purpose Center, City of Miramar, Broward Community College

The Board approved the request from the Board of Trustees of Broward Community College for designation of a Special Purpose Center in the City of Miramar, as presented.

- F. Resolution of the State Board of Education Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$32,500,000 Florida State University Financial Assistance, Inc., Refunding Revenue Bonds to Refund Certain Outstanding Obligations

The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$32,500,000 to refund the outstanding balance of the \$52,750,000 Florida State University Financial Assistance, Inc., Educational, Including Athletic, Facilities Improvement Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 1994, as presented.

- G. Resolutions of the State Board of Education Authorizing the Issuance of Not Exceeding \$516,300,000 State of Florida, Full Faith and Credit, State Board of Education Public Education Capital Outlay Bonds, 2003 Series and the Sale of Not Exceeding \$300,000,000 State of Florida, Full Faith and Credit, State Board of Education Public Education Capital Outlay Bonds, 2003 Series B

The Board authorized the issuance and sale of the subject Public Education Capital Outlay bonds by the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, as presented.

- H. Resolution of the State Board of Education Requesting the Division of Bond Finance to Issue and Sell the Not Exceeding \$600,000,000 State of Florida, State Board of Education Lottery Revenue Bonds to Finance the Class Size Reduction Lottery Revenue Bond Program

The Board adopted a resolution requesting the issuance and sale of Lottery revenue bonds by the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, as presented.

11. Status Reports

- A. CEPRI Projects, 2003-2004

Dr. Bill Proctor, Executive Director, CEPRI, distributed the CEPRI newsletter. He introduced Mr. Bob Taylor, Vice Chairman, CEPRI, who had also served as Chairman of its predecessor, the Post-secondary Education Planning Commission. Mr. Taylor said the paper adopted by the Council in July, "Transforming Education," laid out an approach for achieving a K-20 system. He said the overall goal was to raise the level of awareness throughout the State of the importance of education and to be a force for change. He said he was not advocating a variety of disparate projects, started in a spirit of reform and then dropped in favor of other new efforts. It was the Council's sense that there was no single state level entity dedicated to support improvements in education.

Ms. Bradshaw questioned the lack of commitment to staying the course for improved education. She said this Board had demonstrated its resolve to the "A+" program and to providing assistance to schools with failing grades. She said the Governor and the Commissioner face these issues every day. She inquired if Mr. Taylor supported going in another direction.

Mr. Taylor said it was necessary to have the collective will to move the system forward and to deal with the policy issues posed by the Bright Futures Scholarships, the consequences and costs of the implementation of the Class Size Amendment, and tuition. He said these were political issues; the question was having the political will to deal with them.

Mr. Taylor suggested that a private entity was needed to assist this Board to push these reforms. Mr. Handy noted that the 1998 Constitutional Amendment created a citizen board to advocate for reform and change. He said Mr. Taylor's report was unclear about the need for another stand-alone entity. Mr. Taylor suggested that the Board needed business partners for this effort.

Dr. Proctor, SBE, added that the need for a new private entity advocating for education was not clear in the CEPRI paper. He said it was easy to proclaim the need for a vision, but getting beyond the vision and obtaining the means and setting the standards was the hard work. He noted that when failure rates rose, standards were compromised. He said he would argue that this Board has demonstrated political will to stay the course and to endure the criticism.

Mr. García said everything in education is political. This Board, as an “outside board of directors,” has the independence and the background to take on the hard issues. He noted that the composition of this Board would change with every Governor, but the Council of 100, a group of powerful business leaders in this State, had a huge hand in this structure. He suggested that they already had a committee dedicated to education. He suggested using this Council, rather than creating a new group.

Mr. Handy recommended that Mr. Taylor and CEPRI continue working with the Commissioner and Mr. Winn on these issues.

B. Universal Prekindergarten Task Force

Chancellor Warford reported that the Task Force had begun its meetings, chaired by Lt. Governor Toni Jennings. The Task Force had met July 23, 2003, to discuss Standards and Accountability, and would meet August 20, 2003, to discuss Costs and Resources. A final meeting would be held September 17, 2003, to discuss Delivery Design and Administrative Structure. He said he anticipated bringing a fairly comprehensive report from the Task Force to the Board at its October meeting.

C. Educational Facilities Task Force

Mr. Monteleone advised the Board that the first meeting of the Task Force would be August 26, 2003, in Tallahassee. He said members of the Task Force came from many different interest areas, and represented schools, universities, government, the construction industry, the financial industry, lawyers, accountants and architects. He said the scope for the Task Force went beyond the requirements of the Class Size Amendment and would encompass a K-20 review. Members of the Task Force would receive historical information on enrollment, program activity and space standards; and the Task Force would explore alternative methods, financial effectiveness, efficiencies, and effective construction and maintenance. He said he hoped the Task Force would make recommendations to minimize facilities funding needs, suggest revisions to the facilities planning and budgeting processes, suggest new funding sources and methods for distributing available resources, and look at methods of construction to meet program needs and to impact facilities maintenance.

The Task Force would meet in three committees to address the Facilities Planning Process, the Facilities Budgeting Process, and Creating Alternatives. He said the Task Force hoped to complete its report and present it to the State Board at its February meeting.

Dr. Eads suggested that the Task Force also consider the possibility of terrorist activities. Security issues should also be considered during the Task Force’s deliberations.

D. K-20 Accountability Task Force

Dr. Kim McDougal reviewed the K-20 Accountability Project, the required deliverables, the way of the work using sector groups, timelines, guiding principles and key words. She directed Board members to the website for continuing information on the project.

E. Legislative Interim Projects and Studies

Dr. McDougal said both Senate and House staff were involved in a number of interim projects and studies with which staff in the Department were involved. She said the summary of these projects could be found on the Board's Agenda website for this meeting.

12. Miscellaneous

In response to the Chairman's earlier inquiry about handling the reporting of the single "F" schools, Dr. Proctor suggested that he divide the schools and give each Board member about four schools to review and report findings back to the Board.

Mr. Handy appointed Mr. Fair and Mr. García to work with him in drafting the performance evaluation and criteria for the Commissioner and his direct reports.

He advised the Board that at midnight, August 19, 2003, ACT scores would be released and that Florida could be very proud of the achievement of its Hispanic and African-American students who had scored very well.

He suggested that the Board's September meeting, to be held at Edison Community College in Fort Myers, begin with a workshop at 9:00 a.m., followed by the regular Board meeting at noon or 1:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 4:00 p.m., August 19, 2003.

F. Philip Handy,
Chairman

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary