

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE  
TASK FORCE

High School Reform Task Force  
Meeting #3  
December 12, 2005  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm



## SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Commissioner John Winn, Kathy Corder, Sherri Hampton, Rosann Sidener, Joan Minnis, Melissa Hardin, James Lawson, Bob Richburg, Margaret Smith, Nancy Bostock, David Mosrie, Daniel Snyder, Jim Warford, Lou Miller, Fred Williams, Bill Vogel, Brenda Speed, Judy Marty, Stephanie Kraft, Edwin Massey, Cherry Fitch

- Commissioner John Winn and K-12 Chancellor Cheri Pierson Yecke welcomed participants to the joint meeting of the Florida Summit on Mathematics and Science Education and the High School Reform Task Force.
- Dr. Norman Thagard, Associate Dean, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, presented “The Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee” and “FAMU-FSU College of Engineering’s Bridge to K-12 Education”.
- Pat O’Connell Ross, Director of the Math Science Partnerships Program, United States Department of Education, presented “Current State of Mathematics and Science Education in the United States”.
- Dr. Harry Orf, Vice President, Scientific Operations, Scripps Florida, presented “US Education in the Bioscience Century: Are we ready?”.
- The meeting recessed for lunch.
- Dr. Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President, Southern Regional Education Board presented “High Schools That Work”.
- Commissioner Winn called the separate meeting of the High School Reform Task Force to order.
- Dr. Gene Bottoms answered questions of Task Force members regarding issues discussed at previous Task Force meetings and how they compare to other southeastern states.
- Task Force members reviewed a hand out on the “Florida Diploma Major/Minor Option”, gave suggestions and asked questions of DOE staff.
- Task Force members reviewed a hand-out on the “Governor’s Medallions of Excellence” program, gave suggestions and asked questions of DOE staff.
- Superintendent Bill Vogel updated the Task Force on career academies and small learning communities in Seminole County high schools.
- At Commissioner Winn’s request, Superintendent Margaret Smith assessed the alignment of the Task Force’s progress with the FADSS high school reform recommendations, indicating the only area that needed more discussion was meaningful parent involvement.
- Discussion commenced on strategies to increase meaningful parent involvement.

- Mary Jane Tappen reviewed a hand-out with revised goals and corresponding strategies and asked Task Force break out groups to rank their top five strategies for implementing high school reform policies.

Group 1:

- 1) Governor's Bronze Seal of Excellence
- 2) Foundations in Middle School (core curriculum, summer literacy camps)
- 3) Implement end of course assessments including essential skills
- 4) Providing instructional leadership training for principals using team approach
- 5) Data-driven, student-specific research
- 6) Increase number of proficient readers
- 7) Reforming high school guidance programs, incorporated a career plan with parent involvement
- 8) Smaller Learning Communities/Career Academies
- 9) Flexible and creative scheduling
- 10) Earn high school diplomas and college credit simultaneously

Group 2:

- 1) Establish academic standards for each course
- 2) Middle School to High School Transition
- 3) Career Pathways
- 4) Professional Development
- 5) Guidance and Parental Involvement
- 6) Governor's Medallions of Excellence Program (add reading and mathematics)

- Commissioner Winn advised of next steps: DOE staff will organize these recommendations, provide a framework for the report, solicit member input, and discuss how to formally present the final report to the legislature.
- Commissioner Winn entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28 meeting. There was a motion and a second, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- Chancellor Yecke asked members to submit modifications to the Major/Minor Diploma Program and Governor's Medallion Program hand-outs to her and she will e-mail them the revised plans.
- Commissioner Winn adjourned the meeting.