

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Capitol, LL03
Cabinet Meeting Room
Tallahassee, Florida
March 20, 2007

Chairman T. Willard Fair welcomed the members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting in the Cabinet Meeting Room of the Capitol, at 8:30 a.m., on March 20, 2007, with the following members present: Donna Callaway, Phoebe Raulerson, Kathleen Shanahan, and Linda Taylor. Mr. Roberto Martinez joined the meeting upon his arrival in Tallahassee. Mr. Akshay Desai was not present for this meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair provided an update on the Commissioner of Education Executive Search. Chairman Fair confirmed that one proposal was received from Moten Tate, Incorporated, MTI. to conduct the search. As this proposal did not meet the stated criteria, Chairman Fair called for a motion to reject the proposal. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair reported that the timeline for the search should be extended to allow for a minimum of six months to provide potential search firms the opportunity to respond and to allow more time for the national search to be conducted. Chairman Fair stated that a revised timeline would be provided by the Commissioner.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007, State Board of Education meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair stated that recent newspaper articles had been published relating to teacher and/or administrator misconduct and the process the Department has in place to investigate these allegations. Chairman requested that a comprehensive workshop be conducted at the May 15, 2007, State Board meeting to review the current process and to be briefed on ongoing initiatives in this area. Chairman Fair requested that Commissioner Blomberg have an agenda ready for the workshop at the April 17, 2007, State Board meeting for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she agreed that a workshop was extremely important and should be held as soon as practical. The Board concurred unanimously with Chairman Fair's recommendation for the workshop.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Blomberg provided a further update on the executive search for a Commissioner of Education. Commissioner Blomberg reported that a new Invitation to

Negotiate would be issued, to include the extension of the timeline and modification of the pricing structure for payment of services to 30 percent of the negotiated salary.

Commissioner Blomberg announced the following new appointments to the Department of Education: General Counsel, Deborah Kearny, and Chief of Staff, Dr. Theresa Klebacha.

Commissioner Blomberg provided an update on Governor Crist's Plain Language Initiative. Commissioner Blomberg stated that the Department is currently in the process of reviewing the website and correspondence to determine if the Department is in compliance with the Governor's initiative.

Commissioner Blomberg provided an update on the Department's legislative agenda. Commissioner Blomberg stated that performance pay was a priority for the House and Senate and that the proposed legislation is focused on student learning gains and proficiency and provides the flexibility to provide up to ten percent of the annual salary of a teacher. Commissioner Blomberg stated that under the new performance pay bill district plans will be due by October 1.

Commissioner Blomberg recognized Deputy Chancellor Pam Stewart who provided an update on the Department's recruitment efforts. Deputy Chancellor Stewart stated that internet recruitment resulted in 66 districts posting active vacancies to the Teachers-Teachers.com website. Mrs. Stewart stated that 17 percent of Florida teachers recruited this year were a result of the Teachers-Teachers website.

Chancellor Cheri Yecke, K-12 Public Schools, provided an update on the status of D Schools, F schools, and D schools that were formerly F schools. Chancellor Yecke stated that the Department provided technical assistance to Orange and Jefferson Counties in February and Miami Dade and Duval Counties in March. Chancellor Yecke stated one concern of districts is the lack of professional development and support for the FCAT Science requirement which will be addressed by the Department.

Chancellor Yecke completed her report by stating that Duval County School District has reported difficulties in securing parent signatures on the student contracts. Ms. Shanahan recommended that outreach efforts be extended to PTA Presidents and church organizations to assist. Ms. Shanahan recommended that the goal be 100 percent but that compliance would be met at 75 percent.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the update on Repeating F Schools. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's report. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.099821, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, provided an overview on proposed new Rule 6A-1.099821. Mrs. Goff stated that a provider must have at least four children enrolled in the VPK program for 85 percent or more of the total number of instructional hours. Mrs. Goff stated that each provider must have at least four children participating in the Kindergarten screening. Mrs. Goff stated that the readiness rate calculation would not be reported if: (1) the provider did not have enough children participating in the program; (2) the children did not participate in the screening; or (3) the children did not attend the program for the required number of instructional hours.

Mrs. Goff stated that the readiness rate will allow kindergarten teachers to provide good instructional interventions for kindergarten students.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve proposed Rule 6A-1.099821. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Teacher Performance Pay Plans

Chancellor Yecke provided an update on the districts that are currently participating in the STAR Program. Chancellor Yecke stated that 222 charter schools and 46 school districts are participating in the STAR Program to date.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the Teacher Performance Pay Plans as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Delegation of Authority to Current Commissioner of Education

Deborah Kearney, General Counsel for the Department and State Board, provided an overview on the delegation of authority to the current Commissioner of Education. Ms. Kearney stated that the “agency head” of the Department of Education is the State Board of Education. Ms. Kearney stated that this action will allow Commissioner Blomberg to act on administrative functions including notices of public meetings, variances and waivers, etc.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the delegation of authority to current the Commissioner of Education. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve items 1-7 of the Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY ISSUES FOR CONCURRENCE:

Nicole Flesvig, Teacher Liaison, provided an overview on the outreach efforts to teachers in Florida. Mrs. Flesvig stated that the Department recently launched the Just for Teachers website. This website contains the monthly newsletter, news releases, instructional resources, new legislation, and the online teacher survey. Mrs. Flesvig stated that in February the website had a total of 20,313 visits with the average length of each visit being eleven (11) minutes. Mrs. Flesvig stated that among the most visited resources was the STAR Program and FCAT Resources.

Mrs. Flesvig reported that 12,741 Florida teachers participated in the recent teacher survey which captured all experience levels. 39 percent of the teachers surveyed have 20 or more years of experience. Mrs. Flesvig stated that the survey inquired about the following topics: (1) Educator Preparation; (2) availability of mentoring programs; (3) Perception of school leadership; (4) paperwork; (5) compensation; (6) Retention; (7) Correlation between teacher efforts and student achievement; (8) reasons for choosing Florida as state of residence.

Juan Copa, Director of the Office of Evaluation and Reporting, provided an analysis of the teacher survey which included questions relating to educator preparation; mentoring programs, perception of school leadership, compensation, retention, the correlation between teacher efforts and student achievement, and reasons for choosing Florida as state of residence.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fair stated that the next Board meeting will be held April 17, 2007, in Tallahassee, Florida.

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman