

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Florida Department of Education
December 11, 2007
Pinellas Room
Tampa Airport Marriott
Tampa, Florida

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 meeting at the Tampa Airport Marriott. The following members were present: Donna Callaway, Akshay Desai, Phoebe Raulerson, Linda Taylor, and Kathleen Shanahan. Roberto Martinez was unable to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Fair called for a motion to amend the agenda by moving consent item seven to the action agenda as requested by Mrs. Taylor. The motion was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair recognized four Florida teachers who were named to the All USA Teacher team by USA Today: Nancy Berry from Liza Jackson Preparatory School in Fort Walton Beach, nominated by Dawn Fisher and joined by Jo Henderson, CEO and Founder; Jill Putney from Tradewinds Elementary School in Coconut Creek, nominated by Erin Gaylor and joined by Susan Whiting, Principal; William Yucuis from Lyman High School from Longwood, nominated by Joan Shalls and joined by Superintendent Bill Vogel; and Gayle Solis Zavala from Gove Elementary School in Belle Glade, nominated by Ellen Smith and joined by Anne Turner, Principal.

Chairman Fair also recognized Dr. Janice Boyd, Principal of Cecil E. Gray Middle School in Lake County, as a recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Chairman Fair presented Dr. Boyd with an Obelisk on behalf of the Milken Family Foundation. Dr. Boyd was joined by her husband Stephen and Lake County Superintendent Anna Cowin.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, September 18, October 8, and October 16 meetings. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second from Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair welcomed the new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Eric J. Smith, along with the Board. The Board publicly thanked Jeanine Blomberg for her work as Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Smith reported that in his first week as Commissioner he had made many contacts and began to develop relationships throughout the state.

Commissioner Smith provided an overview of the current operating budget and the preparation for the 2008-2009 operating budget.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Delegation of Authority to Newly Appointed Commissioner of Education Eric Smith

Chairman Fair called for a motion to delegate authority relating to the duties of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, to Commissioner Eric J. Smith. The motion for delegation of authority was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Status Report on the Sunshine State Standards Consistent with Section 1001.03(1), Florida Statutes

Dr. Cheri Yecke, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, provided an overview of the "Twenty-First Century Status Report" to be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate. Chancellor Yecke stated that the report was an update on the status of amending the Sunshine State Standards and the timeline for doing so. The motion for approval of the report was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Legislative Priorities for 2008

Carrie Fraser, Director, Office of Governmental Relations, presented the 2008 Legislative Priorities for the Department of Education, including Ethics in Education, World Class Education Standards, Articulation and Acceleration, and Exceptional Student Education. Ms. Fraser stated that other issues which may arise during the 2008 Legislative Session include: school bullying, instructional materials, task force and committee proposals, and legislative committee reports and recommendations.

The motion for approval of the legislative priorities was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Proposed New Rule 6A-1.099822, School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools

Chairman Fair called for a motion to continue action on this rule to the next Board meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Dr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Annual District Action Plans and School Improvement Plans Update on Status of Repeating F School Update on Site Based Literacy Support Services provided by Just Read, Florida!

Iris Wilson, Deputy Commissioner for Student Achievement, reported to the Board on the annual district action plans and the school improvement plans for F, repeating F, and D former F schools. Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the plans as submitted. Mrs. Callaway made the motion with a second by Dr. Desai. The motion passed unanimously.

Evan Lefsky provided an overview and update on the Reading First and FLARE initiatives. The Board requested that Dr. Lefsky continue to monitoring the budgeting process relating to federal funds and to update the Board as appropriate.

Consideration of Recommendations for Appointment to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept the recommendation from Governor Charlie Crist to appoint Wade T. Dyke and the recommendation from Speaker Marco Rubio, House of Representatives, to reappoint Richard Moreno to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Appeals:

City of Palm Bay (Elementary) vs. School Board of Brevard County

City of Palm Bay (Middle) vs. School Board of Brevard County

City of Palm Bay (High) vs. School Board of Brevard County

Chairman Fair recognized Stacey Sutton, Attorney, representing the City of Palm Bay, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, and Harold Bistline, Attorney, representing the School Board of Brevard County. Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the elementary school. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to deny the application of Palm Bay Elementary School was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the middle school. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to deny the application of Palm Bay Middle School was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fair called for a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission relating to the application for the high school. A motion to uphold the Commission's decision to accept the application of Palm Bay High School was made by Ms. Shanahan with a second by Mrs. Raulerson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Fair called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Taylor with a second by Mrs. Callaway. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY ISSUE FOR CONCURRENCE

Revised Curriculum Review Process as Required by the Career and Professional Education Act, Ch. 2007-216, Laws of Florida

Lucy Hadi, Chancellor, Workforce Education, provided an overview of the Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act, created by the Legislature to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities to attract, expand and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy. Chancellor Hadi reviewed the goals, legislative provisions and accountability of the CAPE Act. K-12 Deputy Chancellor Pam Smith provided an overview of the Curriculum Review Process including the statutory requirements, responsibilities, and process.

The motion to accept the policy issue as presented was made by Mrs. Raulerson with a second by Ms. Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Update on Accountability and Assessment System

Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Measurement, provided an update on the activities of the FCAT Advisory Council and the recently released Buros Report and its findings. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that upon further analysis, recommendations will be presented to the Board for consideration through rule.

Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Mr. Rudy Rodriguez, Executive Director, presented an update on the activities of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the FSEC will review all applications using seven teams. Phase two of the review will then begin with face-to-face interviews with the review process complete by the end of January 2008.

Mrs. Taylor inquired about an opening date for schools approved by the FSEC. Mr. Rodriguez stated that new schools will open in about two to three years, but existing schools would be open upon approval by the FSEC.

Community College Update

Dr. Will Holcombe, Chancellor, and Dr. Judy Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, provided updates on the Go Higher Florida Task Force, status of Baccalaureate Degree Proposals, Regulatory Parameters for Handling Faculty Misconduct and/or Termination for Cause, Community College Tuition Policy, and Enrollment in Community Colleges.

Dr. Bilsky stated that the recommendations of the Go Higher Florida Task Force and recommendations relating to the Baccalaureate Degree Proposals would be brought back to the Board in January for consideration and approval.

Closing

Chairman Fair asked the Board to consider a new meeting schedule for 2008. The options were (1) to continue holding a meeting every month on the third Tuesday; (2) to hold a meeting every other month on the third Tuesday, reducing the number of meetings per year from ten to six; or (3) to hold a meeting every six weeks, reducing the number of meetings per year from ten to nine. The Board unanimously voted on option number two, hold a meeting every other month on the third Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chairman Fair adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 2:30 p.m.

Lynn Abbott, Corporate Secretary

T. Willard Fair, Chairman