



North Carolina State Board of Education

The State Board of Education is charged with supervising and administering "the free public school system and the educational funds provided for its support."

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sbe highlights

Notes on the state board of education...

Jan. 5-6, 2005

*SBE Meeting in Moore County Schools' Central Office,
Sandy Grove Elementary School, Hoke County Schools*

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0501_sbagenda.html. Click on the appropriate agenda category, High Student Performance (HSP); Quality Teachers, Administrators and Staff (QP); Effective and Efficient Operations (EEO); Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools (SS); or Strong Family, Community and Business Support (FCB).

Planning Session — The State Board of Education held its annual planning session in Pinehurst, covering a variety of topics. Members received a report on MDC's State of the South by Ferrell Guillory, an update on the 2005 legislative outlook, details on DPI's Balanced Scorecard project to set priorities for the agency's work, and additional information on family involvement and the Board's education policy-making process.

Issues Session — As part of the State Board of Education's meeting in Moore and Hoke counties, Moore County Superintendent Susan Purser gave a "snapshot" presentation about Moore County Schools' successes and challenges. The school system is experiencing a significant increase in Hispanic students and also an increase in the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Achievement gaps in Moore County are closing among groups of students. Moore County Schools and Sandhill Community College also are collaborating on a new program called First Step to provide high school students with early college opportunities. The program will be piloted in fall 2005-spring 2006. Full implementation will be in fall 2006.

Good News

Hoke County Update — Hoke County Schools' Superintendent Allen Strickland made a special presentation to the Board concerning the progress that this school system has made over the past several years. Over the past nine years, math scores have gained an average of five points per year, moving from 54.7 percent to 84.1 percent. Reading proficiency has improved from 49.4 percent to 77.6 percent. Over the last three years, gains in reading have totaled 16.1 percent. End-of-course proficiency also has increased also, although more modestly, from 40.8 percent proficient to 53.9 percent proficient. Hoke County, the initial home county of the initial plaintiff in the Leandro case, has benefited from the LEA Assistance Program and also from Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding. County education leaders have set some key strategic goals for 2010, including the following: 100 percent of students meeting or exceeding state and federal standards for achievement in the core academic areas of the ABCs of Public Education and the No Child Left Behind law; and a teacher attrition rate below the state and national level for school districts of comparable size and demographics and a 100 percent Highly Qualified staff (as determined by No Child Left Behind) at each school.

Futures for Kids — The SBE approved a resolution expressing its appreciation to the College Foundation of North Carolina and Futures for Kids for working together to increase the success rate of students in North Carolina's education system. Board members heard a report on Futures for Kids (F4K), an Internet-based inquiry model to help students learn about careers and how to prepare for them.

Action Items

- **Revision to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Input (HSP 1)** — Final approval was given to student accountability policy amendments to comply with requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law. These amendments did not attract any public input during the formal hearing process.
- **Report and Recommendations from the Select Committee on Lateral Entry (QP 1)** — Twenty-six recommendations are at the center of the report of the Select Committee on Lateral Entry approved by the State Board this month. These recommendations address licensure requirements, accountability of the regional Alternative Licensure Centers for support of lateral entry teachers, accountability of LEAs, community colleges and institutions of higher education for support of lateral entry teachers, funding support, continued monitoring and related issues. The recommendations would replace the lateral entry license with an Alternative Professional License.
- **Response to the Report on Professional Development from the Center for School Leadership Development (QP 2)** — Board members approved their legislatively-required evaluation of the reports submitted by the UNC Board of Governors concerning the work of the Center for School Leadership Development and how it aligns with the State Board's priorities. This professional development is supposed to address needs identified by the State Board of Education using strategies that the Board recommends. The Board's response noted that the Center should continue to use data to evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and include information about this in future reports.
- **State Evaluation Committee Program Approval Recommendation (QP 3)** — Program approval was granted for teacher education programs at Belmont Abbey College, Brevard College and Queens University.
- **Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Established in 2001 (EEO 1)** — Six charter schools were approved for 10-year renewals: A Child's Garden Charter School, Franklin County; Clover Garden School, Alamance County; Gaston College Preparatory, Northampton County; Hope Elementary School, Wake County; The New Dimension School, Burke County; Queens Grant Community School, Mecklenburg County.
- **SBE/NCDPI Response to House Bill 1354: Short Title: Strengthen Domestic Violence Laws (SS 1)** — The final report of the SBE/DPI Response to House Bill 1354: Short Title: Strengthen Domestic Violence Laws was approved. This response includes recommendations focused on collaboration between public schools and other agencies to address prevention and intervention needs.

Action on First Reading

- **Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding Programs for 2004-05 (HSP 2)** — Following a special orientation session, the Public Schools of Robeson County will receive \$6 million from the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding. The Board approved the funding for Robeson County on first reading.
- **Amendment to North Carolina Textbook Contract (HSP 3)** — Special provisions for electronic instructional material were added to the state textbook contract that will be effective beginning Feb. 1. The 2004 Invitation to Submit Textbooks included an e-textbook pilot.
- **Changes to LEAs in LEA Improvement Status (HSP 4)** — Johnston, Rutherford and Pitt County school districts were removed from LEA Improvement Status. The change was made in response to a DPI investigation that showed students with disabilities' graduation rates as a result of students taking more than four years to complete the Occupational Course of Study.
- **Approval of Federal Grants (EEO 3)** — Federal grants were approved for the NCLB Enhancing Education through Technology Grant Awards – NC 1-2-1 Grants and Allotment of Federal Startup Grant Funds for Charter Schools.
- **Individual Class Size Exceptions Waiver Requests (EEO 4)** — Waivers for class size exceptions were approved. A total of 37 requests were submitted and 10 were approved.
- **Calendar Bill Waivers Requested by LEAs (EEO 5)** — Sixteen school districts received approval for district-wide waivers to the calendar law. These are based on the district's history of closures due to inclement weather. Seventy-seven additional waiver requests for individual schools based on educational purposes were discussed and will be on the Board's action agenda in February.

Discussion

- **Report and Recommendations from the Professional Development Initiative Implementation Work Group (QP 5)** — In 2003, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation launched the Professional Development Initiative with the support of the Education Cabinet. An Implementation Work Group was convened to establish an action plan for implementation of specific components of an enhanced professional development system. The report and recommendations from the Implementation Work Group were presented this month. The report, available online at <http://www.childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/>, addresses Statewide Standards for Professional Development, Online Professional Development Resource Center, Sources and Uses of Funding for Professional Development and Data Collection.
- **Revision to SBE Policy on Alternate Assessment Portfolio (HSP 5)** — Changes to the Alternate Assessment portfolio policy were presented for discussion. These changes reflect the fact that the tasks in the portfolio are now linked more directly to the essences of the N.C. Standard Course of Study and there is no need for a quality score now that the portfolio is more standardized.
- **Changes to North Carolina's No Child Left Behind Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook (HSP 6)** — Changes to the NCLB Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook were presented for discussion. The changes will incorporate the use of end-of-course assessments in English I and Grade 10 Writing for reading/language arts and Algebra I for mathematics as the state's high school NCLB assessments beginning in 2004-05. This item will be presented for action in February.
- **Report and Recommendation from the Business Education Technology Alliance (EEO 8)** — The Business and Education Technology Alliance presented its report, One Hundred Points of View: Competitive Advantages in the Knowledge Age. The BETA is a legislated representative group of educators at every level, as well as business and industry. The report outlined 20 recommendations. Key ones include the Education Cabinet adding a sixth strategic initiative to address "the infusion of information and technology literacy skills in all learning environments;" the development of E-learning standards and infrastructures that provide virtual learning opportunities to students and other citizens through all North Carolina schools, universities and community colleges; the creation of a state portal of high quality professional development resources for PreK-20 educators from a variety of reputable sources; and the determination of the total amount of funds needed for the recurring total cost of ownership to maintain and upgrade the LEA School Technology Plans, including personnel costs for technical and instructional needs.

Following the meeting, members of the State Board of Education visited with staff of Hoke County High School's Freshman Academy.

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