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Notes on the state board of education...

**June 29-30, 2005
Asheville, NC**

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0506_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).

Special Superintendents Meeting

Preceding the State Board's June Issues Session, members met with local superintendents over lunch to discuss mutual concerns. Issues discussed included the current legislative budget proposals and special provisions related to education, teacher and administrator shortages, high school reform, technology, unfunded mandates and education governance. The superintendents expressed an interest in meeting with the Board on a more regular basis.

Issues Session -

- *E-Learning Commission Report* - The Business Education Technology Alliance (BETA) requested that the State Board of Education establish a commission to "develop e-learning standards and infrastructures that provide virtual learning opportunities to students and other citizens through all North Carolina schools, universities and community colleges." This month, the E-Learning Commission presented its recommendations for "Worldwide Schoolhouse: A Global Vision for Learning in North Carolina." The concept underlying the Commission's work is the integration of available distance learning technology in public schools, community colleges and universities. The Commission calls for a 10-fold increase in data capacity to support K-20 institutions, the public and business partners. The recommendations of the Commission's subcommittees included setting an organizational structure of the North Carolina Virtual that includes an independent Board of Trustees by the 2006-07 school year or before. The 2005-06 school year would be a pilot year for the NCV with the E-Learning Commission serving as the interim Board of Trustees. Recommendations also included General Assembly funding that would not divert from existing funds for schools, legislation and policy changes for successful implementation of the NCV, strategies for course evaluation and the revision of pertinent State Board of Education policies. Initially, the NCV is seen as a service to high school students who need expanded course offerings for advanced material, remediation, credit recovery or disability. Recommendations for broadband infrastructure, course management systems, standards and marketing and communication also were included in the report. The Board will discuss the recommendations over the course of the month, sharing any issues and concerns with members of the Commission and then will entertain the recommendations for action at its August meeting.

Action Agenda

- *Revising the IPT Cut Scores for the IDEA Language Proficiency Tests* (HSP 1) - Proficiency cut scores were approved for Individualized Developmental English Activities Language Proficiency Tests (IPT). These tests are required to comply with Title III of the No Child Left Behind law.
- *Standards for AP(Advanced Placement) Social Studies Courses* (HSP 2) - The 9-12 Social Studies Standard Course of Study now includes AP European History, AP Psychology, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP U.S. History and AP World History. The College Board's outlines for these course were used in adding these items to the state's Standard Course of Study. Since receiving permission from the College Board, North Carolina has used these outlines to add AP courses to the following courses of study: mathematics, second languages and English language arts.
- *NCLB HOUSSE (High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation) Components for Exceptional Children's Teachers and Teachers of Multiple Subjects* (QP 1) - In June 2003, the Board adopted a High Objective State Standard of Evaluation that teachers of core academic subjects who are "not new" to the profession can use to be designated "highly qualified" in compliance with No Child Left Behind. The HOUSSE adopted at that time included elementary education, grades 6-9 core subject areas, grades 9-12 core subject areas and grades K-12 core subject areas. Additional areas for exceptional children's teachers and other teachers of multiple subject areas were approved this month.
- *Educational Interpreters and Translators Revised Job Class Specifications* (QP 2) - Revisions to the job descriptions for Educational Interpreter/Translator I and II were approved this month to require that sign language interpreters who have a degree in interpreting take the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment to demonstrate minimum competence.
- *Policy Revisions to the Professional Certification Program for NC School Finance Officers* (EEO 1) - The Board approved changes for School Finance Officers' professional certification. All School Finance Officers are required to meet the minimum requirements contained in the policy and to be certified by the State Board of Education.
- *Charter School Advisory Committee Selection Policy* (EEO 2) - The Charter School Advisory Committee Selection policy was revised so that members will serve three-year terms that could be renewed for an additional term.
- *Middle/Junior High School Athletics Manual Revisions* (SS 1) - Revisions to the Middle/Junior High School Athletics Manual were approved this month. This item was first presented for discussion in May.
- *Proposed Parent/Family Involvement Policy* (FCB 1) - The Board has discussed a Proposed Parent/Family Involvement Policy for several months and approved the policy this month. It lists essential elements of local school district parent/family involvement programs and also the DPI role in fostering wider and more substantial family and community involvement.

Action on First Reading

- *Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding Program for 2005-06* (HSP 3) - Local school systems receiving Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding for 2005-06 will submit plans to the State Board of Education, just as the districts participating in the pilot year did. This month, the State Board approved a menu of required strategies to be funded with the 2005-06 DSSF program. LEA plans should address recruiting and retaining teachers, using the Teacher Working Conditions Survey as a tool; focused class size reduction; and personalized education plans. The Board approved the menu of required strategies for school districts to use in developing their plans. These strategies could include data-driven decision making; efforts to recruit and retain teachers (that do not involve generic, across-board bonuses); personnel support such as support for beginning teachers and special instructional support; professional development activities; implementing personalized education plans; extending instructional time; and providing instructional materials, supplies and equipment.
- *Changes to the Accountability Workbook for Some Students with Disabilities* (HSP 4) - In April, the U.S. Department of Education announced new flexibility with regard to counting some students with disabilities as proficient when they take alternate assessments based on alternate standards. In May, the Board approved changes to the Accountability Workbook based on this announcement. Since that time, discussions with the Department of Education have highlighted additional flexibility to what was already approved. This month, the Board approved another option for the 2004-05 school year. This flexibility allows states to add a proxy calculation the AYP in some cases. For schools that do not make AYP solely because of the Students with Disabilities group, states can add a proxy calculation to its SWD AYP calculation. If this addition bumps the school over the AYP target goal, the school would then make AYP. In North Carolina, the proxy totals 14.4 percentage points. Each state's proxy amount is calculated separately and may differ.
- *Revision of SBE Policies to Reflect Changes in Initial and Continuing Licensure Requirements Approved in April 2005* (QP 3) - Revisions of Board policies to reflect changes in initial and continuing licensure requirements were approved this month so that the Administrative Procedures Act rule-making procedures can begin. These changes would replace the former structure for licensing teachers with a Standard Professional 1 License and a Standard Professional 2 License. All teachers new to North Carolina licensing would begin with a Standard Professional 1 License
- *Appeals for Extension of Time to Fulfill Licensure Coursework Requirements Due to Extenuating Circumstances* (QP 4) - In May, the State Board adopted a policy to allow individuals who have not been able to complete required coursework due to extenuating circumstances to request an extension of time. The request for an extension of time must include documents from the teacher, the principal, the superintendent and the chairman of the local board of education. Extensions were approved for 11 individuals.
- *Utilization of State Board Reserve for Innovative/Special Projects* (EEO 4) - The State Board reserves \$500,000 from the At-Risk Student Services/ Alternative Schools allotment to implement/support specific initiatives as a pilot or for program start-up. For the 2005-06 fiscal year, the Board approved the use of these funds to establish a training program and deliver training to local education agencies and charter schools for implementation of the Senior Project.
- *Calendar Bill Waivers Requested by LEAs* (EEO 5) - Two schools received calendar waivers based on educational purposes. Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College (Durham County) and Middle College High School at Johnston Community College (Johnston County) were approved for waivers.
- *Approval of Federal Grant* (EEO 6) - The Children's Trust Fund was established in 1983 by the North Carolina General Assembly to provide funds for programs and services to prevent child abuse and neglect. This month, a \$10,000 award was approved for the Department of Health and Human Services to support the implementation of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention recommendations.
- *Identification of Persistently Dangerous Schools* (SS 2) - In 2005, twelve schools were visited to review their possible identification as "persistently dangerous" as required by the No Child Left Behind federal law. According to SBE policy, a "persistently dangerous school" is a public school in which the conditions during the past two school years continually exposed its students to injury from violent criminal offenses and is an elementary, middle or secondary public school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1,000 students (.5 or more per 100 students) in two consecutive school years. The State Board of Education did not label any school as "persistently dangerous" this year.

Discussion

- *Science Laboratory Safety* (HSP 5) - This information item from May was moved to the discussion agenda for June/July. The Board is being asked to approve policy for statewide implementation that aligns with the NC School Boards Association's model Policy Code for School Science Laboratory Safety standards; to ensure quality technical assistance by having DPI approve professional development providers in science laboratory safety; and to have DPI create a committee to develop a compliance procedure for the policy and a process for approving professional development providers.
- *Policy Delineating the Test Development Process for the North Carolina Writing Assessment* (HSP 6) - A proposed policy to specify the test development process for the North Carolina Writing Assessments was presented for discussion.
- *Revision of Licensure Renewal Policy for Expired Licenses* (QP 5) - In July 1999, the State Board adopted a policy to allow individuals whose non-provisional licenses had expired to be issued a validated license for three years. During the three-year period, the individual was expected to complete 15 renewal credits. Because individuals with validated licenses do not meet the federal definition of "Highly Qualified" and because local school districts need to be able to employ such individuals, a revision to the renewal policy was discussed this month. This revision would allow local districts to request renewal of these expired licenses as Standard Professional 1 or Standard Professional 2 licenses based on the need of the employing LEA. This item will be on the Board's agenda for action in August.
- *NCLB HOUSSE Components for Exceptional Children's Teachers and Teachers of Multiple Subjects* (QP 6) - To better meet the needs of high school science teachers who are teaching only one science area, additional High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation components have been developed to provide a way for these teachers to demonstrate that they are "Highly Qualified" under No Child Left Behind requirements. These were presented for discussion this month and will return for possible action on the August agenda.
- *State Evaluation Committee Program Approval Recommendations* (QP 7) - The State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education is charged with reviewing reports of on-site program approval visits and recommending program approval. Recommendations were presented for Brevard College, Chowan College, Elizabeth City State University, Guilford College, Lees-McRae College, Lenior-Rhyne College, Livingstone College, Shaw University, Southeastern College at Wake Forest, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, St. Augustine's College.
- *Recommendations for Preliminary Approval of 2005 Charter School Applications* (EEO 7) - Three charter schools that met the application criteria established by the Board were discussed this month. One school will be chosen in August to fill the one remaining Charter School slot. The three schools recommended by the Charter School Advisory Committee were Roxboro Community School in Person County; Davidson Secondary School, Charlotte-Mecklenburg; and Academy for Classical Education, New Hanover County.

Good News

Asheville City Schools - The State Board of Education held its June meeting at the Asheville City Schools central office. Asheville City Schools' Board Chair Allison Jordan, Associate Superintendent Allen Johnson and Executive Director for Community Relations Charlie Glazener welcomed the State Board to Asheville and provided a snapshot of the district and a summary of its accomplishments.

Special Recognitions

- *Regional Teachers of the Year* - The Board recognized the 2005-06 regional teachers of the year: North Central Region: Jo Anne Honeycutt, Cleveland Middle, Johnston County Schools; Northeast Region: Paula Pearce, First Flight High, Dare County Schools; Northwest Region: Carola Gambill, W.M. Jenkins Elementary, Hickory City Schools; Southwest Region: Gloria Schwartz, Matthews Elementary, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools; Sandhills/South Central Region: Kim Brown, Scotland Accelerated Academy, Scotland County Schools; Piedmont-Triad/Central Region: Susan Poindexter, Jefferson Elementary, Guilford County Schools; and West Region: Sally Hundley, Waynesville Middle, Haywood County Schools. Southeast Region Teacher of the Year Wendy Miller, Craven County Schools, is the 2005-06 North Carolina Teacher of the Year.
- Outgoing SBE Advisors* - The Superintendent Advisor to the Board for 2004-05, Edward D. Sadler Jr., and the Principal Advisor to the Board for 2004-05, John Black, were recognized for their service over the past school year.

Special Resolution

The State Board approved a resolution urging the General Assembly not to impede the ability of North Carolina to continue hiring retired teachers who want to return to the classroom.

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