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Notes on the state board of education...

**Oct. 5-6, 2005**

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe\\_meetings/0510\\_sbagenda.html](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0510_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)**.*

The State Board of Education met in Charlotte this month for its annual planning retreat, tours of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools high schools and its regular monthly meeting agenda. The planning retreat focused on the Board's strategic priorities and provided an opportunity for members to begin consideration of revising or adding to its priorities to address the challenges of global preparedness.

Board members visited the following schools as their Issues Session this month: E.E. Waddell High School, Olympic High School, Harding University High School, Philip O'Berry Academy of Technology High School, Zebulon B. Vance High School, and Garinger High School.

### Good News

*Good News – Update from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools*

The Board's regular meeting was held in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board room. Dr. Frances Haithcock, Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, gave Board members an overview of the progress being made in the CMS district. CMS has four of the 10 North Carolina schools receiving the federal Blue Ribbon Award given by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Since 1995-96, there has been a 38 percent increase in the number of CMS third graders scoring at or above Achievement Level III, the passing level of the state's end-of-grade assessment. The gap between white students and African American students has been reduced. The school district also has a heavy emphasis on International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs in its high schools. Fifty-nine percent of 2005 CMS graduates completed at least one AP or IB course, up from 44 percent in 2000 and 31 percent in 1996. The gains cut across race and income levels with over 30 percent of African American students in the class of 2005 enrolled in at least one AP or IB course, up from just 14 percent in 1996. Since 1995-96, CMS has had an increase in the number of AP exams taken from 2,200 exams to 12, 566 in 2004-05.

As part of the October good news presentation, members of the Myers Park High School Odyssey of the Mind teams discussed their experience as a winning team in the World Finals 2005 of the Odyssey of the Mind competition. A total of 763 teams of students gathered at the University of Colorado at Boulder in May for the final world competition in this creative problem-solving competition. Each team presented an original solution to one of five long-term problems. Their performance and solution were judged for creativity, innovation and their own sense of style.

### Action Items

#### High Student Performance

- *North Carolina Science Standard Standard Course of Study – Minor Clarifications (HSP 1)* — Minor revisions in three Chemistry objectives were approved.
- *Revision to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Input (Student Accountability) (HSP 2)* — Final approval was granted to student accountability policies to bring them into compliance with No Child Left Behind. This approval was granted following a period for public input.
- *New Proposed Policy on ABCs Awards, Recognition Categories and Sanctions (HSP 3)* — Board members approved the ABCs awards and recognition categories as part of their formal policies. The policy leaves the majority of the categories the same as they were for 2004-05, with the exception of the 25 Most Improved K-8 Schools in Growth and the 10 Most Improved High Schools in Growth. These two categories were discontinued. Over the history of the ABCs, these categories had often been misunderstood as being the "Top 10" or "Top 25" schools, rather than schools that had made the most improvement in growth.

#### Quality Professionals

- *Revision of Standards for Teacher Education Programs in Reading, Latin, Visually Impaired, Instructional Technology, School Counseling, School Psychology and School Social Work (QP 1)* — Board members delayed action on this item so that additional input could be gathered from professional groups concerned with the school counseling, school psychology and school social work standards.
- *Revision of the Add-On Licensure Testing Policy and the Policy for Clearing a Provisional License (QP 2)* — Based on discussion with personnel administrators, two revisions of licensure policies were presented for action and approved this month by the Board. The first aligns the testing requirements for add-on licenses in teaching areas with the revised requirements for the Standard Professional I license previously approved by the Board. The second allows individuals who hold a clear license in a teaching area but who have been teaching out-of-field on a provisional license for three years to clear the license using the HOUSSE.
- *Revision to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Input (Licenses) (QP 3)* — The policy amendments delineating the Standard Professional License I and Standard Professional License II for teacher licenses were approved. This approval came after a period of public input was completed.

### Action on First Reading

#### High Student Performance

- *Changes to the 2004-05 ABCs/AYP (HSP 4)* — Three changes to the ABCs/AYP Report 2004-05 were approved. Cape Lookout Marine Science High (Charter School) had its Adequate Yearly Progress status changed from Under Review to Not Met. Laurinburg Charter's AYP status changed from Under Review to Not Met. West Wilkes High in Wilkes County had its AYP status changed from Not Met AYP to Met AYP.
- *Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Implementation of the ABCs, October 2005 (HSP 5)* — Board members approved the annual Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Implementation of the ABCs. This report provides information on the 2004-05 ABCs results for schools, an update on State Assistance Teams, a response to the Excellent Schools Act requirements, AYP results as required by NCLB, schools identified as low performing and composition and activities of the Assistance Teams.
- *2005 Textbook Adoptions and Textbook Commission Report (HSP 6)* — The 2005 adoption of instructional materials for K-12 English/Language Arts was approved. Also, Board members received a status report on the work of the Textbook Commission presented by Dr. Susan Purser, Superintendents of Moore County and current chair of the Textbook Commission.

#### Quality Professionals

- *Appeals for Extension of Time to Fulfill Licensure Coursework (QP 4)* — In May, the State Board adopted a policy to allow individuals who have not been able to complete required licensure coursework due to extenuating circumstances to request an extension of time. The request must include approval documents signed by the principal, the superintendent and the chair of the local board of education. Several more requests were approved this month, and members asked that these appeals be heard only through the November Board meeting.
- *Establishment of a Governor's Teacher Working Conditions Advisory Board (QP 5)*— The Board approved recommended membership of the advisory board for the Governor's Teacher Working Conditions Survey Initiative. Session Law 2005-276, the budget bill, provides funding for the administration of the Governor's Teacher Working Conditions Survey Initiative.
- *Revision of Standard Professional 1 and Standard Professional 2 Licensure Requirements (QP 12)* — Board members approved revisions to its April 2005 policy on teacher licensure. These revisions, which are now in effect, do the following:
  - Teachers who are fully licensed and highly qualified in another state and who have three or more years of teaching experience in another state and who have met North Carolina's Praxis testing requirements or have National Board Certification will be issued the Standard Professional 2 License.
  - Teachers who are fully licensed and highly qualified in another state and who have three or more years of teaching experience in another state but who have not met North Carolina's Praxis testing requirements or earned National Board Certification will be issued the Standard Professional 2 License after one year of satisfactory teaching in North Carolina with the recommendation of the employing school district which includes verification that the district will offer the teacher re-employment with the school district. The teacher will not be required to accept the offer of re-employment.
  - The State Board also approved convening a committee of stakeholders to review the requirements for teachers with less than three years of experience.

### Effective and Efficient Operations

- *School-Based and Family Support Teams (EEO 1)* — The Board approved the transfer of a total of \$112,171 from DPI to the Department of Health and Human Services to support two positions to work with the Child and Family Teams funded this year for 100 schools. The participating schools will be selected at a future meeting. Funding for this was provided by the General Assembly in the budget bill SB 622.

### Discussion

#### High Student Performance

- *Policy for Adequately Informing Ninth Grade Students about Accelerated Preparation for College Entry (HSP 7)* — Board members considered a policy to comply with legislation requiring it to encourage early entry of motivated students into four-year college programs. The policy directs school guidance counselors to make ninth graders aware of their potential to complete high school course prerequisites for college within three years.
- *Revising the IPT Cut Scores for the IDEA Language Proficiency Tests (HSP 8)* — In June, the State Board approved the cut scores for Individualized Developmental English Activities Language Proficiency Tests for grades 2-12. These tests are used to comply with Title III of NCLB (dealing with students with limited English proficiency). This month, the Board considered proposed cut scores for grades K-1. Action on this item is expected in November.
- *Clarifications/Revisions of Existing SBE Policies - Accountability (HSP 9)* — The following State Board policies are not presently reflective of the current guidelines related to accountability, testing and student achievement. Those policies: HSP – A-007 (policy delineating the guidelines for the testing of students with limited English proficiency), HSP – A – 009 (Policy regarding rules, guidelines and procedures governing the NC testing program) and HSP – A-012 (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for NCLB Title III) need to be updated. The updated versions were discussed this month and will be for action in November.
- *Waiver to Allow Five Pilot School Systems to Replace Present Special Education Identification Procedures with the Response to Intervention Procedures (HSP 10)* — The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) allows for use of a process that determines if a child responds to scientific, research-based intervention as part of evaluation/identification procedures. The DPI proposes to pilot such a process by using a Problem Solving Model in 10 schools in five school districts. To allow this, a waiver is being considered for selected elementary schools in Bertie, Burke, Guilford, Harnett and New Hanover counties. Action on this will be taken in November.

#### Quality Professionals

- *Recommendations from the Special Committee on Graduate Pay Approval and Non-Teaching Work Experience Policies (QP 7)* — Discussion continued this month on the recommendations concerning graduation pay and non-teaching work experience policies. Discussion on this issue began in September, and action is expected in November.
- *Annual Teacher Turnover Report (QP 8)* — North Carolina's local school systems reported an average teacher turnover rate of 12.95 percent for 2004-05, a slight increase from the 2003-04 turnover rate of 12.37 percent. North Carolina's teacher turnover rate is still less than the 15.7 percent reported in national data for all teachers in the United States, according to the annual turnover report provided to the State Board this month. Although North Carolina's turnover rate increased, it was noted that the reason teachers most often cited for leaving was to teach elsewhere (20.16 percent) – and in over three-fourths of these cases, the leaving teacher was planning to teach in another North Carolina school system. Local district turnover rates, in fact, ranged from a high of 28.51 percent in Harnett County to a low of 3.96 percent in Clay County. Retirement was listed as the second most cited reason for leaving the classroom at 16.39 percent or 2,032 teachers. In almost 90 percent of these cases, the retiring teachers were retiring with full benefits. In third was resignation due to family relocation (14.47 percent or 1,794 teachers) followed by resignation for other reasons or unknown reasons (12.28 percent or 1,523 teachers). Rounding out the top five reasons for leaving was teachers who resigned for family responsibility/child care at 6.60 percent or 818 teachers. Turnover rates varied statewide even among districts with similar characteristics, such as size or the districts' rural or urban nature. Generally, the western counties posted the lowest turnover rates, while the southeastern counties posted higher turnover rates, but other general trends are difficult to identify.
- *Revision of the Requirements for a Provisional License as Health Occupations Teacher (QP 9)* — Last fall, the Board revised the eligibility requirements for a provisional license as a health occupations teacher to allow individuals with allied health related degrees and biotechnology degrees to serve in multi-teacher departments. Based on feedback from the LEAs further revisions are proposed to allow individuals with diplomas in nursing to serve in multi-teacher departments. This item was for discussion in October and action in November.
- *State Evaluation Committee Program Approval Recommendation (QP 10)* — Gardner Webb University's teacher education program was recommended for approval. This item will be voted on in November.

### Effective and Efficient Operations

- *Recommendation to Revoke the Charter of East Winston Primary School (EEO 2)* — Revocation proceedings were approved for East Winston Primary Charter. The school currently has failed to meet its enrollment requirement of 65 students and has 14 students enrolled at this time.
- *Revision to Allotment Policy Manual – Incentive to Adopt Local School Bus Idling Policies (EEO 3)* — Board members considered a change in the Allotment Policy Manual to require local boards of education to have an effective policy to eliminate unnecessary school bus idling in order to be eligible to receive any additional funding to help compensate for rising fuel prices.
- *Reporting of FY 2004-05 At-Risk and Student Accountability Funding and Submission of Reports in 2005-06 (EEO 4)* — Each year local districts receiving funds for At-Risk and Improving Student Accountability allotments to submit a report to the State Board each year detailing the expenditures of these funds. These reports were provided for discussion this month.

### Information

#### High Student Performance

- *Innovative Education Initiatives Act – Evaluation of Innovative High School Programs (New Schools Project) (HSP 11)* — For the 2005-06 school year, 11 new or conversion schools and 14 early college high schools have opened for students. An additional 50 schools are in planning to open for the 2006-07 school year for a total of 75 schools that are either in operation or planning this school year. The 11 new or conversion schools that have opened this year are located on eight existing high school campuses. Over the next three years, those eight high school campuses will convert into a total of 22 small, thematically focused and academically rigorous high schools. This information was provided as part of a report on the innovative high school programs being implemented across North Carolina.
- *Carolina Panthers "Fit Squad" Partnership (HSP 12)* — The DPI and State Board of Education have formed a partnership with the Carolina Panthers to promote a physical activity and nutrition message for children. Eight Carolina Panther players, cheerleaders and the team mascot are all prominently featured in a video, a CD ROM and curriculum provided to classroom teachers with 24 activities encouraging good nutrition and physical activity. The Panthers "Fit Squad" was highlighted on Aug. 26, during the halftime of the Panthers vs. Browns game.

#### Quality Professionals

- *Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Impact of Mentor Program Flexibility on Teacher Retention (QP 11)* — A report prepared for the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the Impact of Mentor Program Flexibility on Teacher Retention was presented for information. The report lists the number of teachers and the type of activities served in each district's program.

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