



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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Notes on the state board of education...

Mar 1-2, 2006

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0603_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).

Issues Session

- *Science Programs and Issues in North Carolina Public Schools* - Board members received a presentation on science education in North Carolina including the challenges facing the state's science programs. NC DPI Secondary Science Education Consultant Dr. Eleanor Haase reviewed with Board members the current status of the state's science education programs, how staff supports science teachers through curriculum support, professional development and collaboration; and the numerous educational partners who work with staff to improve science education. Board discussion focused on where science education needs to be in the future and what needs to be in place to graduate students who are globally competitive in the sciences.
- *2006-2007 Supplemental Budget Request (EEO2)* - NC DPI Associate Superintendent for Financial and Business Services Philip Price continued last month's Board discussion on its 2006-2007 Supplemental Budget Request by asking members to identify their budget priorities. Price also highlighted budget and policy issues including replacing fines and forfeitures with General Fund appropriations, gaining flexibility with school calendar beginning and ending dates and distributing the Board's budget priority information to legislators. SBE members raised a number of budget questions during the session. Work will continue on the budget request, due to be submitted to the Governor this month.

Action Agenda

- *Middle and High School Mathematics Recommendations (HSP1)* - Board members approved recommendations to count non-Advanced Placement courses used to fulfill mathematics graduation requirements as earning one unit of credit regardless of the duration of the course (if the course is taught over two block semesters, the student would receive .5 units of credit for each block); to clarify which mathematics courses meet the fourth math credit requirement; and to not allow Algebra I-A and Algebra I-B to be offered at the middle school level. Board members also approved language to encourage middle school students who have the necessary prerequisite skills to take Algebra I or Integrated Math I. In addition, Board members discussed the need for integrated math courses and a timeline to address this issue further.
- *Recommendation for Final Approval for 2005 Charter School Applications (EEO 1)* - Roxboro Community School's (Person County) charter school application was approved. The school will begin operation in the 2006-07 school year.

Action on First Reading

- *Clarification to Existing State Board of Education Policy on Requirements for High School Graduation (HSP 2)* - Board members approved clarifying language to its Student Accountability Standards/Graduation Requirements Policy (HSP-N-000) to reflect the new high school graduation standards passed by the State Board in April 2005.
- *Recommended Academic Achievement Standards (Cut Scores) for the NC Tests of Computer Skills (HSP 3)* - Academic Achievement Standards (pass/fail cut scores) were approved for the North Carolina Tests of Computer Skills effective with the 2005-06 school year. The appropriate Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process will be initiated to amend the APA standards related to graduation requirements.
- *Recommended Achievement Level Descriptors for North Carolina State Assessments (HSP 4)* - Board members approved achievement level descriptors developed in response to recommendations resulting from the U.S. Department of Education's Peer Review of North Carolina's state assessments. The revised descriptors provide more detail as to what is expected of students who perform at the various achievement levels (I, II, III, IV) in the tested content areas at each of the tested grades or subjects.
- *2006-2007 Supplemental Budget Request (EEO 2)* - A revised version of the State Board's 2006-2007 Supplemental Budget Request priority worksheet and cover letter was referred to the Board's budget review committee for finalization.
- *Individual Class Size Exceptions Waiver Requests (EEO 4)* - Class size exception waivers submitted by Davidson County Schools and Mitchell County Schools were approved. Board members did not approve class size waivers submitted by Harnett County schools.
- *Approval of LEA and Charter School Technology Plans (EEO 5)* - Technology plans for 19 school districts and eight charter schools were approved. Approval of these plans qualifies these districts for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants.

Discussion Agenda

- *Clarification to the Policy Governing the Role of the Test Coordinator (HSP 5)* - This item was removed from the Board's agenda for discussion this month.
- *Presentation of 2006 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina (HSP 6)* - N.C. Textbook Commission Chair and Moore County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser outlined for Board members the textbook adoption schedule and provided a brief update on the E-Text Pilot currently being piloted in three school systems this year. The Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina is submitted each year in April to the State Board for approval. The 2006 call for textbooks is for K-12 Arts Education and 6-12 Family and Consumer Sciences Education.
- *Policy Defining No Child Left Behind Sanctions for Districts in LEA Improvement (HSP 7)* - Staff presented to Board members a list of prescribed actions outlined by the U.S. Department of Education for states to take with districts that do not make Adequate Yearly Progress for three consecutive years. The Board can adopt the entire list as policy or select a shorter menu from the comprehensive list. Currently, 43 districts are in the School Improvement process. Following discussion, the Board directed staff to assemble an administration process for policy implementation along with the list of prescribed actions outlined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- *Add-on Licensure in School Administration (QP 1)* - A recommendation that would re-institute add-on licensure programs in school administration was presented to Board members for discussion this month and action next month. The proposal would allow an individual who holds a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution and has three years of teaching or other professional education experience or who has been employed by a local school system as an assistant principal to be issued an individualized plan of study for a license in school administration. The individual would still need to complete a supervised internship as part of the plan of study, satisfy any requirements prescribed by the institution of higher education and successfully meet testing requirements.
- *Licensure Appeals Process for Extenuating Circumstances (QP 2)* - Board members considered a proposal to appoint a review panel comprised of no fewer than five professional educators, including at least one State Board member who will chair the committee, to evaluate applications for exceptions from licensure requirements and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. The appeals panel may require the individual and a representative of the local school system or Institutions of Higher Education to appear before the panel and respond to questions. The Board would consider the panel's recommendations as it makes its decision to grant or deny the requested exception. The Board is expected to take action on this proposal at its April meeting.
- *Alternative Learning Programs and Schools Standards (SS 1)* - A draft report on Alternative Learning Programs and School Standards was presented to Board members for discussion. House Bill 1076 directs the State Board to adopt standards for Alternative Learning Programs and to require local boards of education to develop proposals that will be submitted to the State Board prior to establishing any Alternative Learning Program or Alternative School. Stakeholders across the state collaborated to develop the recommended standards, which are research-based strategies proven successful in improving student achievement. The Board will take action on this report in April.

Information Agenda

- *Dropout Data Report, 2004-05 (HSP 8)* - North Carolina dropout rates decreased slightly in the 2004-05 school year according to the Annual Dropout Event Report. Approximately one out of every 20 North Carolina high school students dropped out of school. This equates to an annual high school dropout rate of 4.7 percent. Dropout rates and numbers have remained fairly steady over the last several years, but there have been some indications of improvement. While the dropout rates for American Indians, Hispanics and Blacks, respectively, were higher than for the overall average for the state, the dropout event rates for all ethnic minority groups declined. The greatest decline in the dropout event rate was for Black students, at nearly .4 percent.
- *Annual Study of Suspensions and Expulsions: 2004-05 (HSP 9)* - The Annual Study of Suspensions and Expulsions found that after years of increases, the number of short-term suspensions, long-term suspensions and expulsions decreased substantially in 2004-05. Short-term suspensions were down 19 percent and long-term suspensions were down 22 percent from the previous year. Decreases were seen over all grades, all genders and ethnic groupings, and most exceptional children categories. Decreases in long-term suspensions were greater in high school, while decreases in short-term suspensions were greater in K-8 schools.
- *NCVirtual Public School - Director's Report (HSP 11)* - NC Virtual Public School Director Bruce Friend provided Board members with a program update on NC Virtual. He began his update by reminding the SBE that a program such as NC Virtual can save some students from dropping out of school. He went on to say that his initial work on NC Virtual involves staffing, funding, model discussions and work on building or acquiring technical infrastructure. While NC Virtual will not have its own courses this year, it will leverage partnerships with existing providers and identify courses that will be offered beginning in 2007-08.
- *CTE Program Update (HSP 12)* - Meeting as the State Board of Career-Technical Education, Board members heard two presentations highlighting two Career-Technical Education Programs: Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Project. Leslie Eaves, a teacher at Simon G. Atkins Academic & Technology High School (Forsyth County), said PLTW is a national program that forms partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from public schools. The program provides a rigorous, project-based pre-engineering middle and high school curriculum and extensive professional development for teachers and counselors. Currently, two middle schools and 12 high schools are involved in PLTW. According to Phyllis Jones, a teacher at Page High School (Guilford County), the STEM Project facilitates the integration of science, technology and mathematics courses. Engineering concepts and principles are drawn from each of the areas. The project has several purposes, including increasing student learning outcomes in math, science and technology and increasing student interest in these subject areas. Two high schools are currently involved in the STEM Project – Page High and Northern Vance High (Vance County).
- *Report on Professional Development from the Center for School Leadership Development (QP 3)* - UNC Vice President for University-School Programs Dr. Richard Thompson presented the Center for School Leadership Development's annual report evaluating professional development programs administered by the UNC Board of Governors. Staff will use this report and collaborate with the UNC Board of Governors to develop a list of recommendations for meaningful professional development programs for Board discussion in April.

Special Recognition

2005-06 Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year - Megan Hodge, a senior at Riverside High School (Durham Public Schools) was recognized for her recent selection as the 2005-06 Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year. The Board presented Hodge with a certificate noting her accomplishments and a State Board mug.

Special Presentation

Resolution Honoring Retired NCDPI Associate State Superintendent - Board members presented a resolution honoring the outstanding service and contributions of retired Associate State Superintendent/Chief Information Officer Dr. Robert (Bob) Bellamy. Bellamy was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine signed by Gov. Mike Easley and framed certificates of retirement.

Good News

Collaborative Reading Model for Special/General Education and Title I Wake County Public Schools Literacy Team - Wake County Schools' Director of K-12 Literacy Ruth Steidinger and Senior Administrator for Special Education Sherril Miller provided Board members with a presentation on Wake County's collaborative approach to reading literacy for special education teachers. They talked about the importance of differentiated support to teachers to maximize literacy for all students and how their collaborative efforts have paid off in staff development and support to schools. The reading model was made possible through a grant from the North Carolina State Improvement Project. The Board presented both individuals with a mug in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

April Meeting Note

The Board will participate in a legislative retreat that is being held at the Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park, during its April meeting. Board members will conduct normal business Wednesday morning, April 5, then adjourn at noon to participate in the legislative retreat. Board members will continue their Board meeting on Thursday morning at the Education Building and then attend a luncheon to name the 2006 Wachovia Principal of the Year.

Board members decided to combine their June and July Board meetings and hold the combined meeting on June 28-29 to coincide with the 2006 Summer Leadership Conference in Asheville.

New CIO Named

Peter N. Asmar was appointed as the Department of Public Instruction's new Chief Information Officer, effective March 3. Asmar comes to this position from J. P. MorganChase where he served since 2002 as the Global Technology Chief Operating Officer and Technology Services Vice President. Asmar's experience at J.P MorganChase began in 1993 and included a variety of leadership roles in technology, financial and resource management and client/vendor relations. Asmar has a bachelor's degree in economics from Brooklyn College of the City University and a master's degree in business administration in finance from New York Institute of Technology. As Chief Information Officer, Asmar will lead the Technology Services area. This includes a variety of project areas, including NC WISE and SIMS, instructional technology, student information and accountability systems and the enterprise project management office.

New Business

Nominations for 2007 NASBE Board of Directors - State Board member Kathy Taft was nominated by the NC SBE as a nominee to seek election as the Southern area director on the National Association of State Boards of Education. This office serves a two-year term.

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