



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...

May 3-4, 2006

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0605_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

NCDPI Deputy Superintendent Janice Davis led Board members in their Issues Session: Learning for the 21st Century. She provided a brief chronology of milestones that have led up to this Issues Session, including Board discussions on this topic. She presented Board members with a proposed framework for 21st century learning. The framework focuses on rigorous core subjects, learning skills and the integration of real world contexts and tools into the academic world. She concluded with a discussion of how the 21st century skills could be integrated into the Board's existing strategic priorities. Following discussion, Board members adopted a conceptual framework for 21st century learning. Over the coming weeks, the Board will hold planning sessions to further develop a strategic plan for the framework, which should be ready for adoption at the September Board meeting.

NCDPI Instructional Technology Division Director Frances Bradburn introduced Clearmont Elementary School (Yancey County Schools) Principal Pete Peterson, Williford Elementary School (Nash-Rocky Mount Schools) Principal Sandra Farmer, Westwood Elementary School (Ashe County Schools) Principal Keith McClure and Wells Elementary School (Wilson County Schools) parent Paula Benson who described how technology has transformed their schools into 21st century learning environments.

Action Agenda

- Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act (HSP 1)* - Board members approved calendar waiver requests under the auspices of the Innovative Education Initiatives Act. Requests were placed in one of three categories: exemptions being requested for the first time, exemptions also requiring community college approval, and exemptions that have been requested before by high school reform sites and approved by the State Board. The Innovative Education Initiatives Act authorizes community colleges, the university system, independent colleges, and local boards of education to jointly establish cooperative innovative programs in high schools and community colleges that will expand students' opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming. The programs target at-risk students and students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction.
- LEA Assistance Program (HSP 2)* - A report detailing State Board activities and funds expended to assist districts identified as low performing and schools needing help meeting Adequate Yearly Progress was approved by Board members for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The report included criteria for selecting districts and schools to receive assistance, measurable goals and objectives for the assistance program, an explanation of the assistance provided, findings from the assistance program, actual expenditures by category and recommendations for the continuance of the program. Board members expressed their concern that assistance efforts be tailored as much as possible.
- Revision to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Input (HSP 3)* - A testing policy allowing students who take Integrated Math to meet end of course testing requirements.
- Revision of Provisional Licensing Requirements for Media Coordinators (QP 1)* - Board members approved a proposal that would allow individuals with 18 graduate semester hours applicable toward a school media coordinator program to be issued a provisional license. To clear the provisional license, the individual must complete an approved master's level program in school media. Previously, an individual was required to have either an "A" level teaching license or a bachelor's degree in media to receive a provisional license.
- Revision of Add-On Licensure Policy (QP 2)* - A proposal that would allow individuals with a clear teaching license in one area to add an additional teaching area to the license by satisfying Praxis II testing requirements was approved.
- Charter School Grade Changes and Enrollment Increase Requests Above 10% (EEO 1)* - Enrollment increases were approved for Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy (Rutherford County), New Century Charter School (Alamance County) and Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy (Mecklenburg County). A grade span change was approved for Quality Education Charter Academy (Forsyth County); and a grade span change and enrollment increase were approved for Arts Based Elementary School (Forsyth County).

Action on First Reading

- Changes to NC's NCLB Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook (HSP 4)* - There were no changes proposed to the accountability workbook because the state has not received feedback from the US Department of Education.
- Educational Interpreters and Translators Extension of Employment (QP 3)* - A recommendation to extend the deadline (currently June 30, 2006) by one year for interpreters and translators to pass required testing to work in public schools was approved. The one-year extension will allow employees in these positions to acquire the training needed to meet testing requirements.
- Final Decisions in Contested Cases (QP 4 & QP 5)* - Board members adopted the findings and decision of the administrative law judges in two cases and revoked the licenses of Mario L. Clegg and Rodolfo R. Toledo.
- State Evaluation Committee Program Approval Recommendations (QP 7)* - Board members approved teacher education program approval recommendations from the State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education. Duke University, Mars Hill College, Methodist College, Queens University of Charlotte and UNC-Charlotte were granted full approval of the programs reviewed. Peace College was granted temporary authorization to initiate teacher education programs in elementary and exceptional children. This item was moved to action on first reading.
- Requests for Exceptions to Licensure Requirements* - Board members approved two requests for exceptions to licensure requirements due to extenuating circumstances.
- Approval of LEAs and Charter Schools Technology Plans (EEO 2)* - School technology plans were approved for Hertford County Schools, The Learning Center, Kinston Charter and Crossnore Academy. Approval qualifies these school systems and charter schools for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind, and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants.
- Transportation Funding Formula Study (EEO 3)* - Board members accepted the Transportation Funding Formula Study report prepared by Management Partnership Services for submittal to the General Assembly. The report includes recommendations for refining the existing allotment formula for school transportation and considerations for transportation funding for non-traditional education programs such as magnet schools, schools of choice, programs serving homeless students and middle colleges.
- Preventive Maintenance and Vehicle Replacement Manual Update (EEO 5)* - An updated preventive maintenance and vehicle replacement manual, "NC BUS FLEET: North Carolina School Transportation Fleet Manual," was approved by Board members. The new version includes policies referenced in Public School Law that address specific vehicle fleet needs: vehicle purchases, replacement and surplus sale; preventive maintenance for school buses and service vehicles; and school bus inspections. Rewritten sections address technology changes, improved maintenance procedures and bus defects and conditions that would warrant removal from service. Proposed changes will help ensure the effective and efficient use of transportation services. This item was moved to action on first reading.

Discussion Agenda

- Approval of Supplemental Education Service Providers for 2006-07 (HSP 5)* - Forty-five (out of 65) Supplemental Education Service Providers' applications were submitted to Board members for approval. Students attending schools in Title I School Improvement for the second year receive supplementary educational services. Providers must have a demonstrated record of effectiveness, be selected by parents with advice from the school district and be approved by the State Board of Education.
- Revised School Counselor Job Description (QP 6)* - Board members discussed a revised job description for school counselors. The job description was last revised in 1987. Proposed revisions bring the job description more in line with the needs of students, schools and communities and with current state and national best practices for the school counseling profession. Board members are expected to act on the description in June.
- Approval of Plans for Flexible Use of Mentor Funds (QP 8)* - New Hanover County Schools, the Public Schools of Robeson County and Wilkes County Schools have submitted requests to allow flexibility in the use of its teacher mentor funds. The school systems plan to use the funds to employ full-time mentors (primarily retired teachers) to work with beginning teachers as a way of providing more intense, consistent and focused support. The Board is expected to take action on these requests at its June meeting.
- Response to the Report on Professional Development from the Center for School Leadership Development (QP 9)* - Board members discussed a report to be sent to the UNC Board of Governors outlining professional development needs of the state. Requested professional development programs fall into two categories: support for state initiatives (e.g., high school reform efforts, 21st century skills, teacher support) and specific topics (reading, mathematics, science, instructional interventions, behavior training, etc.). This report is in follow-up to an annual report submitted by the Center for School Leadership Development evaluating the professional development programs administered by the Board of Governors that was presented to Board members at their March meeting.
- Teacher Education Program Admission Appeals Process (QP 10)* - A proposed policy that would allow colleges and universities to appeal to the Board on behalf of individuals, who for extenuating circumstances, had not satisfied Praxis I testing requirements for admission to a teacher education program, was discussed by Board members. At their April meeting, Board members approved a policy that would allow local school districts to request exceptions to Board licensing policies for teachers due to extenuating circumstances.
- Utilization of State Board Reserve for Innovative/Special Projects (EEO 4)* - Board members considered three possible programs for funding through their reserve funds. The programs include the development of online teacher professional development courses, rapid recovery and credit recovery courses and the establishment/support of review committees on integrated/blended curriculum and courses. The graduation project was not included in this request as it has been included in the expansion budget request sent to the General Assembly. If funds are not appropriated for the graduation project, Board members wanted to make sure it receives top priority from the reserve funds. The State Board reserves \$500,000 from the At-Risk Student Services/Alternative Schools allotment to implement and support specific initiatives as a pilot or for program start-up.
- Revised State Board Policy for NC WISE (EEO 6)* - A proposed revision to the State Board policy for NC WISE was discussed. The revision would change the compliance deadline for a local district to fully deploy and implement NC WISE from June 30, 2007, until June 30, 2009, or until NC WISE is fully deployed across the state, whichever comes first.
- Policy on Dispute Resolution Process for Homeless Students (EEO 7)* - A policy to establish a dispute resolution process for cases involving homeless students or unaccompanied youth and school enrollment was discussed. Upon policy approval at the June State Board meeting, staff will initiate the rule-making process.

Information Agenda

- Annual Report: State Advisory Council on Indian Education (HSP 6)* - The State Advisory Council on Indian Education's 2006 Report, "Schools, Tribes and Communities: Educating Minds to Move Beyond," was presented to Board members. The report notes that although the academic performance of American Indian students has significantly improved, the dropout rate for this group of students remains the highest among all racial groups. Five recommendations were noted in the report: (1) restore the Office of Indian Education within the Department of Public Instruction; (2) require a course on American Indian history and culture as part of the North Carolina licensure and recertification standards; (3) continue to support professional development for teachers to enhance their knowledge of American Indian history and culture; (4) actively support initiatives that nurture and encourage American Indian students toward successful completion of high school and preparation for employment and enrollment in post-secondary institutions; and (5) continue to improve the quality and quantity of data available regarding American Indian students and their educational trajectories.
- NC Virtual Public School (HSP 7)* - NC Virtual Public School Director Bruce Friend updated Board members on the very successful online registrations for free Advanced Placement exam reviews. As of the first week in May, 7,751 students had registered. Over 8,000 registrations are expected before registration closes. Once the exams have been taken, staff will email the students to get their feedback on how helpful the reviews were in their test preparation and their overall online experience.
- Business Education Technology Alliance Update* - Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue updated Board members on BETA (Business Education Technology Alliance).

Special Recognition

- Blue Ribbon Schools* - Board members recognized representatives from nine public schools that were named 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools. To be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, a school must have met one of the following assessment criteria: had at least 40 percent of its students from disadvantaged backgrounds who dramatically improved their student performance on state tests, as determined by the state superintendent; or be a school whose students, regardless of background, achieved in the top 10 percent on state tests. Board members presented the following school representatives with a mug and plaque in honor of their recognition: Burke County Schools: Rutherford College Elementary - Rebecca Roach, principal and Kelly Harmon and Andrea Elder, teachers; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools: Elizabeth Lane Elementary - Diane Burnham, principal; Hawk Ridge Elementary - Rosemary Sheppard, principal; McKee Road Elementary - Sharon Demaré, principal; Davidson Elementary - Angela Baucom, former principal and Laney Edwards, assistant principal; Wake County Schools: Morrisville Elementary - Robin Swalm, principal and Melody Burnson, instructional resource teacher; and Yancey County Schools: Clearmont Elementary - Pete Peterson, principal.
- Sara McClure, Outgoing SBE Student Advisor* - Board members recognized outgoing Student Advisor Sara McClure for her service to the Board. In presenting her with a mug, State Board Chairman Lee commended McClure for her clear ideas, her ability to articulate her thoughts and her organizational skills.

Chairman's Remarks

In his Chairman's remarks, State Board Chairman Howard Lee discussed his proposed approach to the 2006 General Assembly's Short Session. Lee hopes that the State Board Chairman, the State Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent and the Executive Director of the State Board have more of a presence in the legislature and attend high-level committee meetings. He would also like individual Board members to be present in the General Assembly more often. Following Lee's update on the Education Ball and the change in location and format, State Board members approved a \$1,000 sponsorship donation to the Education Ball. NCDPI Secondary Education Division Director Wandra Polk updated Board members on the graduation project and professional development activities to facilitate implementation at the local level. UNC-Greensboro is the primary facilitator for graduation project activities. Five regional professional development sessions will be held. Board members also approved a \$20,000 grant that will pay registration for 20 first-time school teams to attend an extended three-day professional development session on the graduation project. The session will be held in June for nationwide participants in Myrtle Beach, SC. Chairman Lee then called on State Board of Education Executive Director Rebecca Garland to provide a legislative update. The update focused on a summary of issues addressed by the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee since the adjournment of the General Assembly in 2005. Covered included retirees returning to work, teacher recruitment and retention, funding programs for disadvantaged children and globalization.

State Superintendent's Report

In her monthly report, Superintendent June Atkinson called on NCDPI Chief Technology Officer Mike Veckenstedt to report on NC WISE progress. Veckenstedt said production support, conversion and deployment, training and configuration management are unchanged. Transition activities are in full swing and a contract for ad-hoc reporting will be signed soon. In addition, a contract for database support by Oracle has been awarded. He said that speed and functionality of NC WISE has dramatically improved over the last week - an observation that was also highlighted by State Board member Melissa Bartlett. Veckenstedt noted that NC WISE Delivery Manager Jim Davis is leaving DPI to take a position with Chatham County Schools and a search is underway for his replacement. In regard to the turnaround teams, Atkinson reported that all 44 low-performing high schools would have received visits by turnaround assessment teams by the end of May. Atkinson is meeting with all affected LEA superintendents and Chairman Lee is meeting with local school boards.

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