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sbe highlights

Notes on the state board of education...

Sept. 6-7, 2006

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0609/0609_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 Visits to Craven and Wayne Counties

The State Board of Education held its September meeting in Craven (Wednesday's session) and Wayne counties (Thursday's session) and toured schools in each district. Board members also held community meetings in each district. At Goldsboro High School, one of the 44 low-performing high schools across the state that have received turnaround assessment team visits, the Board held a community meeting on Wednesday evening. At this meeting, DPI Director of Turnaround Assessment Teams Pat Ashley provided an overview of the framework for addressing the school's needs, Goldsboro High School Principal Patricia Burden provided an update of activities at the school to date, and students and other community members offered comments regarding the school's needs. The framework for addressing the needs at schools working with turnaround assessment teams includes addressing ninth grade transition, formative assessments, assistance to struggling students, identifying and addressing literacy issues, providing professional development based on student achievement, a review of all school processes and procedures, community involvement, established professional learning communities, and the process for re-design or restructuring the school. At Goldsboro High School, the school's performance composite has been steadily improving since 2000 - moving from approximately 31 percent proficient to 52.8 percent in 2005-06.

Action Agenda

- *Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on School Leadership (QP 1)* - Board members approved its Ad Hoc Committee's Report on School Leadership. The report contains standards for school administrators that reflect the knowledge, skills and dispositions that school leaders must have to administer 21st century schools. The standards will require the development of new assessment instruments for school administrators, new standards for school administrator preparation programs and new standards for professional development. The standards include competencies in the areas of strategic leadership, instructional leadership, cultural leadership, human resource leadership, managerial leadership, and external development leadership.
- *Revision of Provisional Licensing Requirements for Career-Technical Education Teachers (QP 2)* - Revisions to the Career and Technical Education provisional licensure areas were approved and become effective July 1, 2007. The proposed revisions are based on a 30-state licensure study through the Southern Regional Education Board, and input from career and technical education directors, human resource administrators, career and technical education teachers and teacher educators. Major changes include the separation of eligibility requirements from license requirements, the adjustment of the timeline for completing requirements to be three years, which aligns with lateral entry requirements, and the addition of a requirement that Career and Technical Education directors hold a current license in one of the Career and Technical Education program areas if their salaries are funded through Career Technical Education dollars.
- *PreKindergarten-Kindergarten Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument (QP 3)* - A prekindergarten-kindergarten teachers' performance appraisal instrument that is more closely aligned with birth-kindergarten teacher standards was approved by Board members.

Action on First Reading

- *Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding Program for 2006-07 (HSP1)* - Board members approved plans and allotments for the following 16 school districts currently participating in a two-year Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding pilot program to address student achievement and teacher turnover rates: Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Lexington City, Montgomery, Northampton, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank, Robeson, Thomasville City, Vance, Warren, Washington and Weldon City. A total of \$22.484 million will be distributed among these districts.
- *Changes to AYP Results, LEA Improvement, Title I School Improvement and High School Performance Composites (HSP 2)* - Board members approved corrections/additions to the 2005-06 AYP results, LEA Improvement and Title I School Improvement lists, and the list of high schools with performance composites less than 70 percent for two years in a row. Based on reading assessment results only, 248 schools are in Title I School Improvement. Sixty-three school districts are in District Improvement with three more potentially eligible.
- *Modifications to State Policy Providing Annual Performance Standards Under the ABCs Model (HSP 3)* - Changes to HSP-C-021 were approved to accommodate the inclusion of the US History and Civics and Economics tests into the growth model for the 2006-07 school year. Board members also approved extending the eligibility criteria for students identified as limited English proficient participating in the state designated alternate assessments to include science at grades 5 and 8. The APA process will be initiated in response to this approval.
- *Participation in Field Testing (HSP 4)* - Board members approved notifying school districts in September of their participation in field tests. However, notifications for validity studies will be made in November. At that time, superintendents will be provided a packet, which will include a notification letter, the list of schools selected, a form for requesting an appeal and a form to notify the NCDPI of school and grade configuration changes. Board members noted that they want to limit field-testing as much as possible. Accountability Director Lou Fabrizio noted that field-testing has decreased over the past five years due to embedding. As new assessments are developed, field-testing is being embedded within the operational tests.
- *Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements (QP 4)* - Board members approved its panel recommendations regarding requests for exception from teacher licensing requirements.
- *IHE Performance Report (QP 5)* - The IHE (Institutes of Higher Education) Performance Reports for 2005-06 on undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs were approved for forwarding to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. Chowan University and Southeastern College at Wake Forest were designated as low performing for the 2005-06 school year. Each institution will be required to submit a plan for improvement.
- *Approval of Charter School Technology Plan (EEO 1)* - State Board members approved the technology plan for Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy. Approval qualifies Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind, and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants.
- *Recommendation for Preliminary Approval of 2006 Charter School Application (EEO 2)* - Charlotte Secondary School (Mecklenburg County) became the state's 100th charter school when Board members gave it preliminary approval to begin its planning year. North Carolina law only allows 100 charter schools in the state.

Discussion Agenda

- *Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Salary Grade Reclassifications (EEO 3)* - Board members discussed salary schedule range revisions in the non-certified areas of occupational therapist and physical therapist to align with the Office of State Personnel schedules. These changes would mean that OT/PT positions would move from a salary grade 76 to a grade 78. The minimum monthly salary for the new grade would be \$3,751.13 and the maximum would be \$6,758.61. Adjustments at the local level would be made based upon available funds and the local policy for increases due to non-funded range revisions unless the employee's salaries are below the new minimum.
- *Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (EEO 4)* - Board members considered reappointing the following members to a second, four-year term on the Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children: Sonja Brown, parent of a child with a disability; Doris McCain, special education teacher; Diane Browder, institution of higher education position; and Mark Yost, vocational, community, business position. The Board also considered appointing Debra McHenry, representing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, to a first term. Board members are expected to take action on these appointments at their November meeting.
- *Nutrition Standards for Elementary Schools (EEO 5)* - Board members discussed proposed statewide nutrition standards for school meals, A la Carte foods and beverages and items served in the After School Snack Program. The nutrition standards will promote gradual changes to increase fruits and vegetables and whole grain products, and decrease foods high in total fat, trans fat, saturated fat and sugar. Once adopted by the State Board, the nutrition standards would be implemented in elementary schools by the end of the 2007-08 school year. Input on the standards was received from a core committee of 22 child nutrition directors and various stakeholders including representatives from the NC Division of Health and Human Services, NC Department of Agriculture, School Nutrition Association, and industry representatives and faculty from the UNC School of Public Health.
- *State Board of Education Policy on Charter Schools Renewal Process (EEO 6)* - Revisions to the Board's Charter Schools Renewal Process policy were discussed for adoption at its October meeting.
- *Salary Supplement for Math and Science Teachers Pilot Program (EEO 7)* - Three school districts - Bertie, Columbus and Rockingham - were selected to participate in a pilot program to offer a salary supplement for newly hired math and science teachers under a policy approved on first reading this month by the Board. Up to 10 newly hired middle and high school math and science teachers will receive a \$15,000 supplement. Under the policy, newly hired is defined as not having reached tenure (less than four years' teaching experience). The districts were selected based on their status as low-wealth, having proficiency scores on high school math and science below 70 percent, having a middle or high school with a composite score of less than 60 percent and being geographically representative.

Information Agenda

- *Testing and Accountability - Update and Issues (HSP 5)* - NCDPI Accountability Services Director Lou Fabrizio presented Board members with an update on the delay in reporting 2006 results for the mathematics end-of-grade assessments. Board members directed DPI staff to ensure that the K-8 ABCs results be released by Nov. 1, allowing ample time for incentive awards to be distributed before the winter holiday.
- *High School Workforce Development Program (Learn and Earn Early College High School Initiative) (HSP 6)* - Board members received an update on the Learn and Earn Early College High School Initiative. The Learn and Earn program is designed to improve high schools, better prepare students for college and career, create a seamless curriculum between high school and college and provide work-based experiences to students. Students who participate in this program graduate with a high school diploma and two years of university transfer credit or an associate degree. Currently 13 Learn and Earn early college high schools are operating, and an additional 20 are opening this school year (2006-07). Learn and Earn is jointly administered by the NCDPI and the North Carolina New Schools Project.
- *NC Virtual Public School Director's Report (HSP 7)* - NC Virtual Public School Advisory Board Chair John Bolling briefed Board members on the progress being made to consolidate some of the K-12 e-learning programs into the NCVPS delivery system and on the process for selecting a permanent executive director.

Chairman's Remarks

In his Chairman's Remarks, State Board Chairman Howard Lee called on the Rev. William Barber, state chapter leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a Goldsboro minister. The Rev. Barber urged the Board members to work to discourage local school systems from allowing school resegregation. He asked the Board to convene a commission to issue a report on the Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to review the situation of resegregation and to outline ways to discourage this practice statewide. Barber pointed out to the Board that most of the 44 lowest performing high schools in the state have predominately minority enrollments.

State Superintendent's Report

State Superintendent June Atkinson presented a framework for holding town hall-style meetings on the 21st century framework of mission and goals that the State Board of Education approved this fall. Eight regional meetings are to be scheduled throughout the fall.

The NC WISE update noted that deployment activities are moving forward for the school districts and charter schools in Wave 2. The overall schedule of the project continues on track. At this point, readiness activities for future deployments are planned for districts that have not deployed in Waves 1 and 2. Contracts have been issued with SAS for ad hoc reporting, with aal for deployment activities for Wave 2, with Oracle on database and performance and with HCS on technical support.

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