



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2013

NOTE FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN BILL COBEY – *The State Board of Education is a board of citizens appointed by the Governor to create policies to guide the North Carolina’s public schools and public charter schools. This newsletter is intended to help non-educators see what the Board is doing and considering and how those actions will affect the 1.5 million school children in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. View all State Board of Education member and advisor information online at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/AboutUs/AboutUs.aspx?S=10399&TID=1>*

STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE

In October, the State Board of Education began developing a new Strategic Plan to identify, establish and measure education priorities for the next 3-5 years. North Carolina’s current needs and environment. In December, the Board discussed a draft of the new strategic plan. Each of the four goals in the plan will include objectives and measures to gauge success. Here are the goals:

- Every student in the North Carolina public school system graduates from high school prepared for work, further education and citizenship.
- Every student has the opportunity for a personalized education.
- Every student, every day, has access to excellent educators.
- Every school district will have up-to-date financial, business and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators.

How will these goals be measured? Some measures likely will remain as they are today (high school graduation rates, rate of students earning the UNC-minimum ACT score of 17, professional credentials earned by Career and Technical Education students) but others under consideration include remediation rates for high school graduates once they begin community college or university study, and the growth of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) schools in North Carolina.

Board members expect to continue discussing this with an eye toward approval in April 2014. Want to share your thoughts on this? What goals do you think are most important for public schools? Take a look at the document members reviewed this month – <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=1107>; send comments to publiccomments@dpi.nc.gov.

GLOBAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

North Carolina’s economy depends on companies across the world and international trade relationships. More than likely, today’s students will find their adult careers linked to global concerns and the global economy. Recognizing this, board members convened a Global Education Task Force in 2012 to find ways to ensure that students have the opportunity to develop skills that prepare them for success in a global society and economy. This month, the Board heard updates that provided a glimpse of how local school districts – including Onslow and Perquimans – are making strides



in global education. Members also heard from World View, the NC Center for International Understanding and VIF International Educators about the roles they play in this arena. A subcommittee of the Board, led by member Wayne McDevitt, chairman of the original task force, will be working in coming months to guide implementation. That initial report included a comprehensive approach focused on leading-edge language instruction, new school models and strategic international relationships. Read it online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/globaled/>.

NC’S VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL FOCUSES ON QUALITY TEACHING, CONTENT AND SUPPORT

In 2012-13, 47,175 North Carolina students in every public school district took advantage of the courses offered through the NC Virtual Public School, which offers public, homeschool and private school students the opportunity to take online courses for credit. Since NCVPS began in Summer 2007, more than 213,000 students have benefited from this opportunity. The school’s latest annual report was presented in December and is available at <http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/about-us/results/>. NCVPS serves a wide range of student needs, including the Occupational Course of Study all the way through college-level courses. On Advanced Placement courses, nine NCVPS-offered AP courses exceeded national passing rates.

CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY APPROVED

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, local school districts will be required to offer credit by demonstrated mastery to place high school students in courses for the following school year. During the 2013-14 school year, local school districts have this option, but it is not required. For middle school students, this opportunity is up to the school district’s discretion. The NC Department of Public Instruction will release a revised CDM Implementation Guide before January.

SBE HIGHLIGHTS – *A checklist of Board actions is posted every month immediately after the meeting’s end. Access that at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/minutes-actions/sbe-actions/2013>. The State Board of Education’s next meeting will be Jan. 8-9 in Raleigh. Proceedings are audiostreamed through the Board’s meeting site. Go to ncpublicschools.org and click on the SBE Meetings in the top right corner of the page.*