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Notes on the state board of education...

June 2-3, 2004

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [/sbe_meetings/0406_sbagenda.html](#) Click on the appropriate agenda category, High Student Performance (HSP); Teacher 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).

State Board Opposes Teacher Workday Reduction

After lengthy discussion regarding HB 1464, School Calendar Changes, the State Board unanimously approved a policy statement that states members' adamant opposition to cutting noninstructional teacher workdays from 20 to 10 per school year. This cut is currently proposed as part of HB 1464 and would change the starting and ending dates for students. Board members noted that they are sympathetic to the needs of the travel and tourism industry, primary supporters of this legislation, and that they would support a comprehensive study of the school calendar, including instruction needs; teacher staff development, planning and preparation needs; and family considerations. Members noted that to cut even noninstructional teacher workdays has a variety of unintended consequences that need study before moving back to a pre-1973 teacher work year. The complete resolution is available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/news/03-04/060304.html>.

Issue Session • All Kinds of Minds

Our State, Our Money – Where are We Headed and Where Will We Be in 2020 — Tom Covington, former Director of the North Carolina Progress Board, made a thorough presentation on North Carolina's needs and progress relative to eight imperatives for "the good life" in North Carolina. On many of these, he noted that there are "tipping points" that signal future difficulties or positives for our state. The eight imperatives are: a high performance workforce, a prosperous economy, a quality education for all, healthy families and children, a sustainable environment, a 21st century public infrastructure, safe and vibrant communities, and accountable government and active citizens.

Schools Attuned — In May, Board members heard an overview of the work of Dr. Mel Levine Director of All Kinds of Minds. This month members heard presentations by Alison Carlson, director of North Carolina Schools Attuned, the program that provides leadership and training to teachers seeking to implement the All Kinds of Minds model in schools. Pam Gaddis, a Schools Attuned educator at Quest Academy Charter School, and DPI Deputy State Superintendent Janice Davis also made presentations. Schools Attuned provides year-long professional development with a focus on applying knowledge learned within the classroom. The model's three components include pre-work at the school site, core course work by Schools Attuned-trained faculty, and follow-up experiences.

Gaddis, a veteran teacher, noted that Schools Attuned has provided her with the training and knowledge she needs to reach students with unique learning styles or needs within a mainstream classroom.

Action Items

Revision of Student Accountability Standards Policies (HSP 1) — The Board approved several revisions to its policies regarding Student Accountability Standards. These revisions were needed to correct unintentional omissions and typographical errors and to align practice with existing State Board of Education Policy.

Request Permission to Revise the NC Healthful Living Standard Course of Study (HSP 2) — The Healthful Living curriculum will be revised during the next year for presentation to the State Board in November 2005. These revisions are not anticipated to be major, but are minor changes to reflect changing health issues, edits of terminology and alignment with the new national physical education standards.

Recommendations for Suspended and Expelled Students (HSP 3) — The Board approved recommendations for suspended and expelled students this month. The recommendations were the result of a year-long review of research and data associated with suspensions and expulsions, as well as input from various agency partners and stakeholders. The 10 recommendations include producing a Best Practices Manual (by June 2005) to help local schools and districts reduce the rate of suspensions and expulsions; requiring local districts to set measurable goals and objectives related to suspensions and expulsions and include these in school and district School Improvement and Safe Schools Plans; providing training on topics such as diversity, classroom management, conflict resolution, instructional practices and Student Services Management programs to local educators and staff who work with students who have behavioral and academic problems; and strongly encouraging districts to establish programs to meet the needs of suspended and expelled students.

Corrections to the ABCs of Public Education: 2002-03 AYP Determinations (HSP 5) — Three charter schools and one traditional school had their 2002-03 AYP determinations calculated incorrectly, according to a recent review of the programming rules of operation for 2002-03. As a result, the following four schools actually made AYP for 2002-03: Alpha Academy, Woodson School of Challenge, Lincoln Charter and Davidson River School (Transylvania County Schools).

Approval of Plans for Flexible Use of Mentoring Funds (QP 1) — Plans for flexible use of mentor funds were approved for the following school systems: Asheville City, Avery County, Carteret County, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Davie County, Guilford County, Henderson County, Hoke County, Iredell-Statesville, Jones County, Orange County, Wake County, and Wilson County.

Revision of Teacher Education Specialty Area Program Standards (QP 2) — Revisions were approved for the Teacher Education Specialty Area Program Standards for Academically/Intellectually Gifted, Health Education, School Media Coordinator, and Speech/Language Pathologist. The effective date for these changes is fall 2005.

State Evaluation Committee Program Approval Recommendations (QP 3) — Teacher education program approvals were granted for Barton College, Bennett College, Campbell University, Johnson C. Smith University and Shaw University. Rural Flexibility – Highly Qualified Teachers (EEO 1) — The Board approved the amendment to North Carolina's State Consolidated Application under No Child Left Behind regarding rural flexibility. According to federal regulations, schools in Hyde County and Tyrrell County, as well as 22 charter schools, would qualify as rural.

Title I School Improvement Funds (EEO 2) — A revised method of allotting Title I funds was approved to accommodate the increase in the number of schools expected to be in Title I School Improvement beginning in school year 2004-05. The new formula will allocate funds using two components: a base amount per LEA and a per pupil amount. School systems will use these funds for any of three purposes: school improvement activities to address the reasons that a school(s) did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), to pay for public school choice transportation, or to pay for supplemental education services.

Action on First Reading

Approval of Federal Grants (EEO 5) — The following federal grants were approved: Even Start Family Literacy Programs Grants, Supplemental Allotment of Federal Public Charter School Program Grant Dissemination Funds to Eligible Charter Schools, and grants through the Comprehensive Exceptional Children Accountability System Allotments.

Revise Transportation Allotment Formula (EEO 12) — The State Board authorized the Department of Public Instruction to proceed with a Request for Proposals to study and develop a revised allotment formula for transportation for 2005-06. The current transportation funding formula has been in place for more than 12 years and has been effective in providing incentives for efficiency. Today, however, local districts transport many more students for pre-K, remediation, NCLB and other programs than in the past. The transportation formula should be studied to ensure that it meets current needs given the current transportation environment.

Discussion Items

Revisions in the Course for Credit Policy (HSP 6) — As a result of changes in the weighted credit policy, local superintendents have requested that the course for credit policy be changed. The revisions, discussed this month, would exempt public university, community college and private college courses from the 135 or 150 instructional hours with the exception of certain core courses such as English I, II, III, and IV, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Biology, Government/Economics, or the first year of a second language or Health/Physical Education. Local superintendents, however, could grant a waiver to allow students to take these core courses at a college if they are not offered at a local high school.

Recommendations for Preliminary Approval of 2004 Charter School Applications (EEO 7) — Board members considered recommendations for three new charter schools, including a single-sex (all female) charter school in Wake County. The three applicants recommended by the Charter School Advisory Committee for preliminary approval are Gamma Girls' Charter School in Wake County, Two Rivers Community School in Watauga County and Socrates Academy in Mecklenburg. This item was for discussion this month.

NC WISE Statewide Implementation and Rollout Responsibilities (EEO 11) — A policy development outline was presented this month for policies that need to be in place for NC WISE. These include policies related to security, network/infrastructure management, implementation schedule/procedures/commitments, student records, reference to legislation outlining UERS/state requirements, and alternative system solutions to NC WISE. The Board will receive a complete policy in July for discussion and for action in August.

Proposed SBE Anti-Harassment Policy (SS 1) — The Board's first anti-harassment/ bullying policy was presented this month for discussion. This policy makes it clear that the Board's objective is to maintain a safe, orderly and caring learning environment in the public schools and public charter schools that is free from harassment, bullying and discrimination and that is inclusive of all students. This policy covers the following types of acts: harassment, bullying, and discrimination based on an individual's race, color, sex, religion, creed, ethnicity, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socioeconomic status, physical characteristics, marital status or disability. The policy outlines the Board's responsibility to provide guidance and technical assistance to local boards of education in developing ways to prevent, intervene, investigate, document and report all forms of harassment. The policy presented this month also requires local boards to establish their own policies addressing the issue of retaliation as stated in federal civil rights guidelines. This item will be presented for action in July.

Special Recognitions

The State Board of Education recognized a variety of special honorees this month. Two were especially poignant because of how eloquently they illustrated the broad range of students served in public schools.

Student Recognitions

The Top African-American Achievers honored by the Capital Wake Sertoma Club — Amber Gaither, a 2004 graduate of Enloe High School in Wake County, was recognized because she has received scholarship offers totaling more than \$800,000.

Occupational Course of Study — Three students were recognized because they are among the first to graduate from high school through the Occupational Course of Study. Those recognized were Dani Kinert, Chapel Hill High School, (Parents: Tom and Debbie Kinert); Emmanuel Chavis, Green Hope High School, Wake County Schools (Parent: Vivian Mills), and Charlie Davis, Athens Drive High School, Wake County Schools (Parents: Charles and Jane Davis). Each of these students spoke of their pride in being able to earn a high school diploma that was the result of a curriculum that was meaningful and challenging for them. Charlie Davis noted that he considered himself similar to a car that "has no reverse, only forward." His enthusiasm and drive exemplified the remarks of these students. Approximately 1,700 out of 8,000 seniors with disabilities are enrolled in this course of study.

State Treasurer's Award for Excellence in Accounting and Financial Management — Timothy Romocki, director, Debt Management Section, State and Local Government Finance Division, State Treasurer's Office, presented this award to Orange County Superintendent Shirley Carraway and Interim Finance Director Patricia Harris. This award recognizes sound financial management in local school systems.

North Carolina Teacher of the Year Team — The 2004-05 North Carolina Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year Team were recognized by the Board. As part of the presentation, an announcement was made that the State Board, through the N.C. Education Foundation, will support the travel of the seven Regional Teachers of the Year on the 2004 team to Ghana to participate in the overseas global studies program sponsored by the NC Center for International Understanding. The NC Teacher of the Year annually attends an overseas immersion program as designated by the Caroline Hunt Endowment Fund. The SBE, by sending the "best of the best" educators abroad, hopes to enhance the number of North Carolina teachers who have experience in international travel and who will help raise the value of international education and highlight the importance of increasing student knowledge and skills about the world.

This year's Teacher of the Year team members are Lizbeth Alfaro, Lyle Creek Elementary School, Catawba County (Teacher of the Year); Johnny Gatlin, Middle Creek High School, Wake County; Allen Gaidry, J.H. Rose High School, Pitt County; Donna Kay Thompson, Waccamaw Elementary School, Brunswick County; Betty Clagg, Highland School of Technology, Gaston County; Kem Dudney, Hallsboro Middle School, Columbus County; Tommie Evans, Northern Middle School, Person County; and Peter Bobbe, Mountain Heritage High School, Yancey County.

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