The State Board of Education recognized a variety of special honorees this month. Those recognized were Dani Kinert, Chapel Hill High School, (Parents: Robin and Doug Kinert), Daniel Gamble, East Mecklenburg High School, (Parents: Robert and Lisa Gamble), and Dominique Alexander, East Forsyth High School, (Parents: Tina and Zara Alexander). These honorees were recognized for their personal and academic achievements.

Professor Ronald Davis spoke about the impact of anti-harassment policies in schools. Davis noted that he considered himself similar to a car that “has no reverse, only forward,” meaning that once you start a process, it is difficult to turn back. He encouraged schools to proactively address harassment problems.

The Board’s objective is to maintain a safe, orderly and caring learning environment. The policy makes it clear that the Board will not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying and discrimination and that is inclusive of all students. This policy was presented this month for discussion.

Proposed SBE Anti-Harassment Policy (SS 1)

The State Board of Education recently proposed a new policy on anti-harassment. The policy defines harassment as any verbal, written, physical act or gesture, on school property, that is objectively harmful and intimidating on the basis of an individual’s race, color, sex, religion, creed, ethnicity, political belief, age, physical disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. This policy was presented this month for discussion.

Outstanding Principals: Southside High School in Orange County; and Peter Bobbe, Mountain Heritage High School, Yancey County.

Outstanding Teachers: Betty Clagg, Highland School of Technology, Gaston County; Kem Dudney, Hardison High School, Forsyth County; and Dr. James B. Davis, Walter E. Hussar Jr. High School, Mecklenburg County.

Outstanding Staff: Dr. Charles Pippin, Administrative Professor, Minges College; and Dr. William Byers, Coordinator, and Speech/Language Pathologist. The effective date for these rules is January 1, 2004. This is the first year these rules will apply.

Strengthening Public Charter School Program Grant Dissemination Funds to Eligible Charter Schools

The State Board of Education approved several revisions to its policies regarding Student Accountability. The Board unanimously approved a policy statement that states members’ adamant opposition to a cut of 10% in teacher work year. The complete resolution is available at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/news/03-04/060304.

Public Charter School Program Grant Dissemination Funds to Eligible Charter Schools

The State Board of Education approved the first five applications for the Public Charter School Program Grant Dissemination Funds to Eligible Charter Schools. These include policies related to security, network/infrastructure management, implementation schedule/procedures/commitments, and student records, reference to legislation outlining UERS/state requirements, and infrastructure management.

Preliminary approval are Gamma Girls’ Charter School in Wake County, Two Rivers Charter School in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Capital Charter School in Wake County, Watauga Community School in Watauga County and Socrates Academy in Mecklenburg.

On May 13, 2003, Board members heard an overview of the work of Dr. Carl Basile, former superintendent of the Wake County Public School System. Basile described his 16 years as superintendent and his vision for the future. 

Our State, Our Money – Where are We Headed and Where Will We Be in 2020

John Engler, State Treasurer of Michigan, shared his vision for the future and the impact it will have on our state. He discussed the importance of education, infrastructure, health care, and economic growth. Engler also addressed the economic challenges facing our state and the need for innovative solutions.

The Board recently approved a policy statement that states members’ adamant opposition to a cut of 10% in teacher work year. The Board also approved a policy statement that states members’ adamant opposition to state-mandated teacher furloughs. The complete resolution is available at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/news/03-04/060304.