



# 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...

Jan. 4-5, 2006

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe\\_meetings/0601\\_sbagenda.html](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0601_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

*Reading/Literacy Programs and Issues in North Carolina Public Schools - Part II* – Board members continued their discussion of Reading/Literacy Programs and Issues in North Carolina public schools with a summary report on adolescent literacy from representatives at the local level. Swain County High School Principal Janet Clapsaddle (via conference call) addressed literacy programs in her school and discussed how small teams of teachers review school data and instructional strategies and develop a literacy action plan for their school. Durham Public Schools 6-12 grades English Language Arts Coordinator Shayne Goodrum discussed their literacy program and how content-specific courses would be designed for English, math, science and social studies. She said that students leave elementary school with the building blocks needed for proficient reading but need refined coaching at the middle and high school levels where text is more challenging and reading needs are different. NCDPI English Language Arts/Social Studies Section Chief Tracey Greggs then discussed with Board members reading initiatives at the middle grades level. She said that staff have provided four Trainers of Writing Institutes, and professional development and support documents focused on 21st century learning skills. Randolph County Schools' Literacy Specialist Jane Teague discussed her system's field experiences in reading and writing instruction. Teague said the school system provides professional development for teachers in effective reading and writing instruction. Writing training is offered not only at the seventh grade but also at sixth and eighth grades. Greggs concluded with a discussion of resources available for exceptional children with learning difficulties in reading and writing. She added that the NCDPI's Middle Grades Division would continue to create and sustain professional development aimed at understanding and implementing North Carolina's Standard Course of Study and 21st Century learning skills. This training is targeted at English Language Arts teachers, initially licensed teachers and first year teachers, parents and the school community. The NCDPI's Elementary Education Division English Language Arts/Social Studies/Student Services Section Chief Marilyn Palmer concluded the issues session with a discussion of efforts in the Elementary Education Division. She said that the majority of the Division's support documents are available on the Department's Web site. Professional development at the elementary level is focused on formative assessment – helping teachers identify why students may be struggling. Staff members have provided a number of state and local conference presentations and will be revising several documents to reflect new Standard Course of Study objectives as well as support low-performing schools. At next month's Board meeting, members will begin formulating a strategic plan that identifies priorities and resources in addition to involving collaborative partners (universities/community colleges) to help set future directions.

### Action Agenda

- *Calendar Bill Waivers Requested by LEAs for Educational Purposes (HSP1)* – State Board members approved the list of recommended calendar bill waiver requests for educational programs, with the exception of requests from Martin County Schools, Edgecombe County Schools and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. These three school systems' requests for calendar bill waivers for their high schools were moved to HSP 3 – Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act – and will be considered for action at the February Board meeting.
- *Revision of the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study (HSP2)* – Revisions were approved to the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study that addressed changing the term "sexual intercourse" to the term "sexual activity" and added language regarding proper use of all-terrain vehicles.
- *Revision of Praxis I Testing Requirement for Admission to Teacher Education (OP 1)* – Students who score at least 1100 on the SAT or a composite ACT score of 24 are now exempt from taking the Praxis I. Students who score 550 on either the verbal or math portions of the SAT or 24 on either the English or math portions of the ACT can opt out of those parts of the Praxis. Undergraduates seeking admission to a North Carolina-approved teacher education program must pass the Praxis I for entrance (unless they meet one of the SAT or ACT score requirements noted above).
- *Revision of Requirements for Preservice Training of Prospective Teachers and Lateral Entry Teachers (QP2)* – Teacher preparation programs and pre-employment training provided to lateral entry teachers must now include training in the positive management of student behavior and the safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint.
- *Revision of Initial Licensure Program Annual Report (QP3)* – Board members approved the revised Initial Licensure Program Annual Report to include recommendations of the Task Force on Teacher Retention and the Select Committee on Lateral Entry. These recommendations focus on measuring the impact of teacher retention programs and LEA reporting of the support they provide lateral entry teachers.
- *Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools (EEO1)* – Renewal recommendations for the following charter schools were approved: Academy of Moore County, Arapahoe Charter School, Bridges School, Carter G. Woodson School, Casa Esperanza Montessori, Central Park School, Chatham Charter, Children's Village, CIS Academy, Community Charter, Downtown Middle, Exploris Middle, Francine Delany New School, Grandfather Academy, Gray Stone Day School, Highland Charter School, John H. Baker, Jr. High School, Learning Center, Magellan Charter School, Maureen Joy Charter School, Mountain Discovery Charter School, Orange Charter School, Quality Education Academy, Rocky Mount Preparatory Academy, Sallie B. Howard School, Sterling Montessori Academy, and Summit Charter School.
- *LEA-Wide Calendar Waiver Requests (EEO2)* – Board members approved 17 district-wide calendar waiver requests based on the school systems' eligibility criteria of missing more than eight instructional days in four of the last 10 years due to inclement weather.

### Action on First Reading

- *Appeals for Extension of Time to Fulfill Licensure Coursework Requirements Due to Extenuating Circumstances (QP4)* – Board members approved additional time to meet licensure requirements for 16 individuals who have not been able to complete required coursework due to extenuating circumstances.
- *Report on Best Practices Regarding Teacher Planning Time (QP 5)* – Board members voted to accept the report, "Report on Best Practices Regarding Teacher Planning Time," for submission to the Education Cabinet and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by Jan. 15. The report highlights how a few schools are able to provide a minimum of five hours per week for planning. Upon the recommendation of Chairman Howard Lee, NCDPI's Human Resource Management Director Kathy Sullivan will draft a cover letter for the report citing options to help school systems meet their planning needs, including the use of retired teachers – an option that was recently removed by the legislature.

### Discussion Agenda

- *Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act (HSP 3)* – Board members discussed calendar waiver requests being made under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act. These requests are due for action in February. 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. A review process will be put in place by staff to monitor the use of these waivers.
- *Minimize Time Devoted to Standardized Testing (HSP 4)* – Board members discussed a new policy that would limit the amount of time schools may devote to practice tests and restrict the timing and frequency of field tests. NCDPI Accountability Services Director Lou Fabrizio told Board members that the field test policy reflects current testing practices and that staff members are now beginning to embed field test items in certain end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments.
- *Options for Growth Models for Determining Adequate Yearly Progress (HSP 5)* – Accountability Services Director Lou Fabrizio outlined four growth model proposals as part of the way Adequate Yearly Progress could be calculated. The U.S. Department of Education recently offered states the opportunity to submit certain types of growth models for its consideration. The Board must select a growth model at their February meeting in order to meet the Feb. 17 deadline for this pilot program. The growth models identified by the U.S. Department of Education primarily focus on growth in the success level of schools in getting students to proficiency. The federal growth definition does not mirror North Carolina's ABCs model, which focuses on academic growth of individual students over time, regardless of whether the student is proficient. The Compliance Commission for Accountability will be meeting to further discuss the growth models and develop recommendations for Board consideration.
- *Appointment of New Members to the State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education (OP 6)* – Board members are considering reappointing six committee members to the State Evaluation Committee and appointing one new member. The State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education meets three times a year to review the reports of on-site teacher education program approval visitation teams and to make recommendations to the State Board concerning program approval.
- *Revision of the School Counselor Job Description (OP 7)* – Following extensive discussion of the revised school counselor job description, and, in particular, whether to include a percentage of distribution time requirement for counselors providing direct services to students, Board members decided to hold this item to allow time for more input on the issue.
- *NC HOUSSE (High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation) for Kindergarten, Physical Education, Health, Hearing Impaired, and Middle Grades Teachers (OP 8)* – Board members discussed HOUSSE components that can be used by kindergarten, English as a second language, physical education, health, dance, hearing impaired, and middle grades teachers to be designated as "highly qualified" in compliance with No Child Left Behind.
- *Charter School Grade Changes and Enrollment Requests Increase Above 10% (EEO 3)* – Four charter schools (The Central Park School for Children, Carter Day School, Kennedy Charter Public School, and Union Academy) are requesting revisions to their charters to allow for enrollment increases greater than 10 percent. Also, two charter schools (Children's Community School and Queen's Grant Community School) are requesting revisions to their charters to allow for enrollment increases greater than 10 percent and grade expansions other than those requested in their original charter school application. Board members are expected to take action on this request at their February meeting.
- *Report of the E-Learning Commission (EEO 4)* – SAS External Relations Director and Co-Chair of the E-Learning Commission John Bolding and retired Glaxo Executive and Co-Chair of the E-Learning Commission Larry Siegler presented to Board members Phase II recommendations from "The Report of the E-Learning Commission to the North Carolina State Board of Education." This report includes recommendations that would further develop the state's ability to provide virtual learning opportunities to students and other citizens through all of North Carolina's public schools, universities and community colleges. Only one of the Commission's recommendations requires State Board of Education action and that involves the renaming of the virtual high school pilot to the NCVirtual Public School. The other recommendations require either or both NC General Assembly/Education Cabinet action and State Board endorsement. The Board will take action on naming the new school next month.

### Information Agenda

- *Healthy Active Children Policy Progress Report (HSP 6)* – NCDPI's Senior Advisor for Healthy Schools Paula Collins provided Board members with a Healthy Active Children Policy progress report. Collins said that all 115 school systems have completed their healthy active children reports and that most are concentrating their efforts in three areas: nutrition, staff wellness, and physical education/activity. This year's report did not ask for school systems to report the number of physical activity minutes their schools are providing. This is the second year of the three-year Healthy Active Children Policy progress reporting process.
- *Proposed Evaluation for Piloting of the Use of Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (HSP7)* – East Carolina University Professor Charles Thompson and Georgia State University Professor Gary Henry provided Board members with an evaluation strategy for the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund. The goal of the evaluation is to improve the program by providing trustworthy evidence about the program's effectiveness. Questions that will be answered during the evaluation include: What are the effects on student achievement? Are students achieving more as a result of the funds? Are the funds sufficient? Are more experienced teachers in the classroom? Is there less out-of-field teaching? Do administrators support the teaching and learning process? Which are the most effective and least effective strategies to improve outcomes? Board members will receive reports in a number of ways, including written (interim and annual) reports and oral briefings as the evaluation process proceeds and solid evidence warrants.
- *2006-07 Supplemental Budget Request (EEO 7)* – NCDPI Associate Superintendent for Financial and Business Services Philip Price summarized the feedback from education constituents regarding the Board's 2006-07 Supplemental Budget Request. State Board member Wayne McDevitt will chair a Board budgetary workgroup to finalize the Board's budget request.

### Special Recognitions

- *NCVirtual Interim Director* – Bruce Friend is the new North Carolina Virtual Interim Director. Friend was the chief administrator for Florida's virtual high school. He also received the 2004 and 2005 Principal Achievement Award while in Florida and the US Distance Learning Outstanding Achievement Award. Friend, a DPI employee, will report directly to the State Board of Education.
- *2005 Distinguished Health Education Program* – The NCDPI's "NC Healthy Schools" initiative received the 2005 National Distinguished Health Education Program Award presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Education and Promotion Network. The award is given to a program that has demonstrated impact on the national level as reflected in changes in health indicators, health policy, health systems or health status, which developed national partnerships to achieve its objectives, is national in scope and has been in existence for five years or more. The North Carolina School Health Advisory Council manual, which was written and designed by NC Healthy Schools' staff, is serving as a national model for CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health for use in other states to help influence the adoption of School Health Advisory Councils throughout the country.
- *Paula Collins Recognized for Healthy Schools Efforts* – State Board of Education Chairman Howard Lee presented NCDPI's Senior Advisor for Healthy Schools Paula Collins with a certificate in recognition of her efforts to promote healthy schools initiatives in North Carolina public schools. Collins is a career health educator having worked in the health field for 31 years.
- *Legislator of the Year* – The North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Executive Director Ron Morrow presented Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue with its Legislator of the Year award in recognition of her efforts in fighting teen smoking and obesity and for her support for healthy active children.
- *Friend of Child Nutrition* – NCDPI's Child Nutrition Services Section Chief Lynn Hoggard presented NCDPI's Senior Advisor for Healthy Schools Paula Collins with the Child Nutrition Section's and the NC School Food Association's 2005 Friend of Child Nutrition Award in appreciation and recognition of her commitment to child nutrition initiatives as a component of coordinated school health programs.

### New Business

- Board members approved 2005-06 NC Teacher of the Year Wendy Miller's request to provide monetary support from the NC Education Foundation to enable the 2005-06 Regional North Carolina Teachers of the Year to attend the Center for International Understanding's 2006 Educators in Mexico program.
- Board members requested State Board Legislative Director Linda Suggs to draft a letter to members of the North Carolina congressional delegation and to the U.S. Department of Education expressing the Board's deep concerns regarding cuts in the FY 06 federal education budget and the impact on North Carolina public schools.

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