



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...

Oct. 4-5, 2006

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0610/0610_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).

Action Agenda

- *Nutrition Standards for Elementary Schools (EEO 1)* - Statewide nutrition standards were approved 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 to decrease foods high in total fat, trans fat, saturated fat and sugar. The nutrition standards are to 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 members discussed including funds to support this item in its 2007-09 Expansion Budget Request that will be submitted to the Office of State Budget and Management in November.
- *Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (EEO 2)* - The following members were reappointed 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. Debra McHenry, representing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, was appointed to a first term.
- *Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Salary Grade Reclassifications (EEO 3)* - Board members approved 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.
- *State Board of Education Policy on Charter Schools Renewal Process (EEO 4)* - Revisions to the Board's Charter Schools Renewal Process policy were approved to reflect relevant changes.

Action on First Reading

- *2006 Textbook Adoptions and Textbook Commission Report (HSP1)* - Board members approved the adoption of instructional materials for Arts Education K-12 and for Family and Consumer Sciences Education 6-12.
- *Graduation Project Professional Development and Project Management Pilot (HSP 2)* - Board members approved allotting \$500,000 to support professional development and a pilot for Web-based project management software. Half of the allotment will be used to provide 16 professional development sessions on the NC Graduation Project's four components: paper, product, presentation and portfolio. The remaining money will be used to develop project management software to assist students in completing a culminating activity and teachers in assessing proficiency and managing requirements of the project for multiple students. The software is expected to help make the paperwork management less cumbersome. It's also a great way to incorporate 21st century skills into the state's graduation project.
- *The 2005-06 High School ABCs Report and 2006-07 Assistance Program (HSP 3)* - The 2005-06 High School ABCs results were approved in addition to staff's recommendation for the assignment of state assistance teams to 14 low-performing high schools. The 2005-06 results showed that 57 percent of the state's high schools made expected or high academic growth and a total of 71.4 percent of end-of-course tests' scores were reported at the proficient level or higher. The 2005-06 results are the first provided using the new ABCs formulas developed in 2005. Low-performing high schools receiving help from state assistance teams in 2006-07 are: Bertie High (Bertie County Schools); Hertford County High (Hertford County Schools); Carver High and the School of Pre-engineering (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools); Reidsville High (Rockingham County Schools); Andrews High, Middle College at A&T, Guilford Technical Community College Middle College (Guilford County Schools); Northwest Halifax High and Southeast Halifax High (Halifax County Schools); Red Springs High (Public Schools of Robeson County); Hillside High and Southern High (Durham Public Schools); and Garinger High (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools). ABCs results and math AYP results for elementary and middle schools are expected to be released Nov. 1.
- *Changes in AYP Results, LEA Improvement and Title I School Improvement (HSP 4)* - Board members approved corrections/additions to the 2005-06 AYP results, LEA Improvement and Title I School Improvement lists. Based on reading assessment results only, 247 schools are in Title I School Improvement. Sixty-one school districts are in District Improvement. These numbers are likely to increase when the elementary and middle schools' AYP math results are released Nov. 1.
- *Final Decisions in Contested Cases: Monica Robertson v. NCDPI, Gail G. Brooks v. NCDPI, Marisa Lail Setzer v. DPI (QP 1)* - Board members approved staff recommendations regarding the final decisions in these contested cases. The Administrative Law Judge previously granted the NCDPI's motions for summary judgments for each of these cases.
- Request from Yancey County for the Flexible Use of Mentor Funds (QP 2) - Yancey County's plan for the flexible use of mentor funds was approved. The 2005 Budget Bill contained a special provision to allow local districts flexibility in the use of mentor funds providing they submit a detailed plan on the use of the funds to the State Board for approval. To date, 28 local districts have received State Board approval for the flexible use of mentor funds since the provision was first approved in the 2003 Budget Bill.
- *Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements (QP 3)* - Board members approved its advisory board's recommendations regarding requests for exception from teacher licensing requirements.
- *Requests for Waiver of the Repayment Obligation of the National Board of Certification Participation Fee (QP 4)* - Board members approved its appeals panel recommendations regarding requests for waiver of the repayment obligation of the National Board of Certification participation fee. Teachers requesting this waiver completed the National Board process but did not teach full-time the year following their candidacy.
- *NC Virtual Public School Advisory Committee Process and Names (EEO 9)* - Board members approved the proposed makeup of the NC Virtual Public School Advisory Committee. A list of names for membership consideration will be submitted to Board members at their November meeting.
- *Late Item: Recommendation to Revoke the Charter of John H. Baker, Jr., Charter High School (EEO 11)* - Board members approved staff recommendation to begin charter revocation procedures for John H. Baker, Jr., Charter High School. Through DPI staff investigations, several issues concerning policies and procedures in governance, finance and student accounting have surfaced that put the charter school in non-compliant status.

Discussion Agenda

- *Mathematics Achievement Levels for Grades 3-8 (HSP 5)* - Board members discussed the process involved in setting interim academic achievement standards (cut scores) for the End-of-Grade (EOG) Mathematics Assessments (General Assessment Grades 3-8 and the NCEXTEND2 EOG Alternate Assessment Grades 3-8). There are three options for setting cut scores: equi-percentile equating, contrasting groups, and bookmarking or item mapping. The interim EOG mathematics standards are being developed in consultation with mathematics teachers, standards setting panelists, statistical equated analyses and agency staff and leadership. Board members will need to adopt interim standards to be applied to math assessments taken during the 2005-06 school year in order to report ABCs and AYP results for 2005-06 and student performance at the local level by Nov. 1. Board members are expected to adopt interim achievement levels during a conference call to be held late next week.
- *Social Studies Standard Course of Study 2006 (HSP 6)* - Board members considered a recommendation to revise the North Carolina Social Studies Standard Course of Study (SSSCOS). Feedback received from local social studies supervisors and teachers overwhelmingly supported the recommendation not to revise the SSSCOS but to address specific areas of concern through clarification documents, professional development and additional support materials. Not revising the SSSCOS also will allow additional time to analyze the effectiveness of the current SSSCOS as well as corresponding EOC tests.
- *Annual Teacher Turnover Report (QP 5)* - The 2005-06 System Level Teacher Turnover Report was discussed by Board members. North Carolina's 115 local school districts reported that of the 101,229 teachers employed during the 2005-06 school year, 12,730 teachers left their systems, resulting in an average teacher turnover rate of 12.58 percent. This represents a slight decrease from last year's turnover rate of 12.95 percent. North Carolina's teacher turnover rate remains lower than the percentage reported in national data for all teachers in the United States - 15.7. The top two reasons teachers gave for leaving were resignation to teach elsewhere and retirement. Board members are expected to approve this report at their November meeting. Board members requested that NCDPI Human Resource Management Director Kathy Sullivan and the Teacher Quality Commission analyze the data to determine if further Board action is needed.
- *Technology Requirements for New School Construction (EEO 5)* - Board members discussed proposed school technology infrastructure planning guidelines that school systems can use to help ensure that their schools' infrastructure will support current and future technology use. It is imperative that schools be built with proper infrastructure to accommodate the technology necessary for a 21st century education and beyond. Because no official standards currently exist, schools are still being built with inadequate infrastructure for technology. Board members would like to ensure that all superintendents have had the opportunity to comment on this report before they take action on this proposal in November.
- *State Board of Education Policy on Student Selection on Enrollment in Charter Schools (EEO 6)* - Board members discussed a proposed policy regarding a planning year for new preliminary charter schools for approval in November. The planning year allows for proper development of the school's curricular, financial, marketing and facility plans. Final approval of the charter would be contingent upon successfully completing all of the requirements of the planning program. Currently the planning year is part of the US Department of Education's grant language, which is scheduled to end. Approving the addition of this language to the Charter School policy would make this requirement permanent.
- *State Board of Education Policy on Student Selection on Enrollment in Charter Schools (EEO 7)* - Updates that would reflect relevant changes to State Board Policy EEO-U-000, Policy Regarding Student Selection and Enrollment in Charter Schools, were discussed. Approval of this policy change would ensure that charter schools conducting a lottery to fill student vacancies would be consistent across the state.
- *2007-09 Biennial Budget Process (EEO 8)* - Board members began discussing potential items for inclusion in their 2007-09 Expansion Budget Request. Items were grouped under improve capacity, expand/new education programs, teacher/employee retention, agency requests and a compilation of resource needs based on reports. The Board's total budget request cannot exceed \$370,197,029. Further budget discussions will be held over the next month to whittle down items to be included. NCDPI's expansion budget request for the 2007-09 Biennium is due to the Office of State Budget and Management on Nov. 15.

Information Agenda

- *2006 Electronic Textbook Pilot Test (HSP 7)* - Board members received a report on the 2006 Electronic Textbook Pilot test. The goals of the pilot were to develop procedures that would provide electronic instructional materials as part of the department's textbook adoption process and for schools or school systems to have the opportunity to adopt as a part of their instructional program. Three schools participated in the pilot: Banner Elk Elementary (Avery County Schools), Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf (Wilson County) and Kinston Charter Academy (Lenoir County). The pilot provided insight as to the lack of availability of quality electronic textbook materials and the concerns and barriers that exist in schools implementing these materials.
- *Innovative Education Initiatives Act - Evaluation of Innovative High School Programs (NC New Schools Project) (HSP 8)* - Board members received a report summarizing and evaluating the state's progress under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act in regard to high school redesign efforts and the effectiveness of those efforts to date. During the 2005-06 school year, 11 redesigned or conversion schools located on eight existing high school campuses and 13 early college high schools opened for students. Over the next three years, those eight high schools will convert into a total of 22 small, thematically focused and academically rigorous high schools. An additional 14 redesigned or conversion schools and 20 early college high schools are expected to open in the 2006-07 school year. The North Carolina New Schools Project is monitoring and evaluating each school's progress in implementing their plan for redesign and for meeting the needs of each student. Some school-level data is available but achievement data is not yet available. Data around graduation rates and pursuit of higher education will be available over the next five years.
- *Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (HSP 9)* - This item was removed from the agenda and placed on the Board's December meeting agenda.
- *Report on the Flexible Use of Mentoring Funds (QP 6)* - Reports from 24 local districts that received approval for flexible use of mentor funds for the 2005-06 school year were compiled into a single report for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The reports detail the impact of the districts' mentor programs on teacher retention.
- *BETA Action Matrix (EEO 10)* - The Business Education Technology Alliance submitted an update report to State Board members noting actions taken to date and the status of its recommendations for education EEO 10 in public schools.

Special Recognition

- Board members approved a resolution presented by State Board member and State Treasurer Richard Moore regarding the need to determine the status of students' financial literacy. Senate Bill 622 mandates financial education in high schools and this survey of 3,000 seventh graders will provide the baseline data needed to develop an action plan to ensure that North Carolina's youth are equipped to make informed financial decisions.
- Hunters Creek Middle School (Onslow County Schools) School Principal Dr. Meghan Doyle was introduced as the Board's new principal of the year and advisor. She replaces the 2006 Wachovia Principal of the Year Marian Yates who recently retired. She was presented with a plaque, mug and briefcase.
- East Chapel Hill High School (Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools) senior Melissa McCoy was introduced at Wednesday's Board meeting as the Board's senior student advisor. She was presented with a crystal apple in recognition of her appointment.

Chairman's Remarks

In his Chairman's Remarks, State Board Chairman Howard Lee introduced Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Chief Academic Officer Dr. Ruth Perez who updated Board members on Charlotte-Mecklenburg Superintendent Peter Gorman's Challenge Plan and how it will improve the academic performance of four of their school system's low-performing high schools. The Challenge Plan involves reconstitution of these schools to ensure that leadership and teachers are effective, and the use of differentiated pay options, signing bonuses, mid-year appraisals and aggressive recruitment of highly qualified staff prior to the end of the school year.

Gov. Mike Easley's Teacher Advisor Ann McArthur discussed with Board members how data from the 2004 North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey could be customized and used to determine needs and possible action areas at the 16 disadvantaged Targeted Supplemental Funding Districts. NCDPI High School Turnaround Team Director Pat Ashley along with the department's turnaround teams are currently using the data in their improvement efforts with low-performing high schools identified for turnaround team assistance.

State Board Executive Director Rebecca Garland oversaw Board members with a legislative update. Garland said the Joint Education Oversight Committee would be meeting next week and that staff would be present to discuss the ABCs, turnaround team efforts, and the math/science pilot among other things. She also mentioned that the 2006 Education Legislation Session Report is available online and by calling the State Board office.

State Superintendent's Report

State Superintendent June Atkinson discussed with Board members her recent trip to Puebla Mexico, with the Center for International Understanding. This trip provided a timely opportunity to understand the country and culture of origin for an increasing number of the state's public school students. She gave a report to Board members on senior staff members' meetings with local superintendents and central office staff in the Western, Sandhills, Southwestern and Northwestern regions of the state to discuss budget priorities in light of the need to provide students with a 21st century education. Superintendent Atkinson also introduced NCDPI Associate Superintendent/Chief Information Officer Peter Asmar who updated Board members on NC WISE and progress to date. Asmar said the Department is on target for Wave 2 implementation.

On-Going Business

Under On-Going Business, NCDPI Deputy Superintendent Janice Davis presented Board members with a proposed 21st century future-ready students action plan. The plan identifies the Board's five guiding goals and objectives and strategic action steps for each objective. Deliverables/measures and who would lead the effort for each strategic action step also were identified. She said each item would require a cross-functional team to flesh out goals and activities to make it happen. She requested Board members review the draft and email her their comments and suggestions.

New Business

Under new business, Board members re-elected Howard Lee as chair and Jane Norwood as vice-chair of the State Board of Education.

State Board member and Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue provided a short presentation on "Recommendations for 2005 - 100% Tobacco Free Schools Media Campaign in North Carolina," a report prepared for the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission by the Tobacco Prevention Evaluation Program, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine. Board members also were shown two advertisements in support of this campaign that will air statewide.

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