



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...

Nov. 1-2, 2006

Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0611/0611_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

- *Social Studies Standard Course of Study 2006 (HSP 1)* - Board members approved staff recommendation not 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. How this decision may impact textbook adoption was referred to the Board's Ad Hoc Rigor, Relevance and Relationships Committee for further study.
- *Annual Teacher Turnover Report (QP 1)* - The 2005-06 System Level Teacher Turnover Report was approved 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 LEA 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.
- *2007-09 Biennial Budget Process (EEO 1)* - Board members received a list of proposed expansion budget items categorized by State Board strategic priorities. Board members were requested to rank the proposed items as to level of importance and to provide this information to the Board's subcommittee. Subcommittee members will review the input and identify expansion budget request items based on the feedback for Board consideration in December.
- *State Board of Education Policy on Planning Year for New Preliminary Charter Schools (EEO 2)* - A State Board policy requiring all new charter schools receiving a preliminary charter to participate in a year-long planning program was approved. The planning year will allow for proper development of the school's curricular, financial, marketing and facility plans. Final approval of the charter would be contingent upon the charter school successfully completing all of the requirements of the planning program.
- *Technology Guidelines for New School Construction (EEO 3)* - Board members approved 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.

Action on First Reading

- *Changes in High School AYP Results, LEA Improvement, and Title I School Improvement (HSP 2)* - Board members approved changes/additions to the 2005-06 AYP and Improvement Lists for districts and Title I schools and non-Title I schools that did not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject area.
- *The 2005-06 Elementary and Middle School ABCs/AYP Report and 2006-07 Assistance Program (HSP 3)* - State Board of Education Chairman Lee requested this item be removed from the agenda to allow him more time to be fully briefed on the ABCs results and their implications for local school districts. In addition, some school districts across the state have communicated concerns that they have regarding this year's release and the need for ample time to ensure that all schools are being appropriately and fairly evaluated. The Board will take action on this report on Nov. 9. Preliminary results, which are pending State Board approval, are available at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org/abcs/>.
- *Changes to the 2005-06 High School ABCs (HSP 4)* - The ABCs status change for Cape Lookout Charter School from 95R to a priority school with high growth was approved.
- *Late Item: Field Test Appeals (HSP 7)* - Board members approved the recommendation of the Compliance Commission for Accountability to deny field test appeals requested by Casa Esperanza Montessori and Garner Magnet High School, both in Wake County.
- *Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements (QP 2)* - Board members approved the request made by its members in Closed Session.
- *Proposed Revisions of the Standards for the Evaluation of School Administrators (QP 3)* - Board members approved proposed standards for the evaluation of school administrators. The standards were drafted by the ad hoc Committee on School Leadership and included in the Committee report that was received by the SBE in September. The Board will now begin the process of developing a new evaluation instrument. This item was moved to action on first read.
- *NC Virtual Public School Board Members (EEO 4)* - Board members approved the list of names recommended for membership to the NC Virtual Public School Advisory Board.
- *Reappointment or Replacement of Compliance Commission Members and Appointment of a New Chairperson (EEO 6)* - State Board members approved those Commission members who expressed an interest in being reappointed to the Compliance Commission for Accountability.

Discussion Agenda

- *Academic Rigor, Relevance and Relationships Policy: Timeline for Default Curriculum (HSP 5)* - The Academic Rigor Policy adopted by the Board in 2005 calls for the state to move toward two graduation courses of study as a transition step to a default curriculum. However, no timeline to accomplish this goal was included in the policy. Board members discussed the timeline for transitioning from two courses of study - College Tech Prep and the College/University Prep Courses of Study - to one default curriculum that all students would follow. The Occupational Course of Study will continue to be available to eligible students with disabilities who have an IEP. Currently, fewer than 2 percent of all graduates follow the Occupational Course of Study. The default curriculum would provide opportunities for students to earn endorsements in select areas (Career-Technical Education, JROTC, Arts Education, Advanced Placement/IB, etc.). The proposed timeline would require the new core curriculum to be in place beginning with the 2008-09 entering freshman class. The 2007-08 school year would serve as the transition year in preparation for the default curriculum. During this year, incoming freshman would be able to select from either the College Tech Prep or College/University Prep Courses of Study with access to the remaining courses of study only available under special conditions. Board members expressed concern regarding the approximate 8 percent of students who would struggle with the mathematics requirements of the default curriculum and would not qualify for the Occupational Course of Study.
- *Proposed Standards for the Approval of Pilot Programs for the Preparation of School Administrators (QP 4)* - Board members discussed proposed standards for approving one or more pilot programs that would offer a more innovative/experimental approach to the identification, recruitment, preparation and induction of school administrators. With over 50 percent of principals having 25 or more years of service, it is important that alternative routes for preparing new principals be explored.
- *Licensing of Teachers for World Languages (QP 5)* - The Board considered a proposal that would facilitate the licensing of teachers for world languages. The proposal would utilize proficiency assessments available through the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to validate the teacher's language proficiency. The proposal presented to the Board would allow individuals who already hold clear teaching licenses to add a world language to the license by earning a proficiency rating of "Intermediate High" or better on the ACTFL oral and written proficiency assessments in the language. The proposal would also allow individuals who do not hold teaching licenses, but have at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (or equivalent academic credential from another country verified by an authorized external agency) to be issued a lateral entry license in a world language, provided they otherwise qualified for lateral entry. To be eligible for a lateral entry license, the individual would be required to earn a proficiency rating of "Intermediate High" or better on the ACTFL oral and written proficiency assessments in the language in which the license was being issued. The Board will act on this proposal at its December meeting.
- *Report on the Effectiveness of Representative Mentor Programs (QP 6)* - Session Law 2005-276 Section 7.21(d) directs the Board to evaluate the effectiveness of a representative sample of local mentor programs and report on its findings to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The report recommends that funding be provided for a full-time mentoring program at a ratio of one mentor teacher per 15 beginning teachers and that funding be provided for a full-time beginning teacher support program coordinator for each district. The Board will act on this report at its December meeting.
- *Recommendations for Charter School Advisory Committee Membership (EEO 5)* - Currently, three North Carolina Charter School Advisory Committee members are up for possible reappointment and two positions are vacant (Regions 1 and 3). The Board will act on the Committee's membership at its meeting next month.
- *Reappointment or Replacement of Compliance Commission Members and Appointment of a New Chairperson (EEO 6)* - State Board members discussed commission vacancies and will act on filling those positions at their December meeting.

Issues Session

For the Issues Session, the Board met as the State Board of Career-Technical Education. Board members heard a presentation from Michael Brustein of Brustein and Manasevich Attorneys (Washington, DC) regarding Perkins Law requirements and changes. The State Board needs to coordinate the development of a new state plan. The plan can either be a six-year plan or a one-year transition plan. States are being encouraged to develop a transition plan and incentives are being offered for those states going this route. By developing a transition plan, states would be exempted from addressing all plan requirements including requiring all performance indicators, full-scale public hearings and all plan language. Perkins funds can only be used to serve Career Technical Education students. These are students who take a sequence (two or more) of courses or are on a career pathway. Currently North Carolina receives approximately \$34-\$35 million in Perkins funds.

Information Agenda

- *NC Virtual Public School - Director's Report (HSP 6)* - NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Advisory Board Chair John Bolling briefed Board members on the school's progress to date. He stated Linda Austin from Dare County had been named teacher-on-loan to NCVPS and that a contract had been awarded last week for course evaluation to ensure that the courses offered align with North Carolina's Standard Course of Study. He said that three candidates had been interviewed for the executive director position and that they are currently checking references. Other efforts include working with other online providers to determine online teacher capacity availability, a needs assessment for high schools and a draft timetable for which courses will be offered and when. He said he also has been making a number of presentations on NCVPS to various groups and organizations.
- *Annual Report from the NC Professional Teaching Standards Commission (QP 7)* - Board members received a report from N.C. Professional Teaching Standards Commission Executive Director Carolyn McKinney on its activities.
- *Preliminary Report on the 2006 Teacher Working Conditions Survey (QP 8)* - Gov. Mike Easley's Teacher Advisor Eric Hirsch and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Quality Ann McArthur discussed with Board members three main findings from the 2006 North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Interim Report that was presented to Gov. Easley on Oct. 18. These findings were: teacher working conditions in North Carolina have improved and are better than in other states; teaching and learning conditions improve teacher retention; and teachers and administrators view their schools differently. Time remains a critical issue - particularly at the elementary level, and teachers feel that they know their content but need additional assistance in delivering to diverse learners.
- *Annual Report of School Crime and Violence: 2005-06 (SS 1)* - This item was removed from the agenda for discussion at a later date.

Special Recognition

Board members recognized outgoing 2005-06 Local Board of Education Advisor Stan Haywood and thanked him for his service and dedication to the Board over the past year. Haywood received a plaque and mug in recognition of his service.

Chairman's Remarks

State Board Chairman Howard Lee told members that East Guilford High School (Guilford County Schools) had been destroyed by a fire on Wednesday. Because it was an older school, there was no internal fire control system. Department staff members are working with the district to help get the school reopened at an alternate site. The school building is insured but 1,064 students are without a school. Lee said Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Bertie County school systems are having difficulty getting literacy coaches in place and have stated that they would be willing to release their funds for this year if they can receive the funds next year. Two schools in both Pitt and Robeson Counties are currently sharing literacy coaches. Board members approved reallocating the funds from Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Bertie Counties so that these schools can hire their own literacy coaches.

State Board Executive Director Rebecca Garland provided Board members with a legislative update. Garland said the Joint Education Oversight Committee met on Oct. 10-11 and that staff provided updates to members on a number of issues including accountability and high school turnaround efforts. The Committee meets again on Nov. 14-15 as well as a number of other house select committees. Garland reported that NCDPI Associate Superintendent for Financial and Business Services Philip Price recently won the Best Financial Officer state award.

State Superintendent's Report

NCDPI Associate Superintendent/Chief Information Officer Peter Asmar provided Board members with an update on NC WISE. He stated that the production environment is stable but that they are most concerned over the conversion contract, which could affect implementation of Wave 2. He will update Board members in the next few days.

NCDPI High School Turnaround Team Director Pat Ashley updated members on high school turnaround efforts. She said that of the 44 priority high schools targeted for assistance, 35 schools remain on the high priority list. All of these schools have leadership facilitators in place and clear frameworks for action. One-half of the schools have begun training through the Principals' Executive Program with the remainder due to begin Dec. 11. Schools will have to decide whether to redesign (through New Schools Project) or reform (choose one of three approved national models). On Nov. 20, the school leaders will receive a presentation on model choices and what it would entail. Ten of the 35 schools are engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). She also is in the process of interviewing turnaround staff members.

Atkinson concluded her report by asking Board members to approve a new organizational chart for the Department. Changes mostly affect reporting structure to fulfill the Board's 21st century mission and goals. Board members approved the proposed structural changes. A timeline for implementing these changes will be developed.

On-Going Business

NCDPI Deputy Superintendent Janice Davis presented Board members with an update on the Future Ready Students Plan and Implementation. She said that the Department is moving forward with the agenda. Extensive meetings have taken place with leadership regarding the new mission, goals and action plan to make sure all understand. Staff is currently in the process of identifying who will lead each area's charge and working partners. Davis expressed the need to "explode" the plan in order to get a better timeline. She asked for Board direction as to how members would like to receive future reports/updates.

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