

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
Education Building  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825  
March 24, 2014**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met by conference call and the following members participated:

William Cobey, Chairman	Reginald Kenan
A.L. "Buddy" Collins, Vice Chairman	Wayne McDevitt
Dan Forest, Lieutenant Governor	Olivia Oxendine
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer	Marcella Savage
Gregory Alcorn	Rebecca Taylor
Kevin Howell	

Also participating:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION**

State Board of Education Chairman Bill Cobey called the special March 24, 2014, conference call meeting of the State Board of Education to order. He explained that the Board was meeting as a committee of the whole. Chairman Cobey also noted that the meeting was being audio streamed. He welcomed online listeners and onsite guests.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Cobey reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. Chairman Cobey then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chair. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Chairman Cobey explained that one of the agenda items involves a vote to suspend one of the Board's Rules of Procedure. Amending or suspending one of the Board's Rules requires a two-thirds vote of the Board. Two-thirds of the State Board membership of thirteen members is nine members. At this time, Chairman Cobey directed SBE Assistant Executive Director Betsy West to conduct a roll call to determine a quorum. (See attached list.) The roll call established that eleven Board members were participating in the special meeting. Chairman Cobey and State Superintendent Atkinson were present in the State Board Room in the Education Building in Raleigh; all other Board members participated via conference call.

Chairman Cobey drew attention to the full meeting agenda, which is available on eBoard. He noted that the agenda is brief, and this meeting would likely not take more than 10 or 15 minutes. Chairman Cobey asked for a motion to approve the State Board of Education meeting agenda for March 24, 2014.

*Upon motion made by Vice Chairman A.L. Collins, and seconded by Dr. Olivia Oxendine, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State Board of Education conference call special meeting agenda for March 24, 2014, as presented. The vote was taken by roll call, and there were no objections.*

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Cobey explained that the first item on the agenda involves a request to suspend the Board's Rules of Procedure regarding its designated monthly meeting day; he noted that by statute the State Board must hold a monthly meeting. He added that by the Board's own Rules of Procedure, a monthly meeting is to be held on the first Thursday of the month. Chairman Cobey stated that the Board is holding its planning and work session in Pembroke at the University on March 31 and April 1, and its committee meetings there on Wednesday, April 2. He noted that, as it turns out, the agenda for April is short enough that the entire meeting can be conducted on Wednesday, April 2; therefore, it would not be necessary to return to Raleigh for a "first Thursday in the month meeting."

Chairman Cobey requested a motion to suspend the Rules of Procedure for the April 2014 State Board of Education meeting.

*Upon motion made by Vice Chairman A.L. Collins, and seconded by Ms. Marcella Savage, the Board voted unanimously to suspend SBE Policy # TCS-C-006, Rule 5.1, which states that "regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the first Thursday of each month..." in order to hold the State Board of Education's April monthly meeting at UNC-Pembroke on Wednesday, April 2. The vote was taken by roll call, and there were no objections.*

Following the vote, Chairman Cobey reminded Board members that the Teacher of the Year luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, and he encouraged Board members to attend. He reminded Board members to RSVP to the Board Office if they have not done so already.

## **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Personnel Action**

Noting an extensive interview process, Dr. Atkinson asked the Board to approve the hiring of Mr. Michael Nicolaides to fill the position of Chief Information Officer in the Department of Public Instruction, effective March 31, 2014.

Chairman Cobey requested a motion to approve Dr. Atkinson's recommendation.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Gregory Alcorn, and seconded by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State Superintendent's request to hire Mr. Michael Nickolaides for the position of Chief Information Officer effective March 31, 2014. The vote was taken by roll call, and there were no objections.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to requesting a motion to adjourn, Chairman Cobey reminded Board members to complete the Statement of Economic Interest Form, which is due annually to the Ethics Commission no later than April 15. He added that if there have been no changes for Board members since last year that they need only to complete the "No Change" form.

Indicating no other business, Chairman Cobey requested a motion to adjourn.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt and seconded by Dr. Olivia Oxendine, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the special conference call meeting of the State Board of Education on March 24, 2014.*