

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
Education Building  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825  
February 1, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met after the Board Committees concluded their work and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman  
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair  
Melissa Bartlett  
Christine Greene  
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell  
Reginald Kenan  
John Tate  
Patricia Willoughby  
Jean Woolard

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent  
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor  
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor  
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor  
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION**

Chairman William Harrison called the Wednesday session of the February State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. Prior to reading the ethics statement, Chairman Harrison shared that the Board met on Tuesday for a full-day planning and work session that included Roundtable discussion with representatives from eight local school districts (Washington, Onslow, Bladen, Warren, Mooresville, Ashe, Buncombe, and Orange). Chairman Harrison noted that he would provide a more detailed report during the Thursday State Board meeting. He also noted that the Board had just completed its Committee meetings for the day. The Board will hold the official State Board meeting on Thursday morning, at which time the Board will vote on Action items.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison 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. The Chairman 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 Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

**Closed Session**

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to convene in closed session.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Jean Woolard, the Board voted unanimously to convene in closed session to consult with their attorneys on attorney-client privilege matters and to consider the handling of the cases of *Hoke County v. State Board of Education*; *Kristi McCall Gore v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel 11 EDC 07957*; and *Barbara Cheskin v. The Appeals Panel for Graduate Pay Approval and Non-Teaching Work Experience Credit Public Schools of North Carolina 11 EDC 04952*; and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of a current or prospective public officer or employee.*

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt and seconded by Ms. Tricia Willoughby the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board of Education meeting until Thursday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m.*

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
Education Building  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825  
February 2, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman  
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair  
Walter Dalton, Lt. Governor  
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer  
Melissa Bartlett  
Christine Greene

Shirley Harris  
Kevin Howell  
Reginald Kenan  
Patricia Willoughby  
Jean Woolard

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent  
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor  
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor  
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor  
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION**

Chairman William Harrison called the Thursday session of the February State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He welcomed onsite visitors, online listeners, and Twitter followers to the meeting, and reminded the audience that the Board held its committee meetings on Wednesday and today will vote on action items and receive reports on other topics. Chairman Harrison noted that the State Board met on Tuesday for the semi-annual planning and work session and held its regularly scheduled committee meetings on Wednesday. He explained that the purpose of the mid-year planning and work session was to set the tone and the basis for the Board's work in the next few months, to develop the legislative agenda and to develop an aggressive public communications effort on what is at stake with continued cuts. He noted that the Board will continue to advocate for what is best for all children in the public schools of North Carolina – and that is adequate resources to ensure that all children have access to a sound and basic public education.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison 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. The Chairman 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 Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Chairman Harrison noted the absence of Board member John Tate. Although he was present on Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr. Tate had to return to Charlotte Wednesday evening. In addition, he noted the absence of Board member Tom Speed who was absent due to his court schedule.

Chairman Harrison shared the news of Ms. Cynthia O'Neal (Special Assistant for Education to Lt. Governor Walter Dalton) who passed away unexpectedly last week. He noted that Ms. O'Neal always attended the State Board meetings and regularly worked with Board and Department staff on a variety of topics. On behalf of the State Board members, Chairman Harrison expressed sympathy to Ms. O'Neal's family, and the Lt. Governor and his staff. Board members and the audience were asked to join the Chairman in a moment of silence.

Continuing with his remarks, the Chairman provided a recap of the State Board's planning and work session relative to the legislative agenda. In addition, he spoke about his concerns regarding federal conversations occurring related to public education, i.e., disconnecting educational opportunities (privatization); benefits for some are at the expense of others (accountability and oversight issues). Chairman Harrison stressed that the conversation needs to shift to remodeling and true values. He noted that Legislative Director Ms. Ann McColl has been directed to speak on behalf of the State Board and to continue to hold conversations with those interested in education issues across the state. Chairman Harrison reviewed the one-page document, *North Carolina State Board of Education - Guiding Principles for Legislation*. The document focuses on two points for the 2012 General Assembly by strengthening the system and making connections. To strengthen the system by providing flexibility for structural innovations, providing flexibility and support for innovations in student learning, making Pre-K as part of P-12 system, and providing sufficient funding and resources. Making connections by ensuring that Charter schools, virtual learning and higher education are a part of the integrated model.

In addition, Chairman Harrison also spoke briefly about Governor Perdue's decision not to seek re-election. He spoke about her advocacy in public education and provided examples of her work, including Career-College Promise, etc.

Board Member Melissa Bartlett was recognized to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2012, State Board of Education meeting.

#### ***Discussion/Comments:***

- There was no discussion.

*Mr. Kevin Howell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2012, meeting. Seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION – “MAXIMIZING SUCCESS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN THROUGH BLENDED LEARNING”**

- **Ms. Mary Watson (Director, Exceptional Children Division); Mr. Ross White (NC Virtual Public School Executive Director); Ms. Michelle Lourcey (NCVPS Division Director); Ms. Leslie Fetzer (NC Online Teacher of the Year); and Ms. Lindsey Taylor (Ashbrook High School, Gaston County Schools)**

State Superintendent Atkinson introduced Ms. Watson, Mr. White and the teachers listed above to talk about the successful initiatives of blending virtual learning for our exceptional children programs.

Ms. Watson provided a historical perspective about how this initiative began. She noted that in North Carolina Virtual High School’s initial year of operation, the Department began hearing from parents and teachers regarding the opportunities that NCVPS presented for students who learn differently because of mental, emotional, or physical barriers. In 2009, the Exceptional Children Division started a formal partnership with NCVPS to offer blended learning in Occupational Courses of Study (OCS) so that students with disabilities were in a classroom with an exceptional children teacher and a virtual teacher for the content area. She noted that by providing this opportunity, students are able to learn at high levels the *NC Standard Course of Study* by highly qualified teachers. At this time, Ms. Watson introduced Mr. White to continue the presentation.

Mr. White began his comments by explaining that, by and large, nationwide, virtual schools have done a poor job in addressing the needs of exceptional children. He noted that the blended learning program has been one of the most successful and innovative programs developed by NCVPS over the last few years. Mr. White introduced the 2011-12 Online Teacher of the Year Ms. Leslie Fetzer and Face-to-Face teacher Ms. Lindsey Taylor (Ashbrook High School, Gaston County Schools) to provide additional comments regarding the program. Ms. Fetzer provided a comprehensive overview of the program. She spoke about how NCVPS addresses the learning of all students through course designs, course expectations, teacher expectations, online delivery of content and classroom interaction, and live instruction personalized for individual student needs. Currently, available courses include: Algebra I, English I and II, Biology, Applied Science, and Introduction to Math. In the fall 2012, NCVPS hopes to develop English III and IV, followed by additional courses. There are currently 2,500 enrollments, 105 NCVPS teachers teaching the above subject areas, and 340 face-to-face teacher partnerships. Ms. Taylor shared her personal experiences and successes (via webcam) as a teacher of OCS through blended learning.

Mr. White shared that the blending learning program is a good example of State Superintendent Atkinson’s remodeling metaphor. He noted that blended learning is a real of example of what future classroom may look like (building of local capacity/teaching with technology/developing wealth of content that can be redeployed --personalized and customizable). A sustainable funding model and access to the program (which is currently limited due to lack of resources to assign partner teachers) are issues that must be addressed, according to Mr. White. In closing, Mr. White publicly thanked Ms. Watson and DPI staff for being amazing partners in this venture.

Following the presentation, Chairman Harrison noted that blended learning is the kind of success that all of us, especially parents of exceptional children and others with children in the public schools or who are considering the public schools, need to hear about.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION – NC ONLINE TEACHER OF THE YEAR****➤ Ms. Leslie Fetzer (NC Virtual Public School Teacher)**

Chairman Harrison introduced and welcomed the 2011-12 North Carolina Online Teacher of the Year Ms. Fetzer who just recently has been named as one of the three finalists for National Online Teacher of the Year. He noted that Ms. Fetzer began her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a Medical Writer prior to entering the teaching profession. Her first teaching job was in Bolivar, New York, where she taught chemistry, biology, and forensic science. When she moved to North Carolina in 2007, Ms. Fetzer taught at Holly Springs High School in Wake County. Chairman Harrison shared that Ms. Fetzer believes that she can reach each of her students in ways to meet their specific needs as an online teacher, and she believe that students are not limited by their disabilities, but that they are only challenged by them. Ms. Fetzer was invited to the front of the Board room to receive a plaque. The presentation was photographed.

**KEY INITIATIVES REPORTS AND DISCUSSION****➤ Career and College Ready, Set, Go/Race to the Top Update – Mr. Adam Levinson (Director, Race to the Top Program)**

Mr. Levinson provided the February 2012 Status Report on Career and College Ready, Set, Go! Race to the Top (RttT) implementation. He noted that Superintendent Atkinson has provided a detailed monthly report of all of the work across the initiatives in her Superintendent's Report. Mr. Levinson spoke briefly about the release of the Year 1 Progress Report from the U.S. Department of Education. He also shared that, in January, a team (including Chairman Harrison, State Superintendent Atkinson, several local superintendents and an NCAE representative) journeyed to Washington, D.C., to talk about strategies, common challenges with other states, etc. Mr. Levinson stated that the team left with a sense of validation that North Carolina has a good RttT plan that other states are asking about. The theme for the spring is to ensure communication statewide with stakeholders (to provide awareness, understanding and gather feedback) in an effort to remodel the state's education system. The Teacher Effectiveness Workgroup continues to plan, and in spring 2012 will convene to consider various aspects of the enhanced teacher and principal evaluation system that are still to be determined. The RttT team will also convene groups of teachers to develop measures of student learning, or "common exams" for all of the non-tested areas. Mr. Levinson also reported that, in terms of the Instructional Improvement System (IIS), the RttT team is on the verge of deploying the Request for Proposals (RFPs) to provide modern tools to support teachers in implementing the Common Core. In closing, Mr. Levinson reported much planning related to the second round of Summer Institutes on Common Core State NC Essential Standards occurring throughout the Department to ensure an integrated program to support teachers, principals, and other leaders in the field.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****NC's READY Initiative**

NC DPI will kick off the NC READY Initiative with eight regional outreach meetings to be held February 28, 2012-March 23, 2012. Two staff members (principal and a teacher) from each school in the state have been invited. The three-hour agenda will include the following presentations:

- Remodeling North Carolina schools
- A framework of support
- Learning and accountability
- Educator effectiveness and support for growth
- Technology: supporting teaching and learning
- District and school transformation: support for change

Participants will receive a comprehensive toolkit to aid them in implementing the initiative at the school level.

READY is an ambitious alignment of our educational standards, assessments, and accountability methods to meet future expectations. It replaces the former accountability model, ABC's. READY is also a component of Career and College Ready, Set, Go! which is one of our Race to the Top initiatives.

### **NC's National Title I Distinguished Schools**

Each year North Carolina recognizes two schools as part of the National Title I Distinguished Schools program. The program recognizes exemplary Title I schools that hold students to high standards and demonstrate exemplary school effectiveness. State Superintendent Atkinson was pleased to announce the following schools as the state's 2012 National Title I Distinguished Schools.

- The winner of the Exceptional Student Achievement category is Dana Elementary School in Hendersonville, (Henderson County Schools). The principal is Kelly Scholfield, and David L. Jones is the LEA's superintendent.
- The winner of the Closing the Achievement Gap category is Stories Creek Elementary School in Roxboro (Person County Schools). The school's principal is Veronica Clay, and the LEA's superintendent is Dr. Larry Cartner.

Both schools were recognized at the National Title I Conference in Seattle, Washington, on January 21, 2012.

More information on the National Title I Distinguished Schools program and the Title I Distinguished Schools Advisory Council can be found in the booklet *Blueprint for Success: Recognizing North Carolina Title I Distinguished Schools*. This booklet spotlights the "replicable practices" that made these schools successful.

### **ACRE External Stakeholders' Advisory Group's Contributions**

The Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) Stakeholders' Advisory Committee has been a critical part of North Carolina's school reform efforts. Listed below is a commendable list of the group's contributions. December 2011 marked the end of this advisory group. Dr. Atkinson recognized the following members of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee who were present in the audience: Ms. Cindy Jolly (Retired Educator), Mr. Bill McNeal (Retired Superintendent), Dr. Susan Perry (NC State University), Mr. Eric Senter (NC Association of Educators), Dr. Jim Simeon (Sandhills Regional Education Consortium) and Ms. Linda Suggs (Gates Foundation).

Standards – External Stakeholders provided review and feedback during standards development and connected us to additional stakeholders for webinars and informational sessions to help us achieve the following:

- ✓ Adopted the Common Core (ELA and Math)
- ✓ Developed NC Essential Standards (all other content areas)
- ✓ Developed instructional resources for implementing new standards
  - Crosswalk documents (Phase I)
  - Unpacking documents (Phase I)
  - Recommended HS sequencing documents (Phase II)
  - FAQs (Phase II)
  - Graphic organizers (Phase II)
  - Assessment examples
  - Glossary of terms
  - Classroom/video vignettes
- ✓ Developed new standards for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study (OCS), and Extended Content areas
- ✓ Developed and implemented blended online learning courses (NCVPS and OCS)
- ☐ Professional Development (PD) – External Stakeholders served as external partners and reviewers of PD materials/modules and provided feedback on our planning and rollout processes in order to accomplish the following:
  - ✓ Completed 2011 Summer Institutes on Common Core State and NC Essential Standards (Phase I)
  - ✓ Completed online modules for PD
    - The Call for Change
    - Understanding the Standards
    - Developing Local Curricula
    - The NC Professional Teaching Standards
    - Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy
  - ✓ Developed *Facilitator’s Guide* for redelivery of standards training and transitional planning for new standards and assessments
  - ✓ Provided Institute Training to IHEs and charter schools
  - ✓ Partnered with RESAs to continue delivery of PD throughout the 2011-12 school year
  - ✓ Held support checks and live chats to keep districts and schools on track with their PD plans
  - ✓ Identified dates and sites for 2012 Summer Institutes (Phase II)
  - ✓ Began design meetings for new modules (Phase II)
  - ✓ Completed internal training to help with sustainability
  - ✓ Established plans for RESA trainings in 2012-13
  - ✓ Conducted three-phase principal training on the Common Core State and NC Essential Standards
  - ✓ Completed initial Extended Content training on the Common Core and Essential Standards
- ☐ Assessment – External Stakeholders provided feedback during the planning process for implementing next generation assessments and guidance on the addition of ACT/PLAN/WorkKeys to our assessment portfolio, as well as feedback in the process of accomplishing the following:
  - ✓ Implemented NC FALCON to provide PD and resources for teachers related to formative assessment
  - ✓ Published *Online Assessment Best Practices Guide*

- ✓ Aligned new assessments to the Common Core and Essential Standards (grades 3-8 Math and ELA, grades 5 and 8 Science, and Algebra I (Math I), English II, and Biology – this includes NC EXTEND2 assessments in these same content areas)
  - Completed new online item try-outs in spring of 2011 (technology enhanced and varied item types)
  - Completed online field tests of new assessments in fall of 2011
- ✓ Serving as a governing state in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
- ✓ Added ACT, PLAN, and WorkKeys to our assessment portfolio
- ✓ Posted webinar recording and additional information to ACRE, Testing, and TNN sites
- ✓ Working on Transition to Common Core, Test Administration, and Validation and Psychometric Workgroups for SBAC
- ☐ Instructional Improvement System – External Stakeholders are taking on new roles to help us move forward with the IIS (serving on IIS advisory groups) and also providing feedback in the initial organization and planning work to help accomplish the following:
  - ✓ Established IIS workgroups
  - ✓ Hired Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) to develop the RFP
  - ✓ Established vision and vetted with stakeholders
  - ✓ Gathered and vetted functional business and technical requirements
  - ✓ Established user groups and stakeholder advisory committee
  - ✓ Wrote draft RFP
  - ✓ Invited vendors for demonstration of potential solutions for the IIS
  - ✓ Involved stakeholders to gather input on initial requirements and specifications
- ☐ Accountability – External stakeholders reviewed the conceptual work of the new accountability model, provided feedback and insight on reporting, and helped us achieve the following (as we move to implementation of the new accountability model in 2012-13):
  - ✓ Developed new accountability model
  - ✓ Presented proposed new accountability model at RESA meetings throughout the fall of 2011
  - ✓ Developed survey for feedback and gathered results to modify proposed new model
  - ✓ Received approval of the Conceptual Accountability Model by the SBE in December 2011
  - ✓ Arranged for an internal team to develop an ESEA Flexibility application in line with our new model

### **Recent Activities of the State Superintendent**

- ☐ **Delivered remarks/keynote address at**
  - National Governor’s Association STEM Summit
  - Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee – Race to the Top
  - Wilson Chamber of Commerce/County Officials Briefing
  - North Central Teacher of the Year Announcement Ceremony
  - Central Region Superintendents’ Council
  - Northwest Region Superintendents’ Council
  - Annual Pacesetters Graduation/Youth Chamber of Commerce
  - Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council via conference call
- ☐ **Attended**
  - Public School Forum Board of Directors
  - Governor’s Education Transformation Commission

**RttT Monthly Highlights of Activities Completed****RttT Management:**

- Attended Technical Assistance Meeting at USED (1/12-1/13)
- Provided RttT updates to small groups of superintendents (1/18-20, 1/26)
- Continued developing (and processing with USED) amendments to State Detailed Scope of Work (DSW) and budget to submit to USED; Continued preparing omnibus DSW update/budget update/amendment to reflect more detailed plans (including spending plans) for year 2 and beyond
- Continued approval of Local Education Agency (LEA)/Charter School DSWs submitted on 8/3; continued posting LEA/Charter School approved, fully completed DSWs to the website (140 of 142 approved and posted as of 12/2012)
- Continued reviewing APR Data Display, and submitted feedback to USED
- Continued planning for building a cadre of teacher and principal ambassadors in each school to help communicate the reasons and mechanisms for the changes underway in curriculum, accountability and educator evaluation; participants will include at least one teacher per school, each school principal, and a superintendent from each district
  - Continued preparations for the regional meetings for statewide rollout of the new accountability program (meeting dates and locations finalized for February/March 2012; dates are 2/28, 3/7,8,9,12,15,22,23)
  - Continued developing promotional materials (videos and slide presentations) for use at the statewide regional meetings and toolkits to distribute at the meetings (toolkits will include practical information about the new Common Core and Essential Standards, and the new accountability program); to be completed by 2/2012
  - Invited principals statewide and asked them to select one teacher representative to attend the regional meetings; also invited superintendents and public information officers
- Continued creating parent resource podcasts about new standards, new student assessments, and new accountability model to distribute online and via social media in the fall of 2011 along with an online guide for parents (to be posted by 6/30)
- Continued distributing RttT Weekly Update to more than 1,300 LEA and charter school officials involved with Race to the Top

**Standards & Assessments:*****Standards***

- Continued development and review of documents for Unpacking Social Studies elective courses (to be posted 6/2012)
- Began review and editing of Graphic Organizer tool based on external feedback received (to be completed 2/2012; delayed from original due date to allow for preparation of Summer Institutes, reduction in consultants, and more comprehensive approach to development)
- Continued development of terminologies (glossary of terms) specific to each content area (plan to post to the website by 6/2012)
- Continued development of Assessment Examples (to be completed by 6/2012; delayed due to more time for comprehensive approach)
- Continued work on reviewing and embedding video vignettes within NC FALCON (to be completed 8/2012)
- Continued development and design of Learning Map exemplars (posted for LEA use 8/2012)

- Continued to deploy Common Core and Essential Standards trainings throughout the state (Science and Social Studies, 1/9, 1/12, 1/19, 1/24, 1/26, 1/31)
- Continued to provide on-going content specific "live chats" to provide support to the district team on understanding the new standards (Math 1/10, ELA 1/12, and Social Studies 1/31)
- Continued to add content specific curricular tools (High School Sequencing document; materials posted on WikiSpaces)

#### *Assessments*

- Held regional meeting for Region 8 Technology Council on online assessments and the best practices guide (1/27/12)

#### **Data Systems to Improve Instruction:**

- Continued IIS Workgroup meetings
- Released Comprehensive Plan (delayed implementation plan targeted release to 1/31 to allow for final edits to RFP)
- Released IIS RFP for ITS Procurement review (revised RFP to incorporate Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI) into the IIS design, which delayed RFP completion to January; Released to state Information Technology Services 1/20); will be working with the Cloud Team to release a second RFP focused on Data Integration between NCDPI source systems and the SLI
- Finalized "Vision, Goals, and Objectives" document (With clearer understanding of project deliverable, modifications to vision document are needed; target for completion is 1/31)
- Continued developing data guide (draft completed by 3/2012 and rollout by 8/2012; this deliverable is delayed due to time it took to identify staff to develop the guide) Continued engaging stakeholders through presentations, focus groups, and advisory groups
- Continued meeting with SLI staff to further define how the SLI will interface with the IIS
- Initiated SLI pilot planning with Guilford County
- Met with IIS User Groups
- Posted position descriptions for four contract analysts and one systems engineer to supplement staffing; plan to complete interviews and make offers by 1/31

#### **Great Teachers & Principals:**

- Received SBE approval for New Schools Project STEM Teacher Education Project at January meeting
- Continued revisions to working paper to guide conversations with Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) partners regarding how to improve educator pipeline for high-need content and specialty areas
- Continued work on new evaluation instruments (All new instruments will be ready for implementation during the 2013-14 school year; during the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, the new instruments will be designed and piloted in a small number of LEAs, and field testing will occur in 2012-13)
- Received recommendation for statewide growth model from RttT Evaluation Team and WestEd
- Continued Northeast Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) Cohort 1 school year administrative internships (through 6/30)
- Continued training for Northeast RLA Cohort 2 participants (through 6/30)
- Continued Piedmont-Triad RLA Cohort 1 participant administrative internships (through 6/30)

- Continued Sandhills RLA Cohort 1 participant administrative internships (through 6/30)
- Began recruiting Piedmont-Triad RLA Cohort 2, Northeast RLA Cohort 3, Sandhills RLA Cohort 2 participants
- Continued ongoing Teach For America support for corps members as they enter classrooms (support to occur throughout Corps member's two-year commitment; through 6/30/13); Begin recruiting 2012 Teach For America Corps members; begin developing training schedules and support timelines for 2012 Corps members
- Continued outreach to partner LEAs and meeting with potential university partners for the NC Teacher Corps
- Continued New Teacher Induction Program in four regions with first cohort
- Released data for Educator Effectiveness reporting on 1/20
- Engaged strategic staffing vendor (Marstrats) after approval of contract from State Purchasing and Contracts Office
- Held Educator Effectiveness Work Group meeting; Work Group approved definitions of effectiveness categories for educators, the adoption of a statewide growth model, and rating categories for the sixth and eighth standards to present to SBE
- Continued planning for spring fidelity support meetings across the state with local RttT Leadership Teams in collaboration with Regional Education Service Alliances (RESA) partners to ensure consistent and deliberate PD action planning
- Continued interview process to hire (PD) Contractors; Preparing to recommend five consultants for hire from first round of interviews (five of 21 positions)
- Recommended one online module developer to hire; continue to interview for final online module developer position
- Began interview process for web content manager position by reviewing applications and creating interview team this month
- Completed Learning Forward training for Professional Development Initiative (PDI) Team (January 17-18); PD design, development and implementation processes
- Continued work in design teams to outline, develop and design module content and delivery method for Phase II modules (Data Literacy, Literacy in Content Areas, Learning Maps, Digital Literacy, NC Principal Standards, NCEES, 21st Century Skills, Understanding Student Behavior, Student Ownership-NC FALCON) – to be completed by 6/2012
- Closed request for proposal for convenience contract with vendor to develop student simulation online module for Student Ownership-NC FALCON module; reviewing applicants and creating interview team this month
- Continued Phase III Training for administrators (principal and assistant principal) on embedding the NC ITES (Information and Technology Essential Standards) and the Common Core and Essential Standards across the state to ensure consistency with implementation for all LEAs and charter schools; trainings conducted by NCDPI's Regional Instructional Technology Facilitators supported by the PD Leads (ongoing through 5/2012)
- Continued weekly meetings with PDI leadership team for planning of Summer Institute 2012
- DLP participants completed the online portion of Component 4-Improving Teaching and Learning this month
- Prepared for face-to-face sessions on Component 5-Creating a Strong Student and External; Stakeholder Focus, followed immediately by six weeks of online work

- Launched first cohort of Future-Ready Leadership (FRL) on 1/4. Approximately 100 applicants were accepted into the program, and another 100 applicants were accepted to begin the program in 6/2012
- Continued planning for the next round of DLP for principals which will begin in 4/2012. Dates have been established and locations in four different geographic areas are being secured. A call for applications will begin this month
- Worked with the development of RFP for the IIS in collaboration with the Learning Systems team

#### **NC Virtual Public Schools:**

- Delayed the selection of the final two replacement districts to 2/15 due to one of the district finalists (Moore County) hiring a new superintendent who will report to work on 2/1. We were unable to schedule an appointment with him until 2/7 to conduct our final interview regarding the grant partnership
- Re-advertised the Exceptional Children's Coordinator position (position closes 1/23 and plan to begin interviews 1/27. New hire expected to report by 3/1); continued working to hire module developers and virtual teacher positions (hired a majority of these positions; plan to have all positions filled by 2/29). Began conducting interviews for the Web Developer Content Expert position
- Continued to develop and create a promotion and marketing strategy for the RttT Blended STEM process for community, parents, students, and staffs (to be completed when two replacement LEAs are finalized)
- Continued development, design, and modification of virtual STEM core math and science courses that provide access and targeted instruction to at-risk student populations for the purposes of credit attainment toward graduation (plan to release final course materials for Earth/Environmental Science, Integrated Math, and Forensics I by fall 2012)
- Sent IFB award to ITS for approval. (This will be a three-stage process. The first group will arrive in 2/2012. Then, there will be two additional purchases for students.)

#### **Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools:**

- Completed Comprehensive Needs Assessments at:
  - Glenn Elementary, W.G. Pearson Elementary, C.C. Spaulding Elementary, and Merrick Moore Elementary in Durham Public Schools
  - Northampton County Schools' District Office
  - Public Schools of Robeson County's District Office
  - Greene County Schools' District Office
- Held monthly District Transformation Coaches' meeting, School Transformation Coaches' meeting, and Instructional Coaches' meeting
- Identified interim support for selected schools/districts until hiring process is complete for permanent positions
- Continued PD and coaching for currently served schools/districts
- Continued assignment process for deployment of PD and coaching staff in newly served schools – includes ongoing work with Human Resources (HR) to align positions on the organizational chart

- Held PD for School Leaders Session #3 in three different regions of the state; in addition to principals from schools on the TALAS list, PD events were attended by those enrolled in the Sandhills and Piedmont Leadership Academies
- Continued planning for February PD for School Leaders Session #4 for all principals in TALAS

**NC Education Cloud:**

- Completed aggregation of site survey data into Comma Separated Value (CSV) files; performing ongoing specific analysis of data for projects as requested. Summary findings are complete (1/31) and will be presented at the next SBE meeting
- Continued significant involvement with IIS planning, RFP details, and participation in SLI planning and Guilford County Schools pilot discussions. Decision to align data integration efforts to be led by the NC Cloud team and will lead to a separate RFP
- Reviewed Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium technical architecture; Contacted SBAC technical architecture lead to discuss data and system integration details; Initiated alignment of Cloud integration services with SBAC plans
- Continued engagement with Cloud LEA working groups to ensure alignment with LEA needs. This includes the Consortium/Cooperative Purchasing LEA Advisory Working Group, Data Collection and Analysis Working Group, Identity and Access Management Working Group, Shared Services Advisory Committee, and Instructional Content Services Working Group
- Continued development of detailed implementation plans for all projects identified in approved Cloud Blueprint, with completion anticipated by 1/31

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM):**

- Continued planning for a national STEM conference in North Carolina to be held on 4/16. More than 40 presentations have been selected (NSP)
- Provided direct and remote support to the school leaders at the four anchor and 16 affinity schools (NSP)
- Participated in Strategic Conversations Invitational Forum for 100 people. This forum focused on linking secondary education to workforce and economic development within our state. Sponsored by the New Schools Project on 1/11
- Met with NCSE Regional Workforce Project Lead 1/13 to discuss strategies NCDPI and NCSE can partner and build a competitive workforce together
- Presented *What Makes it STEM?* to the Central Carolina RESA on 1/11 on the: Priorities, Attributes, Implementation Rubric, NC School Program, and jobs/education projections through 2018. (Thirty-five attended comprising elementary, middle and high school teachers, central office, directors, technology directors and associate superintendents)
- Began recruitment for Kenan Fellows who will serve the STEM network schools by assisting in the development of integrated curriculum projects (NSP)
- Developed with Durham Public Schools and NC NSP staff curriculum pathways in energy and sustainability and a new leadership design for Durham Southern High School (NSP)
- Continued conducting instructional and leadership coaching to all open anchor schools and affinity schools (NSP)
- Continued Coaching: Leadership coaching (NSP)

- Identified location for The Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy (Davidson County). The leadership team has identified a location and is to begin recruiting of a freshman class of up to 75 students (NSP)
- Conducted two PD study visits: NSP
  - 1/18-19 at Cross Creek High School. Schools attended: Bertie, Yadkin, and Wake NCSU STEM ECHS. Seventeen participants registered from these three schools; the first two are affinity schools, the last, an anchor school (NSP)
  - 1/25-26 at Caldwell ECHS: Participating schools at Caldwell included Avery and City of Medicine Academy. Seven participants registered from these two schools; the first is an affinity school, the second, an anchor school (NSP)
- Conducted two Secondary Lenses on Learning Professional Development sessions. Avery and McDowell sent five participants to each session, 1/12 and 1/25 (NSP)
- Continued to refine first drafts of Module 1: Community Engagement, Module 2: Community Visioning, Module 3: Innovation Design, and Module 4: Business Planning and Implementation and finalize design of Community Engagement Guide (NCSTEM)
- Received applications and provided technical assistance to schools and school systems applying for membership to the NCSTEM Learning Network
- Delivered Monthly STEM Webinar 1/26 with 180 + registered (NCDPI and NCSTEM)
- Held planning sessions with engineering groups to draft Engineering Standards leading up to the Engineering Standards Symposium 1/20 with approximately 50 business, NCDPI, school, and higher education participants (NCSTEM)

#### **Evaluation:**

##### ***Cross-Cutting Evaluation Elements***

- Added teacher email addresses to the database
- Continued classroom observations across initiative evaluations
- Continued (Carolina Institute for Public Policy -CIPP data administrator) working with NCDPI on data needed for fall/spring analyses

##### ***Teacher and Leader Effectiveness***

- Visited approximately 30 schools for classroom observations; attempted to recruit additional schools

##### ***Distribution of Teachers and Leaders***

##### ***Baseline Teacher Quality Analysis***

- Completed baseline analysis of statewide distribution of teacher quality prior to Race to the Top

##### ***Regional Leadership Academies***

- Observed several RLA Advisory Board meetings and cohort seminar sessions
- Designed and distributed an RLA bi-annual participant survey, to be completed by the end of January. Survey to be administered again in May

##### ***Teach For America (TFA)/NC Teacher Corps (NCTC)***

- Held organizational meeting for 2012 evaluation work

- Met with new NC Teacher Corps' director

#### ***Induction Program for Novice Teachers***

- Analyzed teacher salary data to identify first-year teachers for 2011-12 school year
- Identified first-year teacher emails for survey administration

#### ***Strategic Staffing/Incentives***

- Completed re-analysis and coding of all LEA DSWs
- Completed re-identification of all target LEAs

#### ***NCVPS***

- Met with new director of RttT-funded NCVPS activities

#### ***Professional Development***

- Presented Year 1 Report to GETC Teachers & Leaders subcommittee and State Board of Education; report approved for public dissemination
- Continued observations for RESA/DLP and online PD components

#### ***District and School Transformation (DST) Including STEM Schools DST***

- Finalized protocol for District Transformation Coach interviews
- Interviewed DST Coaches; Conducted second interviews with DST Coaches
- Received and reviewed transcriptions for all previously-conducted interviews

#### ***STEM***

- Developed and revised measures: (1) site visit protocols; (2) student and teacher surveys; (3) monitoring online networking activity; (4) participant PD evaluation form
- Met with the RttT implementation team about second-year evaluation activities

#### ***Local Spending***

- Piloted the survey for finance officers with finance officers from Tennessee
- Continued coding of finalized LEA Detailed Scopes of Work

**BOARD MEETING AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

**GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS**

**(Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair, and Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Vice Chair)**

***INFORMATION***

**GCS 3 – Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director, Data, Research and Federal Policy) and Dr. Vinetta Bell (Research Associate, Data, Research and Federal Policy)

**Description:**

Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent, asked for a report on Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in North Carolina. ELOs are instructional and learning strategies that use extended and/or altered time and other changes to the school day and school calendar to increase student achievement. Remediation, tutoring, slower pacing of instruction and learning activities, acceleration, new or different courses and programs, and fieldtrips are some of the different ways in which ELOs are provided. Staff assignments for extended or otherwise altered days or calendars, transportation issues, costs, and inconsistent outcomes are some of the challenges of ELO programs. Most ELO programs in the United States are targeted to struggling students; however, students at all achievement levels are included nationally and internationally in ELOs.

This report provides the international and historical context for ELOs. The profiles of representative school districts and schools in North Carolina are the result of onsite visits, reports, research, and data collection. North Carolina policies that might be affected by ELOs and recommendations are included. The appendices provide information for more in-depth study of ELOs.

**Recommendations:**

The SBE is asked to receive the report.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby noted that this initiative is a work in progress. Prior to recognizing Dr. Fabrizio, Chair Willoughby directed Board members to the materials for this item located in their Board books.
- Dr. Fabrizio noted that the Department would like to use this report as a means of generating questions and feedback from the Board for further research. Noting the involvement of the individuals included in the Acknowledgement section of the report, Dr. Fabrizio recognized, in particular, Dr. Harris Cooper (Professor and Chair, Psychology and Neuroscience Program, Duke University) who provided a two-hour presentation to the Superintendent's Leadership Council in October 2011; Dr. Cooper's presentation notes are included in Appendix G of the

report (pages 50-51).

- Dr. Fabrizio spoke briefly about the framework used to complete the report.
- In addition, he explained that the table on page 6 shows how North Carolina's average number of days in the school year compares with other countries and ranks with other countries on the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) assessment. Dr. Fabrizio directed Board members to an additional handout (printed on yellow paper) that shows how the United States compares on two additional international assessments (TIMSS and PIRLS).
- Dr. Fabrizio recognized Dr. Bell to speak briefly about the site visits conducted in schools across North Carolina that have already implemented extended-day programs.
- In her report, Dr. Bell provided profile information about the selected LEAs and Extended Time Schools in North Carolina to illustrate various ways that Extended Learning Opportunities (EOLs) are currently implemented. She spoke specifically about Macon County Schools (the profiles begin on pg. 23). Dr. Bell also acknowledged the five individual schools she visited and spoke briefly about the ELOs available in those schools: Guilford County, Brooks Global Studies Extended-Year Magnet School and Johnson Street Global Studies Extended Year K-8 Magnet School; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Academy; Northampton County, Gaston College Preparatory; and Duplin County, Wallace-Rose Hill High School in Duplin County.
- In closing remarks, Dr. Bell highlighted what the research addresses as issues involved with Extended Learning Opportunities, i.e., an effective ELO requires a quality program (the key factor for ELOs, according to the research), staff must be assigned in flexible ways to accommodate the extended schedule, transportation issues could impact the extended schedule (specifically associated costs), teacher unions or associations could challenge extended time schedules if teachers object to extended time; and opportunities should be available for all achievement levels/all students.
- Dr. Fabrizio noted that the assessment information shared earlier in the report is a quick snapshot of a recent article included in the January 12, 2012, edition of *Education Week, The Global Challenge – Education in a Competitive World*. The copy is available online or staff can supply a copy of the article at the Board's request. He explained that the results of TIMSS 2011 will not be available until the end of the calendar year.
- After a brief discussion, Chairman Harrison suggested that staff craft a recommendation, based on research, for ELOs including partnerships to implement over time for the Board's consideration.
- There was no further discussion.

### **HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS**

(Ms. Christine Greene, Chair; Mr. Reginald Kenan, Vice Chair)

#### ***INFORMATION***

#### **HRS 2 – 2011 Healthy Active Children Policy Report**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # GCS-S-000

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Paula Hudson Hildebrand (Chief Health and Community Relations Officer, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)

**Description:**

State Board of Education Policy GCS-S-000 requires the annual reporting of information in the section of the Healthy Active Children Policy. Data from the LEAs reflect implementation of local School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), physical activity and physical education, recess, and coordinated school health programs.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education accept the Healthy Active Children Policy report as submitted.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- HRS Committee Chair Greene recognized Ms. Hildebrand to provide the report.
- Ms. Hildebrand directed Board members to the materials for HRS 2 located in their Board books. She highlighted the Health Advisory Policy (HAC) Report key points such as 51% of LEAs report that all of their elementary schools provide 150 minutes of weekly physical education (PE) with a certified PE teacher, and 52% report that all of their middle schools provide 225 minutes of weekly Healthful Living with certified health and PE teachers. As a point of clarification, Chairman Harrison explained that the State Board's policy does not prescribe a certified physical education teacher, but does require a specific amount of daily activity for students in elementary and middle school grades.
- In addition, Ms. Hildebrand highlighted a few of the LEA School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) successes such as the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetables grants; Mana Food Packs provided to needy students in the elementary and middle schools to take home on the weekends, weekly; on-campus Flu shots and immunization clinics for students and staff; SHAC and local health department co-sponsored anti-bullying workshops; vision, hearing, dental and BMI screenings for students; and the implementation of local Youth Risk Behavior Surveys for middle and high school students.
- Ms. Hildebrand also spoke briefly about the 2009 through 2011 trend data (beginning on page 6 of the report).
- In response to Chair Greene's recommendation, Ms. Hildebrand clarified that one of the eight components requires the inclusion of one member of support personnel, either the counselor, psychologist or social worker, to be on the SHAC.
- There was no further discussion.

**INFORMATION****HRS 3 – Consolidated Data Report: Crime and Violence, Suspensions and Expulsions, Corporal Punishment, and Dropout Rates and Counts**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-12 (21) (27); SBE Policy # GCS-Q-001; SL 2011-282 (HB 736), Sec. 4

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support), Mrs. Charlotte Hughes (Director, Federal Program Monitoring and Support), and Dr. Kenneth Gattis (Senior Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Federal Program Monitoring and Support)

**Description:**

General Statute § 115C-12 (21) (27) directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to compile a report on dropout rates, suspensions, expulsions, uses of corporal punishment, alternative placements, and acts of violence in the public schools. The State Board shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) on the number of students who have dropped out of school, been suspended, been expelled, placed in an alternative program, and committed acts of violence. The full report will be distributed at the State Board meeting.

**Recommendations:**

N/A

**Discussion/Comments:**

- HRS Committee Chair Greene reported that the HRS Committee members received this report on Wednesday during its meeting. She recognized Mrs. Hughes to present this item.
- Mrs. Hughes prefaced this report by explaining that this is the annual Consolidated Data Report that includes Crime and Violence, Suspensions and Expulsions, Use of Corporal Punishment, and Dropout Counts and Rates. She noted that for the first time, as required by state statute, this annual data report now includes the Use of Corporal Punishment.
- Mrs. Hughes reported that the data shows that fewer students dropped out of school in 2010-11 than ever before while the number of acts of crime and violence reported among high school students decreased. In addition, she shared that suspensions and expulsions among all students decreased in 2010-11.
- Directing Board members to the report located in their Board materials, Mrs. Hughes highlighted some of the general findings using PowerPoint visuals to summarize what the data represents.
- As it relates to Crime and Violence, the reported number of acts decreased by six percent from 6,524 to 6,132 actions in 2010-11. The rate of acts reported for high school students per 1,000 students in membership also decreased by 10.4 percent. The number of total reportable acts of crime and violence reported among all grades increased slightly (.4%) from 11,608 acts in 2009-10 to 11,757 incidents in 2010-11. Mrs. Hughes explained that schools are required to report 16 offenses that occur on campus or school property. Of those reported, violent offenses account for 3.2% percent. The most frequently reported acts involved possession of controlled substances, a weapon (excluding firearms and powerful explosives) or alcoholic beverages.
- Mrs. Hughes reported that this is the fourth consecutive year that the dropout rate has decreased. The high school dropout rate decreased from 3.75 percent to 3.43 percent for 2010-11. A total of 15,342 high school students dropped out in 2010-11 as compared to 16,804 students in 2009-10 (8.7% decrease). Superintendent Atkinson stated that the dropout rate is a tribute to our teachers and educators statewide who are struggling with limited resources, yet, have continued to work on behalf of their students.
- In addition, Mrs. Hughes reported that suspensions and expulsions decreased overall, and noted an increase in alternative school placement. The total of short-term suspensions among students in all grades decreased from 277, 206 in 2009-10 to 266,488 in 2010-11 while long-term suspensions among students in all grades dropped from 3,368 in 2009-10 to 2,621 in 2010-11. Expulsions also dropped from 88 in 2009-10 to 69 in 2010-11. Of the 69 expulsions, 43 high school students were expelled.
- Mrs. Hughes reiterated that for the first time, and as required by legislation, this year's Consolidated Data Report includes information about the use of corporal punishment. There

were 891 uses of corporal punishment reported statewide in 2010-11. The 891 uses of corporal punishment were reported by 17 school districts. The 98 remaining LEAs and charter schools do not use corporal punishment, according to the data.

- Vice Chair McDevitt commented on the use of corporal punishment, expressing concern that 500 of the reported uses are Pre-K through fourth grade. Chairman Harrison explained that, historically, the State Board has not addressed this issue as it is a local decision. He expressed his personal concern and desire that the General Assembly will consider banning corporal punishment in North Carolina’s public schools. State Superintendent Atkinson added that there are other ways to address discipline through positive behavior support to help children learn and thrive.
- In response to Mr. Hill’s query about grades 9-“13”, Mrs. Hughes clarified that the “13” represents students in the early college programs.
- There was no further discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Harrison moved to the Consent Agenda which is reserved for items that generally create little or no debate such as routine appointments, items that come for information purposes only, routine reports, and final approval of reports that the Board has already discussed. Board members have always seen these materials prior to the Board meetings, and may ask that items be removed from the Consent agenda to be discussed on an individual basis. Consent items will be adopted as a whole.

Chairman Harrison noted only one item for consideration and asked if any Board members wanted to remove this item from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no requests, Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve TCP 7 – Recommendations of Qualifying Praxis II Test Scores for Music (0114) and Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282).

*Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve TCP 7 – Recommendations of Qualifying Praxis II Test Scores for Music (0114) and Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282), as presented. (See Attachment TCP 7)*

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT  
(Ms. Shirley Harris, Chair; Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)**

**CONSENT  
TCP 7 – Recommendations of Qualifying Praxis II Test Scores for Music (0114) and Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282)**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-A-003

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Susan Ruiz (Section Chief, Licensure Section)

**Description:**

In November and December 2011, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) convened content-specific, non-overlapping expert panels to conduct standard setting studies for the Praxis II Music: Content and Instruction (0114) and Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282) tests. For each study, panelists from across North Carolina and the nation reviewed regenerated tests in their content areas, and completed the standard setting process for the purpose of recommending qualifying scores to the departments of education in participating states. Initially in the regeneration process, and prior to the standard setting studies, expert committees updated exam content based upon national standards, research in the area, and changes in the field. New qualifying scaled scores for each updated Praxis II exam are considered the equivalent of the current cut scores. Each test remains appropriate for assessment of individuals seeking a North Carolina educator's license in the specified areas.

**Recommendations:**

This recommendation is presented for State Board of Education consent to the qualifying Praxis II scores of: a) 162 for Music: Content and Instruction (0114); and, b) 163 for Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282).

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS**

**(Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair; Melissa Bartlett, Vice Chair)**

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**GCS 1 – Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver Requests**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # GCS-C-020, GCS-C-021; ESEA/No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support), Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director, Data, Research and Federal Policy) and Dr. Tammy L. Howard (Director, Accountability Services)

**Description:**

In September 2011, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) announced the opportunity for each state education agency (SEA) to submit an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver from some of the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The principles of the flexibility waivers support the reform efforts already underway in North Carolina: (1) transition to college and career readiness standards and assessments; (2) the design of a new accountability model that is clear and transparent and that provides differentiation, recognition, and support for improving student achievement; and (3) evaluation and support to increase teacher and principal effectiveness.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will submit the flexibility waivers application to the USED on or before February 21, 2012. After a peer review process, a response is anticipated from the USED by late spring 2012.

At the February 2012 State Board of Education meeting, the NCDPI will report on an ESEA Waivers' meeting sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in Dallas, TX, on January 23, 2012, that several NCDPI staff will be attending. NCDPI will also review with the SBE the various decisions that either have been made or need to be made and approved by the SBE in order for the state's waiver application to be submitted to the USED. The decision points will be organized around the above mentioned flexibility waiver principles and SBE approval is requested.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE approve the decisions that will be made in completing the ESEA waivers application for submission to the USED.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted a lot of conversation around DPI's waiver request over several months. She shared that Superintendent Atkinson explained on Wednesday that the waiver request reduces paperwork, simplifies the process for assistance, that assistance can be targeted, and provides support for improving student achievement/closing the gap.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the decisions that will be made in completing the ESEA waiver application for submission to the U.S. Department of Education as presented. (See Attachment GCS 1)*

**DISCUSSION**

**GCS 2 – Arts Education Courses Eligible for Honors Weight**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # GCS-L-004

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

**Description:**

The NC Arts Education Essential Standards reflect four levels of proficiency for high school courses for credit. The Beginning and Intermediate levels build the foundation for student success in continuing coursework at the Proficient and Advanced levels. Students who take coursework at the Proficient or Advanced levels enter those studies having completed a minimum of 270-300 hours of instruction within that arts discipline (dance, music, theatre or visual arts), and are applying their skills and understandings in increasingly sophisticated, complex, and challenging ways. Coursework at the Proficient and Advanced levels in the arts aligns with the SBE policy on academic rigor. It is therefore requested that the policy reflect this alignment and indicate that coursework reflective of the Proficient and Advanced levels receive the honors weight of one (1) point.

**Recommendations:**

It is requested that the State Board review the revisions to policy SBE Policy # GCS-L-004.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby noted a robust discussion of this item during the GCS Committee meeting on Wednesday. Board members were encouraged to provide feedback to staff prior to the March meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment GCS 2)

**HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**  
(Ms. Christine Greene, Chair; Mr. Reginald Kenan, Vice Chair)

***ACTION***

**HRS 1 – Revisions to SBE Safety Policies/Conversion to Rules**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # HRS-A-000, 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Katie Cornetto (Staff Attorney, State Board of Education) and Dr. Kenneth Gattis (Coordinator, Support Services Section, Federal Program Monitoring and Support)

**Description:**

State Board policies HRS-A-001, HRS-A-002, HRS-A-003, HRS-A-004, HRS-A-005, and HRS-A-007 are outdated and are recommended for elimination. Revisions are recommended for policies HRS-A-000 and HRS-A-006. These revised policies are recommended for adoption as rules in the NC Administrative Code.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the specified SBE policies be deleted and the content of other specified policies be modified per the attached documents.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- HRS Committee Chair Greene noted a thorough discussion of this item during the HRS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Christine Greene, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the SBE Safety Policies and Conversions to Rules as presented. (See Attachment HRS 1)*

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**  
(Ms. Shirley Harris, Chair; Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)

***ACTION***

**TCP 1 – Approval of Revised Teacher Education Programs**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-B-003

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elissa Brown (Director, Teacher Preparation Programs) and Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Recruitment and Development Division)

**Description:**

In January 2008, the SBE adopted a proposal for a new program approval process. As part of the new process, IHEs were required to revision their teacher education and school executive preparation programs to meet the new standards adopted by the Board and to submit their proposals, known as Blueprints, for their new programs leading to licensure. These Blueprints were reviewed by trained teams of public school practitioners, content experts, and higher education faculty. In December 2009, August 2010, and December 2010, the Board approved revised undergraduate and graduate programs. This list includes new programs and re-submitted programs.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the programs on the updated list be approved by the SBE.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item in January. She shared that an updated list of the revisioned teacher education programs was presented during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mrs. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisioned teacher education programs as presented. (See Attachment TCP 1)*

*Prior to the discussion of TCP 2, Ms. Shirley Harris made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Christine Greene, to convene and operate in the official capacity of the State Board of Career and Technical Education. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

## STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

***ACTION***

**TCP 2 – Revisions to Career and Technical Education Licensure**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-A-001

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support), Ms. Jo Anne Honeycutt (Director, Career and Technical Education), and Ms. Carol Short (Student Certification Consultant)

**Description:**

In June 2011, the NC State Board of Education approved the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Essential Standards, which will be effective with the 2012-13 school year. The Essential Standards has necessitated changes to Career and Technical Education teacher licensure requirements.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Board approve the revisions to CTE Licensure.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris reported a thorough discussion of this item in January. She also shared that Ms. Honeycutt presented the recommended revisions to the CTE teacher licensure requirements during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Jean Woolard, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to CTE Licensure as presented. (See Attachment TCP 2)*

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to adjourn the State Board of Career and Technical Education and to reconvene as the North Carolina State Board of Education.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the State Board of Career and Technical Education and reconvene as the North Carolina State Board of Education.*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING*****TCP 3 – Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-A-021; TCP-B-009

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Shirley Harris (State Board of Education)

**Description:**

In April 2006, the Board adopted a policy to allow individuals who have not met licensing requirements due to extenuating circumstances to request an exception from the requirement or an extension of time. The request must include documents from the teacher, the principal, the superintendent, and the chair of the local board of education. In June 2006, a similar policy was approved to allow colleges and universities to submit requests for exception to Praxis I testing requirements on behalf of students seeking admission to teacher education programs. Requests are evaluated by a panel chaired by a member of the State Board. Panel recommendations will be presented in closed session.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the actions related to each request be approved.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted that this item was discussed and voted on during closed session. She explained further that the Board's final decisions are being disseminated to the requesting parties today.
- There was no further discussion.

**DISCUSSION**

**TCP 4 – Recommendations for Statewide Growth Model for Educator Effectiveness**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-C-023; Race to the Top, Great Teachers and Leaders, Section D

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

**Description:**

In July 2011, the SBE added new standards to the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Process. The sixth standard for teachers and the eighth standard for principals focus on the amount of academic growth that a teacher makes with his students and the amount of student growth taking place school-wide under an administrator's leadership. The SBE must adopt a statewide growth model to use to determine ratings on these new standards.

The Race to the Top Evaluation Team and WestEd have completed significant technical and policy analysis of various growth models in use across the nation. WestEd recommends that the state adopt the SAS Institute's EVAAS Univariate Response Model (URM) and, when appropriate, Multivariate Response Model (MRM) as the statewide growth model for determinations of educator effectiveness.

The Department will share the results of the Race to the Top Evaluation Team's study, as well as the documentation provided by WestEd in its support of SAS' URM/MRM model.

**Recommendations:**

The SBE will review the recommendation from staff and the Educator Effectiveness Work Group and provide direction to staff on information needed prior to approval of the recommendation.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

*In compliance with federal requirements, Ms. Shirley Harris moved that the State Board use the EVAAS Model to calculate student growth to determine teacher and administrator effectiveness. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jean Woolard. The motion passed. (See Attachment TCP 3)*

**DISCUSSION**

**TCP 5 – Educator Effectiveness Policies**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-C-024 and TCP-C-006; Race to the Top; Great Teachers and Leaders, Section D

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

**Description:**

In July 2011, the SBE added new standards to the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Processes. The sixth standard for teachers and the eighth standard for principals focus on the amount of academic

growth that a teacher makes with his students and the amount of student growth taking place school-wide under an administrator’s leadership. Through additional action on TCP-C-006, the SBE will be adding three rating options for the new standards: fails to meet expected growth, meets expected growth, or exceeds expected growth. The Department will present three options for an interim weighting scheme for the sixth standard. Based on extensive stakeholder input, the Department and Educator Effectiveness Work Group recommend the inclusion of both school-wide and individual growth measures in a teacher’s sixth standard rating. The sixth and eighth standards are in effect for the 2011-12 school year.

In its Race to the Top plan, North Carolina defined “effective” and “highly effective” educators. SBE Policy # TCP-C-024 adds these definitions into policy, and outlines the definition of a third group of educators who are “in need of improvement.” These definitions will be in effect for the 2011-12 school year.

**Recommendations:**

The SBE will review the policy recommendations from staff and the Educator Effectiveness Work Group and provide direction to staff on revisions needed prior to the approval of these policies.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday. Chair Harris further explained that the policy language for TCP-C-024 and amendment for TCP-C-006 will be out for 30 days for feedback and additional discussion.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment TCP 5)

**DISCUSSION**

**TCP 6 – Update on Measures of Student Learning Design Group Meeting**

**Policy Implications:** Race to the Top, Section D (Great Teachers and Leaders)

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Recruitment and Development)

**Description:**

On October 24-27, over 700 educators from more than 100 local education agencies, charter schools, and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention came together to provide feedback on a critical question to the State's Race to the Top work: what does meaningful assessment for all areas of the Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards look like? Educators received training on assessment design, including reliability and validity, as well as their content standards. Teachers then worked through a series of feedback protocols to reflect on their specific content standards and how to assess student growth.

The design group meetings brought together NCDPI's Educator Recruitment and Development, Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, and District and School Transformation divisions

to provide training. The Race to the Top Reform Support Network also provided technical assistance with the training and facilitation of group discussion.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board of Education is asked to discuss the design process for the Measures of Student Learning and the implications of this work.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment TCP 6)

***ACTION ON FIRST READING – LATE ITEM***

**TCP 8 – Final Decision in Contested Cases: Kristi McCall Gore v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel 11 EDC 07957; Barbara Cheskin v. The Appeals Panel for Graduate Pay Approval and Non-Teaching Work Experience Credit Public Schools of NC 11 EDC 04952**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 150B-36

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Katie Cornetto (Staff Attorney, State Board of Education)

**Description:**

Ms. Kristi McCall Gore filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings contesting the decision to deny her a waiver of repayment of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards' fee to the state. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the agency's action.

Ms. Barbara Cheskin filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings contesting the decision to deny her a request for salary credit for "non-teaching" experience based upon her prior experience as a self-employed videographer. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the agency's action.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board of Education shall issue a Final Agency Decision in the contested case.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted that these cases were discussed during closed session.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision in the case of Ms. Kristy McCall Gore v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel 11 EDC 07957; and Ms. Barbara Cheston v. the Appeals Panel for graduate pay approval and non-teaching work experience credit Public Schools of North Carolina 11 EDC 04952. (See Attachment TCP 8)*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

TCP Committee Chair Harris reported that the TCP Committee received an update about the IHE Report Card during its meeting on Wednesday.

## **TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT (Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair; Mr. Tom Speed, Vice Chair)**

### ***ACTION***

#### **TCS 1 –Governor's School Task Force – Recommendation for Summer 2012 Program**

**Policy Implications:** HB 200/Section 7.9

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services)

### **Description:**

The State Board approved the establishment of a Governor's School Task Force at the August 2011 SBE meeting to identify a specific proposal to operate some form of Governor's School during the summer of 2012.

The Task Force is asked to make recommendations to the State Board as to how to proceed with a Governor's School program during the summer of 2012. The Task Force will recommend to the SBE the structure of a summer program that can successfully operate within the constraints placed by the level of contributions received. The Task Force met on several occasions with the last meeting being held on January 17, 2012.

A listing of the Governor's School Task Force members is attached.

### **Recommendations:**

The recommendations from the January 17, 2012, Governor's School Task Force meeting will be provided at the February SBE meeting. Contributions continue to be received and the Task Force requests that the final recommendation be based on contributions received as of January 31, 2012.

### **Discussion/Comments:**

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a robust discussion of this item in January and again during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- Chairman Harrison expressed appreciation to Ms. Greene for chairing the Taskforce, its members, as well as the Governor's School Foundation members who raised the funds to ensure

the continued operation of Governor's School this summer. He spoke briefly about the economic impact and return of the Governor's School investment.

- Chair Howell invited those members of the Task Force who were present in the audience to stand. In addition, he asked staff members who have been involved in the effort to stand.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to direct the Department of Public Instruction to determine the location(s), weeks of duration, and student population to be served by the Governor's School during the summer of 2012 based on the available revenue to be transferred to the Department from the North Carolina Governor's School Foundation as of February 10, 2012. The Department shall base its recommendation based on the priorities recommended by the State Board's established Governor's School Task Force: 1) Maintain two campuses; 2) Maintain six-week duration; and 3) Maximize the number of students participating (minimum of 250 per site is recommended). The State Superintendent will inform the State Board as to the actions taken by the Department. (See Attachment TCS 1)*

## **DISCUSSION**

### **TCS 2 – 2012-13 Supplemental Budget Request**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-12(1a)

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mrs. Sarah Harris (Director, Financial Services Division)

#### **Description:**

Currently, the Office of State Budget and Management has not advised state agencies with information for making supplemental budget requests for 2012-13. The Office of State Budget and Management staff indicated that the Agency should proceed with requests as in previous years. Therefore, due to the current economic environment, it is anticipated that the Office of State Budget and Management will advise state agencies that supplemental budget requests for 2012-13 will be limited to continuation items included in the 2011-2013 Governor's Recommended Budget that were not included by the General Assembly, ADM and average salary adjustments for the State Public School Fund, and continued phase-in of new programs started in a previous fiscal year. The supplemental budget requests will be due in February. At this meeting, the Board will review the supplemental requests the Agency is allowed to request and approve those to be sent to the Governor. (The supplemental budget requests will be distributed at or before the SBE meeting.)

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the supplemental budget requests allowable under OSBM's instructions.

#### **Discussion/Comments:**

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a comprehensive review by Mr. Price of the supplemental budget requests for 2012-13 for the Board's consideration. He noted, however, that the list was not all-inclusive, and encouraged Board members to contact Mr. Price or Chairman Harrison about additions to the list or questions about the process.

- In addition, Chair Howell announced a special TCS Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for February 20 to discuss and provide input about the Continuation Budget.
- In response to Chairman Harrison’s query, Mr. Price asked Board members to provide input about the budget by February 10 in order to plan adequately for the February 20 meeting.
- *(NOTE: According to Mr. Price, the Office of State Budget and Management, following the State Board meeting, agreed to allow DPI to wait until after the State Board’s March meeting to submit its 2012-13 Supplemental Budget Request. Therefore, the February 20 special meeting of the TCS Committee will not be necessary.)*
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment TCS 2)

**UPDATE ON CONTRACTS**

(See Attachment in book)

TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell encouraged Board members to review the contracts listed for information in the Board book.

**LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**  
**(Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Chair; Ms. Jean Woolard, Vice Chair)**

**ACTION**

**LFI 1 – Enrollment Increase Requests Above 20% and Charter School Grade Expansion**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-238-29D(d); SBE Policy # TCS-U-000

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

**Description:**

As per General Statute § 115C-238.29D(d), beginning with the charter school’s second year of operation and annually thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allow a charter school to increase its enrollment by 20% of the school’s previous year or as otherwise provided in the charter. This enrollment growth shall not be considered a material revision of the charter application and shall not require prior approval of the State Board.

Seven charter schools submitted requests for consideration by the State Board of Education -- three requests are for enrollment and grade expansion, three requests are only for enrollment increases, and one request is only to expand the grades served. The requests are considered material changes to the charter and, as such, require SBE approval.

The SBE may approve additional growth if the State Board finds that:

- 1) The actual enrollment of the charter school is within ten percent of the requested maximum growth;
- 2) The charter school has commitments for ninety percent of the requested maximum growth;

- 3) The board of education of the local school administrative unit in which the charter school is located has had an opportunity to be heard by the SBE on any adverse financial impact the proposed growth would have on the unit's ability to provide a sound basic education to its students;
- 4) The charter school is not currently identified as low-performing;
- 5) The charter school meets generally accepted standards of fiscal management; and
- 6) It is otherwise appropriate to approve the enrollment growth.

LEAs, wherein the charter schools are located, were contacted and asked to submit an impact statement. Two districts provided impact statements, and they are included in the attachments.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE accept the enrollment and grade expansion recommendations as presented.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion of this item during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- Chair Bartlett explained that as a result of the Committee discussion, two revisions to the original recommendations are presented.
  1. Arapahoe Charter School requested grade expansion from K-8 up to K-13; adding one grade per year beginning in 2012-13 through 2016-17.
    - Committee consensus was to approve grade expansion for one year only (at this time) – adding 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2012-13 school year.
  2. Voyager Academy originally requested enrollment expansion from 1200 to 1300 – a total of 100 students
    - Consensus was to reduce the expansion request to 35.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the enrollment increase requests above 20% and charter school grade expansion recommendations as revised. (See Attachment LFI 1)*

***ACTION***

**LFI 2 – Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools with Charters Expiring June 2012**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-238-29D(d); SBE Policy # TCS-U-007

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

**Description:**

Based on General Statute § 115C-238.29D(d) and SBE Policy # TCS-U-007, the following schools are requesting renewal of their charters:

- Cape Lookout Marine Science High School
- PreEminent Charter School
- Sandhills Theatre Arts Renaissance School

As part of the renewal process, the Office of Charter Schools examined DPI compliance forms and made renewal site visits to each school. That information, along with academic and enrollment data, was compiled into a renewal portfolio and was presented to the fifteen-member NC Public Charter School Advisory Council. On December 14, 2011, the Council met to consider the renewal information and interviewed each of these charter schools before formulating the attached recommendations. Due to financial concerns about one school that emerged after the Council's vote on December 14, 2011, the SBE asked the Council to explore this situation further. The PCSAC met on January 20, 2012, to reconsider the new data for this one charter school and amended its recommendation to the State Board of Education. The submitted materials include the Council's recommendation, each school's renewal portfolio, and the process followed by the Office of Charter Schools.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE accept the Council's renewal recommendations as presented.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion of this item during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday. She added that this was some of the first work by the newly formed Charter School Advisory Council.
- Chair Bartlett summarized the recommendations:
  - PreEminent Charter is recommended for a five-year renewal
  - Sandhills Theatre Arts Renaissance Schools is recommended for a ten-year renewal
  - At its January 10, 2012, meeting, the Council reconsidered the Cape Lookout renewal. After questioning the school about the emergency fund advance and discussing the financial status of the school, the Council recommended that the State Board not renew the charter.
- Local Board of Education Advisor Earlie Coe commented that the charter schools and others must work together on behalf of the state's children.
- There was no further discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Jean Woolard, the Board voted unanimously to accept the NC Public Charter School Advisory Council's charter school renewal recommendations as presented. (See Attachment LFI 2)*

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 3 – Fast-Track Charter Recommendations from the Public Charter School Advisory Council**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-238-29; SBE Policy # TCS-B-006

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services), Mr. John Betterton (Chair, NC Public Charter School Advisory Council) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

**Description:**

Twenty-seven applicants submitted fast-track charter applications ahead of the November 10, 2011, twelve-noon deadline. Of those, two applicants were incomplete and did not move forward to be considered by the Public Charter School Advisory Council.

The Council divided into three subcommittees to review each applicant and any LEA impact statements. This review occurred on December 13, 2011, and the subcommittees completed a rubric for each applicant. The following day, December 14, 2011, the full Council poured through the rubrics, listened to the subcommittee reports, and invited 11 applicants back for an interview.

The day prior to the Council's interviews, one applicant withdrew from consideration because they wanted a full planning year rather than the truncated one afforded to fast-track applicants. On January 10 & 11, 2012, the full Council interviewed ten applicants and recommended the following nine to receive a fast-track charter from the State Board of Education:

- Bear Grass Charter School
- Cornerstone Charter Academy
- Corvian Community School
- North East Carolina Preparatory
- Research Triangle High School
- The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy
- The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point
- Triangle Math and Science Academy
- Water's Edge Village School

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE accept the fast-track application recommendations as presented from the Public Charter School Advisory Council.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion about these recommendations during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday. Board members were reminded to contact Mr. Medley with questions or to provide feedback prior to the March meeting.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment LFI 3)

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 4 – Recommendations from the eLearning Commission for Digital Education Resources for K-12 Education**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Glenn Kleiman (Executive Director, Friday Institute for Education Innovation, North Carolina State University)

**Description:**

In September 2011, the eLearning Commission completed the development of its recommendations on digital education resources that will impact education in grades K-12. The report's recommendations detail measures that will maximize virtual learning for students of all ages as a means of reaching Governor Perdue's goal that all students will graduate from high school ready for a career, college, or

technical training. On November 2, 2011, Governor Perdue requested (see Attachment 2) that the State Board of Education implement the recommendations. The SBE is to report to the Governor by April 2012 on the status of implementing the recommendations contained in the eLearning Commission's report. The recommendations on digital education resources will be presented by Dr. Glenn Kleiman and are summarized here:

1. The eLearning Commission recommends that North Carolina plan to transition to digital resources as the primary form of educational materials, in place of traditional textbooks and printed supplemental materials, in K-12 schools over the next five years.
2. North Carolina should begin the transition to digital education resources with the transition to the Common Core Standards for mathematics and English language arts, which have been adopted by NC and more than 40 other states.
3. North Carolina should consider the timeline for the adoption of the Common Core Standards and Assessments as they consider the adoption and purchasing of mathematics and English language arts textbooks. There is a major national effort underway to develop high-quality digital resources aligned with the Common Core Standards that will replace traditional textbooks.
4. North Carolina should seek to participate in multi-state consortia to develop high quality, open education digital resources aligned with the Common Core Standards.
5. North Carolina should develop or adopt technology requirements for K-12 digital education resources.
6. North Carolina should also develop minimal specifications for the devices to be used by students to access digital resources.
7. North Carolina should explore cost-effective collaborative purchasing of devices for students that support the use of digital resources, building upon the work of the NC K-12 Cloud Computing Collaborative Purchasing working group.
8. North Carolina should develop and implement a state-level process for the review and approval of digital education resources to ensure that high quality resources are used in NC schools.
9. North Carolina should support the development, by North Carolina colleges, schools, and organizations, of open education digital resources to meet specific North Carolina needs.
10. North Carolina should develop a plan to prepare teachers to make effective use of digital resources and devices to support teaching and learning.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education discuss the recommendations included in this report.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett reported that the LFI Committee received a report from Dr. Kleiman during its Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- Chairman Harrison noted that Mr. Neil Kimrey will provide an NC Cloud update in March.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment LFI 4)

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Ann McColl (Legislative Director)

Noting that Chairman Harrison provided legislative comments at the beginning of the meeting, Ms. McColl fielded a few questions from Board members. In response to Vice Chair McDevitt's question, Ms. McColl explained that the resolution provides for the General Assembly to address issues related to districting; however, an agenda is not available for the February session at this time. In addition, she reported that a revenue update has not been released.

## **Announcements/Reminders, and Comments**

### **Planning and Work Session**

Chairman Harrison spoke briefly about the desire of LEAs to have face-to-face interactions with the State Board. He reported that the Board met with eight districts during its planning session on Tuesday. The districts involved were: Bladen, Washington, Onslow, Mooresville, Buncombe, Warren, Ashe, and Orange. The teams were comprised of four participants from each LEA (superintendent, board member, principal, and teacher). Chairman Harrison briefly reviewed the following recurring themes:

- Issues of budget cuts (no more room for cuts)
- Increasing pupil/teacher ratio
- Significant new initiatives to be implemented in a short space of time ("initiative fatigue," as Patrick Rhodes said)
- Cuts in professional development funds
- Time issues (five additional instructional days v. professional development time, evaluations)
- Impact of the calendar bill restrictions, and
- Lack of support and understanding by the public and the legislature for public education
- Transformation to digital technologies and the required supporting systems
- Implementation of the Common Core and Essential Standards/associated future changes in assessment/testing (time, professional development, and resources challenges)

The Chairman shared with State Superintendent Atkinson that the LEA representatives were very complimentary of DPI and the Common Core training provided by Department staff. He publicly thanked the LEAs who participated in the planning session, noting that the teams were stellar, both in their comments and in the way they represented their LEAs. Chairman Harrison stated that the Board plans to continue interacting face-to-face with districts during future planning sessions.

### **Meeting Highlights**

At this time, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members that in January they held a casual conversation about highlighting, at the end of each meeting, some of the items discussed that will have a direct impact on students. At that time, Chairman Harrison decided to implement a new tradition under his leadership of having a brief conversation each month to identify in very specific terms something the Board has accomplished to improve outcomes for children. In lieu of identifying items this month,

Teacher of the Year Advisor Tyronna Hooker shared a personal story about her son's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, and thanked her publicly for consistent student accountability.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board member Willoughby announced that in January, Lenova/National Academy Foundation announced a partnership with Wake County Schools/Apex High School to participate in a mobile application development pilot; 12-week curriculum to develop apps. Mrs. Willoughby shared further that there are only five schools participating in the project nationwide.

In addition, Mrs. Willoughby commended State Superintendent Atkinson and DPI staff for making Students@Work (the middle schools job-shadowing program) so successful. She explained that Dr. Atkinson signed up DPI to be a part of the program during the Students@Work week in February.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Indicating no other business, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the February 1-2, 2012, meeting of the State Board of Education.*